



RAIN Alliance-Issued Company Identification Number (CIN) Directive

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Version: 2.0

History of Modifications

Version	Date	Description
1.0	2022-08-15	Initial release
2.0	2026-01-09	Correct terms. Remove the encoding method. Add CIN-holder responsibility



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1 Introduction

The RAIN Alliance-issued Company Identification Number (the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN) is an ISO/IEC 15459 compliant entity identifier that can be used with all ISO Automated Identification Data Capture (AIDC) item identifier standards encoded in RAIN tags, barcodes and NFC. The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN shall only be used in accordance with these standards.

This document provides the rules, obligations and format of the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN, for

- the RAIN Alliance Inc., as a Company Identification Number (CIN) issuing agency, to meet all the responsibilities, as specified by ISO/IEC 15459, for CIN issuing agencies, and
- the legal entity (Entity) assigned a RAIN Alliance-issued CIN to ensure its RAIN Alliance-issued CIN is valid and current, and used in accordance with the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN rules and standards.

The RAIN Alliance issues unique CINs in four classes to legal entities as

- a 1-to-9-digit decimal number (e.g. “123456”)
- or the equivalent 1-to-4-character text-string (e.g. “DEMO”)

to be used with ISO specified barcode, NFC, and RAIN tag data standards.

The [RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN with Free-Form Encoding Schemes \(BINARY and TEXT\)](#) have been designed to assist tag data issuers to encode standards-compliant RAIN tag data and, in the case of existing non-compliant RAIN tag data encodings, to easily transition to standards-compliant encodings. For these purposes, the RAIN Alliance also issues CINs as hexadecimal (“hex” hereafter) equivalent encodings as used in this specification. The hex equivalent encodings are a 1-to-4-byte hex string (e.g. “0xABCD41”).

NOTE: Due to the long-range, multi-read nature of RAIN, it is critical that all RAIN tag data be standards-compliant to prevent tag data interference. The rapidly increasing use of RAIN RFID over many applications and verticals is increasing the risk of system failure of both properly deployed and operating systems and new systems alike. The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN facilitates such tag data (encoding) compliance to pre-empt tag data interference.



2 The RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN

2.1 Specification and Rules

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN is fundamentally a:

- 7-, 14-, 21- and 28-bit number
- representing a
 - decimal CIN: 1-to-9-digit decimal number (e.g. “123456”) with no leading zeros, OR
 - text CIN: an equivalent 1-to-4-character case-sensitive text string using the printable subset of the 7-bit US-ASCII character set (ISO/IEC 646:US) excluding the space-character (e.g. “Ra-1”).

NOTE 1: The text character set is the characters (in the character set order):

! ” # \$ % & \ ' () * + , - . /
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
: ; < = > ? @
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
[\] ^ _ `
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
{ | } ~

NOTE 2: A RAIN Alliance-issued text CIN can always be expressed as a RAIN Alliance-issued decimal CIN. However, many RAIN Alliance-issued decimal CINs do not have an equivalent RAIN Alliance-issued text CIN.

NOTE 3: The RAIN Alliance-issued text CIN, when used with ISO tag data standards other than the [*RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN with Free-Form Encoding Schemes \(BINARY and TEXT\)*](#) is limited to the characters 0 to 9 and A to Z (only capitals) as specified by ISO/IEC 15459.

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN shall be unique within the scope of the RAIN Alliance as a Company Identification Number (CIN) issuing agency, as specified by ISO/IEC 15459. All issuing agencies are designated by an Issuing Agency Code (IAC). The IAC for the RAIN Alliance is “XRA”.

2.2 Standards Use of the RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN

AIDC standards like ISO/IEC 15434, ISO/IEC 15962, ISO/IEC 17360, and ISO/IEC 20248 may use the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN with the IAC set to “XRA”. The following rules apply:

1. The decimal number format:
 - a. Where the relevant specification has a length indicator: Leading zeros shall not be used, i.e., the decimal number is used as assigned, e.g. “123456.”
 - b. Where the relevant specification does not have a length indicator: The decimal number shall be prepended with leading zeros to 9 decimals, e.g. “000456789”.



2. The text format:
 - a. Special characters and lower case may not be used, i.e. the valid characters are 0 to 9 and A to Z. The text CIN shall contain at least one alphabetic character (A to Z).
 - b. Where the standard specification has a length indicator: Space padding shall not be used, i.e., the text number shall be used as assigned, e.g. "RA1".
 - c. Where the standard specification does not have a length indicator: The text string shall be padded at the end with the space-character to four characters, e.g. "RA<space><space>".

3 The RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN Assignment

3.1 Rules

The RAIN Alliance shall apply the following rules when assigning a RAIN Alliance-issued CIN.

1. The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN shall identify a company or group of companies uniquely.

NOTE 1: The RAIN Alliance recognises that a CIN often represents a specific application or service as designated by the CIN holder. The RAIN Alliance will publish, when requested by the CIN holder, a link to information about such application/service.

NOTE 2: The RAIN Alliance recognises that a CIN may be applicable to a wider group of companies or a company providing services to a group of companies, rather than a single company.

2. A single company or group of companies may have more than one CIN.

NOTE 3: The RAIN Alliance recognises that a company or a group of companies may have more than one application each requiring its own CIN.

3. The RAIN CIN shall be assigned in scarcity classes with an annual fee premium for the shorter classes.

NOTE 4: The limited memory space and time to read a RAIN tag in many uses-cases place an obligation on the RAIN Alliance to be prudent with assigning the shorter classes of finite CINs.



3.2 CIN Classes

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN classes as depicted in the table below are geared to benefit entities or group of entities with a potential to issue many tags.

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN may be issued as:

- A decimal number. Leading zeros shall not be used.
- The equivalent text string. The space-character shall not be used.
- The equivalent hex encoding compliant with the *RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN with Free-Form Encoding Schemes (BINARY and TEXT) (RA-CIN-FFe)*

The codes will be issued using the following table as a guide.

Class	Number of bits	Annual tag usage minimum threshold ¹	RA_CIN-FFe encoding E.g. "0x9A32"	Decimal range E.g. "123456"	Text Range E.g. "ABCD"
1	7	1,000,000,000	1 (8 bits)	2 digits	1 character
2	14	1,000,000	2 (16 bits)	4 digits	2 characters
3	21	10,000	3 (24 bits)	6 digits	3 characters
4 ²	28	-	4 (32 bits)	8 digits	4 characters

NOTE 1: Lower-class CIN encodings (shorter) have higher scarcities. To receive a lower-class CIN, applicant must adequately demonstrate to the RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee the need to issue a sufficient number of tags annually.

NOTE 2: Class 4 allows for up to 2^{64} (18,446,744,073,709,551,616) serial numbers to be issued when using the *RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN with Free-Form Encoding Scheme (BINARY)* and a 96-bit commodity tag.

3.3 Experimental RAIN Alliance-Issued CINs

The following RAIN Alliance-issued CINs are reserved for testing and shall not be used in operational systems. These numbers are available for anyone to use in closed, test environments:

Class	Text	Decimal	RA_CIN-FFe encoding
4-Text	TEST	-	0xD4C5D354
4-Text	DEMO	-	0xC4C5CD4F
4-Text	????	-	0xBFBBF3F
4-Digit	-	12345678	0x85F1C24E
3-Text	???	-	0xBFBBF3F
3-Digit	-	123456	0x87C440
2-Text – 4-Digit	??	8127	0xBF3F
1-Text – 2-Digit	?	63	0x3F



4 RAIN Alliance-Issued CIN Registration

4.1 General

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN is open and unencumbered to all legal entities.

An Entity is deemed to be "legal" if it can provide a payment through a legitimate banking system. This is common practice, e.g. Domain Name applications and assignments.

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN application is made using a web form on the RAIN Alliance website.

The application requires: The Entity name, the Entity website with the Entity's general/public contact details and the Entity's RAIN Alliance-issued CIN responsible person's electronic contact details.

NOTE: Other than the Company Name, Entity website and assigned CIN to be displayed on the RAIN Alliance website, all information is confidential and is used only for the application process.

The RAIN Alliance-issued CIN requestor may optionally request the listing of the CIN holder's use of the CIN, as well as a resolver link to be listed or to be used in the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN lookup service.

4.2 Process

1. The requestor completes the web-request-form.
2. Fulfil the application fee. Until payment is received in full, the application process cannot proceed.
3. For the 2-, 4-, and 6-digits codes, the RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee must determine the validity of the request. 8-digit codes are valid upon receipt of payment in full.
4. If a request is deemed valid,
 - a. invoice the Entity the appropriate amount
 - b. when payment is received in full, assign an appropriate CIN,
 - c. add the CIN and company information to the registry (only after receipt of all moneys owed), and
 - d. notify the requestor of the approved result.
5. If a request is deemed not valid,
 - a. prepare and communicate the reject-response, and
 - b. handle any appeal (this should only be related to the code length).

4.3 Request information

- CIN class – while the RAIN Alliance will seek to assign the requested CIN class, the RAIN Alliance cannot guarantee the preferred CIN class will be applicable.
- Preferred number (or Text) if applicable
- Entity name.
- Entity website.
- Entity contact person.
- Entity contact person's electronic contact details.
- Entity general contact information.



- Payment details.
- Reasoning and justification behind application. Sufficient information shall be given to allow the assigning committee to understand the application. This may include details and reasoning for the number of tags to be issued under the CIN, company size etc.
- Projected annual tags per CIN, with a motivation when requesting a CIN of class 1, 2 or 3.
- Acceptance of terms and conditions.
- If desired, the Entity may request that their information not be listed publicly. NB: the CIN itself and its status will always be listed.
- Optional:
 - Entity's RAIN Alliance-issued CIN usage webpage.
 - Entity's issued RAIN tag encoding resolver webpage or web API.

4.4 Response information

When positive:

- Invoice for outstanding amount
- The assigned CIN.
- The CIN class with a motivation if the class is different from the request.
- Payment receipt.

When rejected:

- Motivation for rejection.
- Payment receipt for the admin fees.

4.5 Appeal resolution

The requestor has one appeal to provide more information in motivation of the request, see 4.3

4.6 The RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee

The RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee shall be appointed by the RAIN Alliance Board. The RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee shall contain at least 4 members as follows:

1. The board member (or delegated staff person) responsible for the operations of the RAIN Alliance as an issuing agency.
2. Three individuals from RAIN Alliance member companies in good standing – term: two years. (Terms to be staggered)



The CIN applications process requires the committee to deal with the following:

1. When needed by the RAIN Alliance administration, assist in the evaluation of a request.
2. The handling of an appeal.
3. CIN allocation objection - The RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee will attempt to resolve any objection to a CIN issued by the RAIN Alliance raised by a third-party. This may occur where the Entity is operating, for example, outside the law. Such objections need to be formally filed with the RAIN Alliance, in writing, via the public RAIN contact channels.

5 CIN Maintenance

5.1 General

A web-based lookup function CIN-to-Entity and Entity-to-CINs is available on the RAIN Alliance website.

The CIN will be checked annually to assess its ongoing validity.

5.2 CIN Status

The CIN has one of the following states:

- Active: Payment up to date with date of last payment.
- Dormant: Payment up to date, Entity indicated CIN not used.
- Reserved: Assigned but not approved for operational use, e.g. pending payment
- Terminated: Entity not contactable or indicated termination of use of the CIN, with date of termination.

6 Rules and Obligations

6.1 General

An Entity may be assigned one or more CINs. A CIN may only be assigned to one Entity.

The Entity is responsible and accountable for the proper use of its assigned CINs.

The Entity may be a person, a company, an organisation, or a formal proxy of any combination of the aforementioned, or a market-vertical application. The RAIN Alliance and other representative/influencing organisations, in special cases, may represent a market-vertical application, e.g., Sporting Event Timekeeping, involving many small, non-associated companies providing a specific service for which the combined tag population has the potential to impact the robust operations of other RAIN applications.



6.2 CIN Issuing Agency: The RAIN Alliance

1. Establish, operate, and maintain the RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee.
2. Review the RAIN company identification code directive under request or within five years after the last review.
3. Ensure the uniqueness of RAIN Alliance-issued CINs.
4. Consider and assign CINs requested of the RAIN Alliance.
5. Assign and maintain the experimental RAIN Alliance-issued CINs, see 3.3.
6. Consider, assign, and maintain market-vertical application CINs, see 6.1.
7. Consider and assign special purpose, as deemed by the RAIN Alliance, CINs.
8. Deal with disputes.
9. Ensure the application process is functional.
10. Ensure all application requests are responded to with an outcome of approved or denied with comment within 20 business days.
11. Ensure the journaling of the requests, responses, and assignment.
12. Ensure the active digital lookup of RAIN Alliance-issued CINs is functional.
13. Request the annual payment (when and where applicable) and information update.
14. Notify and track the company information confirmation.
15. Mark not-confirmed company information as such with the last date of confirmation.
16. Mark a non-contactable company as such.

6.3 Entity

1. Proof that it is a valid legal entity at the time of application and annual renewal.
2. Update the Entity and contact information within 30 days after change of such information.
3. Confirm annually the company information.
4. Respond to the annual survey of use.
5. Change a RAIN Alliance-issued CIN status. Note, a terminated RAIN Alliance-issued CIN status may only change when paid up.
6. Pay the perpetual fee or annual fee using a subscription method.
7. Maintain a list of current item owners for all tags utilising the RAIN Alliance-issued CIN (or a traceability service custodian/proxy). For publicly listed CINs, this list shall be public and should be accessible via web API provided by the CIN holder.

6.4 The RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee

See 4.6 for the RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee functions.

A decision requires a two-third quorum for a simple majority vote. The issue will be escalated to the RAIN Board where no decision can be obtained.

RAIN Alliance Encoding Committee members may provide supplemental information for an application if such “public domain” information is available. The committee member should then recuse themselves from the final vote.