



BICS
XML import/export specification

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BICS

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Colofon

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Document History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Description of changes</u>
2.0	09-04-2025	TL	Initial version of BICSXML 2.0
2.0f	23-04-2015	TL	Updated to BicsImp20f.xsd
2.0g	23-07-2015	TL	Updated to BicsImp20g.xsd and BicsImpRes20b.xsd
2.0g	18-05-2016	TL	Added note on importing personal reference data
2.1	08-07-2021	TL	Updated to allow EU-164 v1.3 compatible import/ export, removed unused BERMAN support
2.2	03-12-2024	RWS	Cancellation info can be added to ERINOT

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1 Introduction

1.1 Document identification

This document describes the XML import/export format for exchanging master voyage data, cargo, voyages and person lists (version 2.2) between third party applications on-board of a ship and the Barge Information and Communication System (abbreviated: BICS).

1.2 Document structure

Chapter 2 contains references to other (normative) documents;
Chapter 3 describes the concept of exchanging information between BICS and third party applications;
Chapter 4 describes the XML import/export file format;
Chapter 5 contains examples of the BICSXML usage;
Chapter 6 contains abbreviations, acronyms and the glossary.

1.3 Reading directions

The reader is assumed to be familiar with the concepts of electronic reporting, XML, XSD specifications and the functions and working concept of BICS.

2 References

2.1 Normative documents

Reference	Document information
[BICS2.DBDD-public]	"Inland Shipping Single Window - BICS2", DataBase Design Description - public database
[BICS2.AM.IRSIDD]	"Inland Shipping Single Window - BICS2", Interface Requirements Specification / Interface Design Description Application Manager
[BICS2.RDS.IRSIDD]	"Inland Shipping Single Window - BICS2", Interface Requirements Specification / Interface Design Description Reference Data Service
[ERDMS]	ERDMS (ERI) Reference Data Description V1.05, 19 aug 2014
[BICSXML import/export]	BicsImp22.xsd
[BICSXML result]	BicsImpRes20b.xsd

2.2 Informative documents

Reference	Document information
[basic-import-example]	20210702_basic_import_example.xml
[advanced-import-example]	20210702_advanced_import_example.xml
[advanced-export-example]	20210702_advanced_export_example.xml

3 Interaction with BICS

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of the BICS application is to electronically send voyage and cargo data for (inland waterway) vessels to the competent authority or a processing system (whether or not it is regional).

These messages are sent using a protocol conforming with internationally-established laws and regulations.

In order to generate messages, relevant file information must be entered first. BICS offers a user interface and several machine to machine interfaces to enter the required information for generating these messages.

3.2 Exchanging file information

BICS uses a 'file' as root element. It contains all (master) voyage related information. For each file, ERIVOY, ERINOT and PAXLIST messages can be reported to the competent authorities.

BICS offers a SOAP webservice to exchange file information with third party applications and trigger the action to send messages to competent authorities. This interface is described in detail in [BICS2.AM.IRSIDD].

The BICS interfaces that exchange file information support BICSXML v2, which is described in this document.

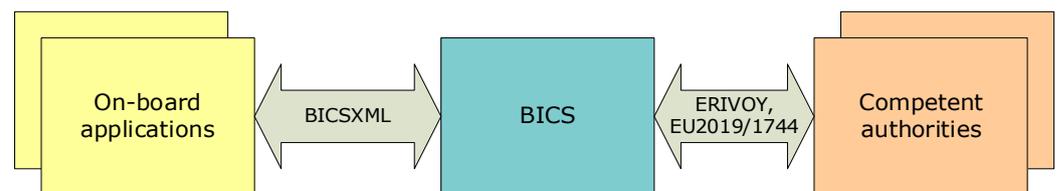


Figure 1: BICS context

The BICSXML contains voyage and voyage related data that can be imported into BICS, as a new file. The BICS application will return an import result file, containing the file identification of the file that was created.

BICS can also export already entered voyage and cargo data (existing file in BICS) into an XML file. The format of such an export file is the same for importing voyage and cargo data, but also includes the file and message exchange states.

It is also possible for third party applications to replace the information of an existing file, by importing a modified BICSXML file and using the file identification of the existing file.

3.3 Use of reference data

In the XML import export interface, information is exchanged using coded reference data whenever possible.

The following types of reference data are used:

- Location code = UN/Locode + [[fairwaycode] + [terminalcode]+[kmcode]] (RIS index);
- UN/Locode = UN Code for Trade and Transport Locations;
- Country = Countrycodes, ISO 3166-1;
- ADN = Dangerous Goods (ADN) data;
- HS = Harmonised System Code for Non Dangerous Goods;
- VesselType = Hull / vesseltypes (4 digit code, UN rec 28);
- ConvoyType Transport convoy types, inland (4 digit code, UN rec 28);
- ContainerType = Containertypes, ISO 6364;
- PackageType = Inner packagetype, UNECE Recommendation 21 ;
- ReportingPoint = Point (authority) where voyage will be reported;
- Provider = The system acting as the receiving system for EDI messages.

The reference data types are described in detail in [ERDMS] specification. Note that the ReportingPoint and Provider reference data types are added by the Dutch Reference Data Management Service (NLRDMS).

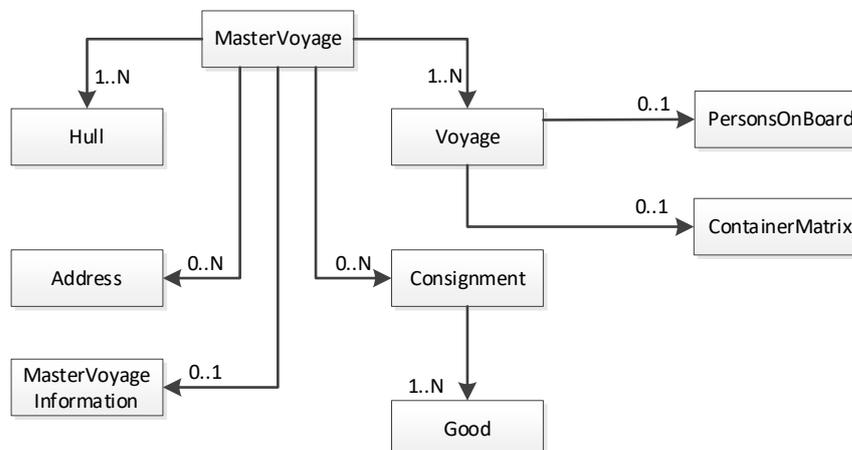
The BICS application contains an up-to-date set of reference data. It is important that third party applications also use an up-to-date set of reference data, to ensure all applications contain the same references. The use of old reference data can cause import failures. To facilitate third party applications, BICS provides several interfaces which can be used to access the reference data that is available in BICS. See [BICS2.DBDD-public] and [BICS2.RDS.IRSIDD] for more details about these interfaces.

When importing an XML file, personal reference data (hulls and/or addresses) will be created or updated in the BICS application. Note that personal reference data fields that are empty will not be modified in the BICS2 application.

4 XML format description

4.1 Data model and overview

The root element of an XML data file is the MasterVoyage element. The data model of the data in the XML file is:



The purpose of each element and sequence is described in the XSD.

This XML format allows multiple voyages. However, the current version of BICS supports only one voyage using the interfaces defined in [BICS.AM.IRSIDD]. An XML data file with more than one voyage will be rejected by BICS. When sending an ERINOT message all cargo specified the Consignments section is included.

4.2 XML import/export specification

The XML schema definition (XSD) of the import/export file format is defined in [BICSXML import/export]. The XSD also contains additional information about the usage of individual fields, using XSD documentation annotations.

4.2.1 Import rules

When importing an XML file, checks are carried out on the content of the various elements and element combinations. When one or more errors are found, the import data is not entered in BICS. It involves the following situations:

- BICS does not recognize the Hull-ID (<RegNumber>) in combination with Hull-ID-type (<RegNrType>). In this situation the BICS application will create a new hull (no error will be given);
- BICS does not recognize the specified Address-ID (<Address\Identification>). In this situation the application will create a new address (no error);
- BICS does not recognize the specified hull type of a hull (<Hull\HullType>) or transport combination (<Transport\TransportType>);
- BICS does not recognize the UN-number (<UnNr>) in combination with IMO Class (<Class>), Classification (<Classification>) and packing group (<PackingGroup>), or BICS does not recognize UN-number (<UnNr>) in combination with ADN Class (<Class>), Classification (<Classification>) and packing group (<PackingGroup>) in the <DangerousInfo> section;
- BICS does not recognize the HS-code (<Good\HsCode>);
- BICS does not recognize the UN location code (i.e. <Transport\Origin>);
- BICS does not recognize the ISRS code (i.e. <Waypoint\Location\LocationCode>);
- BICS does not recognize the first reporting point code (<Message\ReportingPointCode>);
- BICS does not recognize the Container type (<Container\ContainerType>);
- BICS does not recognize the Packing type (<Good\PackageType>);

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- BICS does not recognize the Country code (i.e. <Hull\RegNationality>);
- BICS does not recognize the referenced address (i.e. <Transport\InvoiceAgentId>). This must be a reference to an address (<Addresses\Address\AddressId>);
- BICS does not recognize the referenced hull (i.e. <Vessels\Vessel\HullId>). This must be a reference to an address (<Hulls\Hull\HullId>);
- The XML file contains duplicate hull identifiers (<Hulls\Hull\HullId>);
- The XML file contains duplicate naming hulls (<Hulls\Hull\MainHull>) or no naming hull at all;
- The XML file contains duplicate address identifiers (<Addresses\Address\AddressId >);

4.3 XML import result specification

The XML import result file will return the file id of a file that is created / updated by an import action. In case an error occurs, the file will contain additional error information.

The XML schema definition (XSD) of the result file is defined in [BICSXML result].

5 Examples

5.1 Basic file example

This example contains the information of a voyage with the following properties:

- origin: 'Rotterdam 1^e Eemhaven', destination 'Arnhem Terminals', via routing point 'Dordrecht';
- a convoy of two vessels;
- dangerous and non-dangerous goods, mix of bulk and containers;

See [basic-import-example] for the BICSXML containing this information.

5.2 Advanced file example

This example contains the information of an advanced voyage with the following properties:

- origin: 'Rotterdam 1^e Eemhaven', destination 'Amsterdam Amerikahaven', with waypoint Prinses Beatrixsluis';
- master voyage (ERIVROY) information;
- a convoy of two vessels, in which the vessel dimensions are adjusted;
- dangerous and non-dangerous goods, mix of bulk and containers;

a crewlist; See [advanced-import-example] for the BICSXML containing this information.

The BICSXML file [advanced-export-example] demonstrates the result the export of this file after the ERIVROY, ERINOT, and PAXLIST messages are reported to the competent authorities.

6 Notes

6.1 Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation	Description
A	A
ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways.
AM	Application Manager component of the BICS2-Suite.
API	Application Programming Interface.
ARM	Application Revision Manager component of the BICS2-Suite.
ARS	Application Revision Service component of the BICS2 Hosting Services.
ATA	Actual Time of Arrival.
ATD	Actual Time of Departure.
B	B
B2B	Business to Business.
B2G	Business to Government.
BICS	Barge Information Communication System for inland navigation, 1st generation.
BICS2	Barge Information Communication System for inland navigation, 2nd generation.
BPR	Binnenvaart Politie Reglement, Inland Waterways Police Regulation.
BSW	Dutch acronym 'Binnenvaart Single Window' which translates to 'Inland Navigation Single Window'.
BTB	Bureau Telematica Binnenvaart.
C	C
CBS	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, Statistics Netherlands
CBS	Centraal Broker Systeem, message broker in the Westerschelde area
CCNR	Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine
CCS	Cone Calculation Service component of the BICS2-Suite.
CL	Communication Layer component of the BICS2-Suite.
CM	Configuration Manager component of the BICS2-Suite.
CMNI	Convention de Budapest relative au contrat de transport de Marchandises en Navigation Intérieure, Budapest convention on the contract for the carriage of goods by inland Waterway.
COM	Computer Operation Manual [JSTD]
CPM	Computing Programming Manual [JSTD]
CRUD	Create, read, update, delete
CS	Configuration Service component of the BICS2 Hosting Services.
D	D
DAS	Domein Architectuur Scheepvaart.
DBDD	Database Design Description [JSTD]
DCL	Delivery Control List
DID	Data-ICT-Dienst of Rijkswaterstaat.
DS	Documentation Service of the BICS2 Hosting Services.
DVS	Dienst Verkeer en Scheepvaart of Rijkswaterstaat, formerly known as AVV.
E	E
EC	European Commission
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display and Information System
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange.
EDIFACT	Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
EI	External Interface
ENI	European Navigation Identifier (Unique European vessel identification number)
ERDMS	European Reference Data Management System
ERI	Electronic Reporting in Inland Navigation.
ERI-NET	Electronic Reporting International web application.
ERINOT	Electronic Reporting International Notification message.
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival.
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure.
EU2019/1744	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1744 of 17 September 2019 on technical specifications for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 164/2010
F	F
G	G
H	H
HS	Hosting Services component of BICS2.
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	HTTP + SSL
I	I

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Abbreviation	Description
IDD	Interface Design Description [JSTD]
IDD	Interface Design Description [JSTD]
IDVV	Impuls Dynamisch Verkeersmanagement Vaarwegen.
IFTDGN	International Forwarding and Transport Dangerous Goods Notification.
IFTSAI	International Forwarding and Transport Schedule and Availability Information message
ILT	Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport.
IMDG	International Maritime Dangerous Goods classification.
IRS	Interface Requirement Specification [JSTD]
IRS	Interface Requirements Specification [JSTD]
ISRS	Inland Ship Reporting Standard.
IVS	Informatie en Volgsysteem voor de Scheepsvaart, a vessel traffic management system.
IVW	Inspectie Verkeer en Waterstaat. Since Januari 2012, this organization has been merged into ILT (Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport).
J	J
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation, a lightweight data-interchange format
JSTD-016	Joint Standard 016, a standard for Information Technology Software Life Cycle Processes and Software Development.
K	K
L	L
M	M
MIB	Melde- und Informationssystem Binnenschifffahrt, A VTM-system of the Competent Authority in Germany.
MSP	Maintenance and Support Plan
N	N
n.a.	Not applicable
NCA	National Competent Authority. Example: Rijkswaterstaat is the Dutch NCA for SafeSeaNet.
NLRMDS	Dutch instance of the ERDMS, including additional tables containing reporting points, providers and location-reporting point relations.
NTS	Notices To Skippers.
O	O
OCD	Operational Concept Document [JSTD]
ODBC	Open DataBase Connectivity, a standard interface for accessing database management systems
P	P
PAXLST	Passenger List message.
Q	Q
QA	Quality Assurance
R	R
RDS	Reference Data Services component of the BICS2-Suite.
REST	Representational State Transfer
RFI	Request For Information
RFP	Request For Proposal
RIS	River Information Services.
RPR	Rijnvaartpolitiereglement, Rhine Shipping Police Regulations.
RTA	Required Time of Arrival.
RTD	Required Time of Departure.
RWS	Rijkswaterstaat, a department of The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment Rijkswaterstaat is the executive organisation that manages and develops the main national infrastructure facilities on behalf of the Minister and State Secretary for Infrastructure and the Environment.
S	S
SCB	"Systeemgerichte Contract Beheersing". Translated : Contract Management based on Quality Assurance approach.
SCOM	Software Centre Operator Manual [JSTD]
SDD	Software Design Description [JSTD]
SDP	Software Development Plan [JSTD]
SIG	Software Improvement Group
SIP	Software Installation Plan [JSTD]
SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol
SPA	Single Page Application component of the BICS2-Suite
SPS	Software Product Specification [JSTD]
SQL	Structured Query Language
SRS	Software Requirement Specification [JSTD]
SDDD	System Subsystem Design Description.
SDDD	System Subsystem Design Description [JSTD]
SSL	Secure Socket Layer

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Abbreviation	Description
SSS	System Subsystem Specification.
SSS	System/Subsystem Specification [JSTD]
STD	Software Test Description [JSTD]
STI	Strategic Traffic Image (RIS)
STP	Software Test Plan [JSTD]
STR	Software Test Report [JSTD]
StrP	Software Transition Plan [JSTD]
SUM	Software User Manual [JSTD]
SVC	Scheepvaart Verkeers Centrum.
SVD	Software Version Description [JSTD]
SVM	Scheepvaartverkeersmanagement, Vessel traffic management.
T	T
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
U	U
UNDG	United Nations Dangerous Goods.
UTC	Universal Time (coordinated)
V	V
VOS	Verkeersmanagement Ondersteuning Scheepvaart.
VTM	Vessel Traffic Management.
W	W
WADL	Web Application Description Language
X	X
XML	Extensible Markup Language
Y	Y
Z	Z

6.2 Glossary

Term	Description
A	A
Active file	A file that contains information about voyage or journeys of which at least one has operational state 'active'.
Active journey	A journey has operational state 'active' if the journey has commenced but has not been completed.
Active voyage	A voyage has operational state 'active' if the voyage has commenced but has not been completed.
Agent	Any person mandated or authorised to act for or to supply information on behalf of the operator of the vessel.
Asynchronous message	A message that can be delivered by the sender without explicitly having to wait for the processing of the message by the receiver. The receiver decides when to process the message.
B	B
Barge	A vessel that has no propulsion of its own.
BICS2 Suite	The second generation of BICS as a result of this project, comprising of the modules (see [SSS]): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BICS2 application; • BICS2 services, comprising of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cone calculation service; - Reference data service; • BICS2 communication layer; • BICS2 application manager.
Boatmaster	See 'Shipmaster'.
C	C
Captain	See 'Shipmaster'.
Cargo	Any goods, wares, merchandise and articles carried on a ship. So a ship carries cargo consisting of one or more consignments (with the necessary equipment) each consisting of one or more goods items.
Classification of goods	Classification of goods, often with the goal of (international) harmonisation. Examples of classifications of goods are: 'HS', 'UNDG', 'IMDG', 'ADN'.
Code	A character string used as an abbreviated means of a) recording or identifying information b) to represent or identify information using a specific symbolic form that can be recognised by a computer. [ISO TC154/SC1]
Common (access) reference	The reference code to have a common denominator for all messages for the same voyage (or file)
Competent authority	The authorities and organisations authorised by the governments to receive and pass on information reported pursuant to standards like [EU2019/1744] and [ERIVVOY].

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Term	Description
Consignee	The party such as mentioned in the transport document by whom the goods, cargo or containers are to be received.
Consignment	A separate identifiable number of goods transported from one consignor (port of loading) to one consignee (port of discharge) and identified and specified in one single transport document. A container as equipment should in the ERI-context be seen as a separate identifiable packing unit for which separate bookings are done and as such should be considered a single consignment.
Consignor	The merchant by whom, in whose name or on whose behalf a contract of carriage of goods has been concluded with a carrier or any party by whom, in whose name or on whose behalf the goods are actually delivered to the consignee in relation to the contract of carriage (Synonyms: Shipper, Sender).
Container	A metal case of a certain standard size for loading and transporting goods on trucks, trains, and ships. More formally, a container is an article of transport equipment (lift-van, movable tank or other similar structure): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully or partially enclosed to constitute a compartment intended for containing goods, • of a permanent character and accordingly strong enough to be suitable for repeated use, • specially designed to facilitate the carriage of goods, by one or more modes of transport, without intermediate reloading, • designed for ready handling, particularly when being transferred from one mode of transport to another, • designed to be easy to fill and to empty, and • having an internal volume of one cubic metre or more
Container type	Type of container. [ISO 6346].
Convoy	A composition of one or more vessels, for a voyage or journey.
Convoy type	Type of convoy [UN Recommendation 28]. UN Recommendation 28 contains codes for both vessel and convoy types.
D	D
Dangerous Goods	Goods classified in the UNDG Code, goods classified in the ADN Code, goods classified in the IMDG Code, dangerous liquid substances listed in the IBC Code, liquefied gases listed in the IGC Code, solids referred to in Appendix B of the BC Code.
Data Element	A unit of data which, in a certain context, is considered indivisible and for which the identification, description and value representation has been specified.
Deadweight tonnage	The maximum displacement of a ship after deduction of the weight of the ship.
Displacement ton	A unit for measuring the displacement of ships equal to 35 ft ³ ; this is approximately equal to the volume of a long ton (1016,06 kg) of sea water (original definition of the ICS).
E	E
EDI number	The electronic address of the sender or receiver of a message (e.g. the sender and receiver of the cargo). This may be an E-mail address, an agreed identifier or e.g. a number of the European Article Numbering Association (EAN number).
EDIFACT	EDIFACT is an EDI-implementation which is an abbreviation for United Nations/Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT). It is the international EDI developed under the United Nations. The work of maintenance and further development of this standard is done through the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) under the UN Economic Commission for Europe, in the Finance Domain working group UN CEFACT TBG5. EDIFACT has been adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as the ISO standard ISO 9735. The EDIFACT standard provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of syntax rules to structure data • An interactive exchange protocol (I-EDI) • Standard messages which allow multi-country and multi-industry exchange
Electronic data interchange (EDI)	The transfer of structured data by agreed standards from applications on the computer of one party to applications on the computer of another party by electronic means.
ENI number	Unique European vessel identification number.

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Term	Description
ERIVROY	A message from a carrier, its agent or a ship to the responsible waterway authority and mutually involved commercial parties or between the waterway authorities and or commercial parties mutually reporting a voyage plan and its particulars giving details of the voyage, ship, expected voyage details and expected passage of waypoints and other key passage points.
F	F
File	A container for input of voyage and cargo related information in BICS2.
First reporting point	The first reporting point is the reporting point via which a EDI-message is sent to the first (subsequent competent authority in accordance with the applicable regulations).
Forwarder	The party arranging the carriage of goods including connecting services and/or associated formalities on behalf of shipper and consignee.
G	G
Goods	A common term indicating movable property, merchandise or wares. In transport the term 'goods item' has been defined as whole or part of the cargo (consignment) received from the shipper, including any packaging material such as pallets supplied by the shipper.
Gross tonnage (GRT)	The measure of the overall size of a vessel determined in accordance with the provisions of the international convention on measurement of vessels usually expressed in register ton.
Gross weight	The weight (mass) of goods including packing, but excluding the carriers equipment expressed in whole kilograms.
H	H
Hull	The unique European navigation identification or the unique European vessel identification number aims at assigning a permanent number to each hull for identifying purposes.
I	I
IMO ship identification number (IMO)	A ship identification number is the Lloyds Register as published for every seagoing vessel number without the letters LR.
Implementation guideline	A manual describing in detail how a certain standard message will be implemented and which segments, data elements, codes and references will be used and how.
ISRS code	International Ship Reporting Standard code, a unique code to identify locations (berths) in electronic reporting.
J	J
K	K
L	L
Location	Any named geographical place, such as a port, an inland freight terminal, an airport, a container freight station, a terminal or any other place where customs clearance and/or regular receipt or delivery of goods can take place, with permanent facilities used for goods movements associated with international trade/transport and used frequently for these purposes. The location should be recognised as such by a competent national body.
Location of destination	See 'Port of destination'.
Location of origin	See 'Port of origin'.
Logistics	The planning, execution and control of the movement and placement of people and/or goods and of the supporting activities related to such movement and placement within a system organised to achieve specific objectives.
M	M
Main Vessel	Vessel whose name is used to derive the the name of a convoy. In practice this is one of the vessels in the convoy that has propulsion.
Manifest	A document listing the specifications of goods including equipment loaded in a means of transport. A manifest often represents an accumulation of Bills of Lading for official and administrative purposes.
Master-yoyage	The journey of a vessel under a certain mode of operation on a specified distance (to be) travelled in a given time. At the time of the journey the vessel is participating in the inland waterway traffic.
Means of Transport	The type of vehicle used for the transport of goods such as barge, truck, vessel or train.
Message code	A unique six character alphabetic reference identifying a message type.
Metric tons	The weight measurement in tons of 1000 kg.

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Term	Description
Mode of Transport	A method of transport used for the conveyance of goods e.g. by rail, by road, by sea, by inland waterways.
Monitoring	To follow by means of any of various devices the progress and performance of vessels and to warn the responsible parties of any deviations from the expected, respectively planned performance.
Multimodal Transport	The carriage of goods (containers) by at least two different modes of transport.
N	N
Naming Vessel	See 'Main Vessel'.
Nautical Support	Support given by tugboats or boatmen to assist in safe navigation and mooring.
Navigational information	Information provided to the skipper on-board to support in on-board decision making.
Navigational support	Support given by pilots on-board or in special circumstances on shore (pilotage from shore) to prevent the development of dangerous vessel traffic situations.
Next port of call	The consecutive place (port of call) where a ship will arrive after having made a voyage. Note: The definition for next port of call is commonly used in the maritime environment, within the RIS/ERI regulations the term is used, by the master only, to indicate the subsequent competent authority in accordance with the applicable regulations. See also 'first reporting point'.
Notices to Skipper	Information messages that can be sent by or on behalf of a Competent Authority to (inland) ships relating to situations or events that may impact the navigation situation on a fairway.
O	O
Official ship number (OFS)	Official ship number as issued as by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR). This code is replaced by the European Vessel Identification Number.
On-trip	During an active voyage or journey, i.e. during a voyage or journey that has been commenced but not been completed.
Operator	The owner or manager of the ship.
P	P
Package type	Type of packages and packing materials.
Point of entry (exit)	The virtual line perpendicular on the fairway axis representing the geographical point or defined points which a vessel passes to enter (leave) this area.
Polluting goods	Oils as defined in Annex I to the MARPOL Convention, noxious liquid substances as defined in Annex II to the MARPOL Convention, harmful substances as defined in Annex III to the MARPOL Convention.
Port	Any location with permanent facilities at which vessels can load or discharge cargo moving in maritime traffic.
Port of call	A place where a vessel actually drops anchor, moors or otherwise comes to rest for a certain period of time to execute any necessary operations related to ship, cargo or crew.
Port of destination	Intended final arrival point of a vessel or shipment.
Port of discharge	Place where a vessel is off-loaded and the shipments are dispersed to their respective consignees. It may or may not be the port of destination.
Port of loading	Place where shipments are loaded and secured aboard a vessel. It may or may not be the same as port of origin.
Port of origin	Place where a shipment actually originated (began its journey towards its destination).
Pre-arrival notification	The advance information giving particulars about a vessel and its cargo in advance of the vessel's arrival at a certain port.
Pre-trip	Prior to the commencement of a voyage or journey.
Procedure	The steps to be followed in order to comply with a formality, including the timing, format and transmission method for the submission of required information.
Propulsed Vessel	See 'Main Vessel'.
Q	Q
R	R
Radar	Any of several systems or devices using transmitted and reflected radio waves for detecting a reflecting object, such as a vessel and determining its

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Term	Description
	direction, distance, speed and heading. It can be used for navigation and detection.
Reference number	Number to refer to or mention a relation or where applicable a restriction.
Register ton	A unit of internal capacity of ships equal to 100 cubic feet, (2,8317 m3)
Reporting point	A reporting point is an identifier for the entry point of a Single Window via which a EDI-message is sent to a competent authority. In the context of BSW, Single Windows are allowed to have multiple reporting points, each reporting point associated with one competent authority.
Rijkswaterstaat (RWS)	Rijkswaterstaat is the executive arm of the Dutch ministry of infrastructure and the environment. On behalf of the Minister and State Secretary, Rijkswaterstaat is responsible for the design, construction, management and maintenance of the main infrastructure facilities in the Netherlands.
RIS index	Code index of geographical entities for the purpose of unique identification of such entities in the electronic exchange of information
Risk (customs)	The likelihood of an event that may occur in the international movement and trade of goods threatening the Community's security and safety, posing a risk to public health environment and consumers.
River Information Services (RIS)	A European concept for harmonised information services to support traffic management and transport management in inland navigation, including the interfaces to other transport modes.
S	S
Segment (EDI)	A predefined and identified set of functionally related data elements values which are identified by their sequential positions within the set. A segment starts with a segment tag and ends with a segment terminator. It can be a service segment or a user data segment.
Segment code	A code which uniquely identifies each segment as specified in a segment directory. [ISO 9735]
Ship	See 'Vessel'.
Shipmaster	The person on-board of the ship being in command and having the authority to take all decisions pertaining to navigation and ship management. (Synonyms: captain, skipper, boat master).
Shipment	See 'Consignment'.
Shipper	See 'Consignor'.
Signalling	In accordance with the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways (ADN), vessels carrying out transport operations involving dangerous substances shall show one, two or three blue cones by day and one, two or three blue lights at night. The number of marks carried shall be in accordance with the number indicated in the table under chapter 3.2 column 12 of the ADN and is dependent on the particulars of the substance.
Single Window	A facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardised information with a single entry point to fulfil all regulatory requirements. If information is electronic then individual data elements should only be submitted once.
Skipper	See 'Shipmaster'.
T	T
Time stamp	Date and time
Tracing	The action of retrieving information concerning the whereabouts of cargo, cargo items, consignments or equipment.
Tracking	The function of maintaining status information, including current location, of cargo, cargo items, consignments or equipment (containers either full or empty).
Transport notification	The announcement of an intended voyage or journey of a ship to a competent authority.
U	U
UN/EDIFACT	The UN rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport. They comprise a set of standards, directories and guidelines for the electronic interchange of structured data, and in particular that related to trade in goods or services between independent computerised information systems. Recommended within the framework of the UN, the rules are approved and published by the UN/ECE in the UN Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNTDID) and are maintained under agreed procedures.
V	V

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Term	Description
Vessel	An inland waterway vessel or sea-going ship. In inland navigation, this term includes also small crafts, ferry boats and floating equipment (synonym: ship).
Vessel support services	Services given to the skipper by e.g. bunker stations and repair organisation.
Vessel traffic monitoring	Providing information orally as well as electronically as well as giving directions in interaction with and response to vessels in a traffic flow to optimise the smooth (efficient) and safe transport.
Vessel traffic services (VTS)	A service implemented by a competent authority, designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. The service should have the capability to interact with the traffic and to respond to traffic situations developing in the area.
Vessel type	Type of vessel [UN Recommendation 28]. UN Recommendation 28 contains codes for both vessel and convoy types.
Voyage	The journey of a vessel between port of loading and the first port of discharge of a consignment.
Voyage Plan	A plan, giving details of the voyage, vessel, expected voyage details and expected passage of waypoints and other key passage points.
VTS Area	The delineated, formally declared service area of the VTS. A VTS area may be subdivided in sub-areas or sectors.
VTS services	An information service, but also others, such as a navigational assistance service, or a traffic organisation service, or both.
W	W
Waterway	Any inland water open to navigation.
Working days	Monday through Friday, from 08:00 am until 18:00 pm with the exception of generally recognized holidays in applicable country
X	X
Y	Y
Z	Z

