

Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC)

The **Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC)** is a privately controlled US code used to identify road transport companies. It is typically two to four letters long. The National Motor Freight Traffic Association developed the SCAC code in the 1960s to help road transport companies computerize data and records.

The Standard Carrier Alpha Code, a two-to-four letter identification, is used by the transportation industry to identify freight carriers in computer systems and shipping documents such as Bill of Lading, Freight Bill, Packing List, and Purchase Order. It is also used by the American National Standards Institute, Accredited Standards Committee X12, and United Nations EDIFACT for Electronic Data Interchange computer systems.

SCACs are commonly used by the automobile, petroleum, forest products, and chemical industries; as well as suppliers to retail businesses, carriers engaged in railroad piggyback trailers, and ocean container drayage.

Freight Carriers who participate in the Uniform Intermodal Interchange Agreement (UIIA) are required to maintain a SCAC. Certain groups of SCACs are reserved for specific purposes. Codes ending with the letter "U" are reserved for the identification of freight containers. Codes ending with the letter "X" are reserved for the identification of privately owned railroad cars. Codes ending with the letter "Z" are reserved for the identification of truck chassis and trailers used in intermodal service.

SCAC is also used to identify an ocean carrier or self-filing party, such as a freight forwarder, for the Automated Manifest System used by US Customs and Border Protection for electronic import customs clearance and for manifest transmission as per the USA's "24 Hours Rule" which requires the carrier to transmit a cargo manifest to US Customs at least 24 hours prior to a vessel's departure at port of loading.

SCAC Assignment Policies:

1. SCACs are assigned based on the letters in the company name starting with the first letter of the first word. Big Red Trucking will be assigned an SCAC beginning with the letter B. If your company name contains a personal name, such as Bob Smith Trucking Inc, the SCAC will be assigned to the last name first and listed that way on the Certificate of SCAC Assignment. In the example given here, the SCAC would begin with the letter S and listed as Smith, Bob Trucking Inc. If your company name starts with the word The, such as The Best Trucking Company, the first letter of the SCAC will be assigned with a B for Best and the name will be listed as Best Trucking Company, The.
2. If your company has both a legal name and a d/b/a or trade name, the SCAC will be assigned to the trade name and the legal name will not be shown on the Certificate of SCAC Assignment.
3. You may apply for one SCAC per mode of operation. For example, if you hold both an MC number as a motor carrier or broker and an FF number as a freight forwarder, you may submit separate online applications to obtain an SCAC for each operation.
4. If you have a USDOT, MC, MX or FF number, your company name must match your registration with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

If your company name does not match the FMCSA records or your USDOT, MC, MX, or FF number is inactive, and you still operate in interstate commerce, you must contact the FMCSA to correct the discrepancy. The web address for the FMCSA is <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/form-mcsa-5889-motor-carrier-records-change-form> .

5. SCACs may be used only by the company they are assigned to. SCACs may not be used, loaned or borrowed by another company.