

Gas Industry Standards Board Defines Electronic Commerce Common Code Standard for Legal Entities

The Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB), in conjunction with Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), has defined processes for assigning and obtaining unique Common Codes for identifying Legal Entities in the natural gas industry. This Common Code standard enables trading partners to uniquely identify each other and other companies required in electronic transactions. The Common Code is a uniquely selected D-U-N-S Number, D&B's proprietary numbering system that identifies over 40 million businesses worldwide.

Rae McQuade, Executive Director of GISB said, "Businesses participating in the industry will benefit from the newly defined legal entity Common Code standard because the GISB standard requires that only one D-U-N-S number can be used for each legal name. This enables the user to track individual company levels of business with one code rather than constantly tracking how their trading partner utilizes the various D&B services. In addition, the unique code effectively supports conducting business electronically through the use of EDI.

Frank Fitzsimmons, Senior Vice President of Global Electronic Commerce for D&B said, "Using a unique D-U-N-S number as GISB has chosen will allow companies to more efficiently monitor their business. Armand Benoit, Vice President Marketing added, "We are pleased to work with GISB to define solutions for the natural gas industry."

The D-U-N-S Number was originally adopted as the legal entity Common Code by the natural gas industry in 1993 under FERC Order 563A. The GISB definition represents a refinement in the use of the D-U-N-S Number as an industry standard for identification of legal entities across the natural gas industry.

Instructions on the use of GISB defined Common Codes can be found on GISB's Homepage <http://www.neosoft.com/gisb/gisb.htm>

Established in 1994, GISB is a voluntary non-profit, independent organization made up and supported by all segments of the natural gas industry. Its objective is the development and promotion of standards which will lead to a seamless marketplace for natural gas and greater use of electronic communications in the natural gas market.

Dun & Bradstreet, a company of The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation (NYSE: DNB), is the world's leading provider of business-to-business credit, purchasing, marketing information, and receivables management services. The corporation, which also includes Moody's Investors Service and Reuben H. Donnelley, is headquartered in Murray Hill, New Jersey, and employs 16,000 people in 40 countries, and is expected to have 1996 annual revenue exceeding \$2 billion.

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