

ABS Industry Point of Contact Coder

Accurate industry coding is essential to getting quality information about the Australian economy and business community.

What is the Industry Point of Contact Coder?

All Australian businesses registering for an Australian Business Number (ABN) are required to assign industry codes to their business activities at the point of registration.

These codes are used by a range of government agencies to collect, compile and distribute industry data for economic policy development, analysis, research and emergency management purposes.

The ABS has developed an online tool for organisations that provide ABN registration services to quickly and accurately code business activity descriptions to the correct industry classification.

Who uses it?

Maintaining the quality of Australia's industry data is important to ensure our governments and communities are well informed to make important decisions.

The Industry Point of Contact Coder provides a standardised whole of government and industry approach to coding business activity using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

Australian Government agencies have committed to integrating the Industry Point of Contact Coder into their ABN registration services, including:

- The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS)
- The Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- The Australian Business Register (ABR).

To ensure consistency, ATO will require digital service providers to use the Industry Point of Contact Coder in delivering ABN registration services.

How does it work?

The Industry Point of Contact Coder is hosted, supported and maintained by the ABS. It can be accessed online by digital service providers who can integrate the coder into their products.

ABN registrants provide business activity descriptions (a specified word or phrase) and the Industry Point of Contact Coder returns a list of up to 20 probable industry options from which to choose.

For example, if an ABN registrant uses the phrase 'auditing', they will be provided with the following possible options:

- 69320: Auditing service
- 69621: Environmental audit service
- 69622: Occupational Health and Safety (OHAS) audit service.



ABS Industry Point of Contact Coder

What are the benefits?

The Industry Point of Contact Coder reduces costs and improves the accuracy and consistency of industry coding.

The Industry Point of Contact Coder:

- reduces the burden on digital service providers to build and maintain their own ANZSIC coding solutions
- can be integrated into business applications where industry coding is required
- has the potential to be used anywhere an ANZSIC code needs to be assigned to a piece of information (e.g. business loan applications)
- ensures that industry coding will reflect new and emerging business activities through biannual updates to the coder
- improves the quality of economic data provided to government through a whole of government and industry approach, helping to better inform industry-related policy development.

Working together

The ABS developed the Industry Point of Contact Coder in close collaboration with the ATO and DIIS.

- The ABS is responsible for updating the Industry Point of Contact Coder, providing technical support and maintenance, and ensuring it determines correct ANZSIC coding outcomes.

- The ATO has portfolio responsibility for the Australian Business Register and provides advice regarding changes to the coding index or allocation of new industry codes.
- DIIS is the business owner of the Business Registration Service (BRS) and advises of scheduled outages to the BRS to allow maintenance and updates to the Industry Point of Contact Coder.

Getting started

If your business provides ABN registration services, check out the ABS Industry Point of Contact Coder today at **abs.gov.au/industry-coder**

Alternatively, if you want to tailor your use of the Industry Point of Contact Coder, take a look at the Developer Guide on the Downloads tab.

Further information

To learn more about the ABS Industry Point of Contact Coder or to arrange access, email **standards@abs.gov.au** or call **1300 135 070**.



More information go to **abs.gov.au/industry-coder**