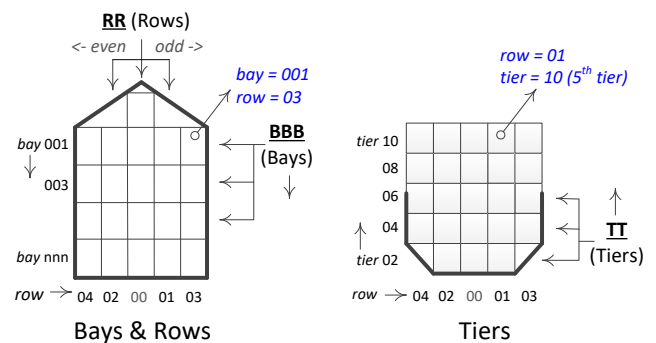# BICS2 instruction card

concerning: Coding of container stowage location for inland navigation

These instructions describe the coding of the stowage locations used in inland container shipping, especially for the electronic voyage report to the competent authorities.

In inland navigation, a coding system based on **20' cells** is used, analogous to the maritime standard.

The cells are identified by a numbering of bay-row-tier (section-row-layer) coded as BBBRRTT (see figure at side).

This is all based on the ISO standard 9711-1 (1990).

Bays & Rows

Tiers

Bay (section) coding (BBB)

The bay (section) indicates at which 20' location (cell) of the container ship the container is located. The odd bay numbering begins at 001 from the **front** of the ship (see Figure 1).
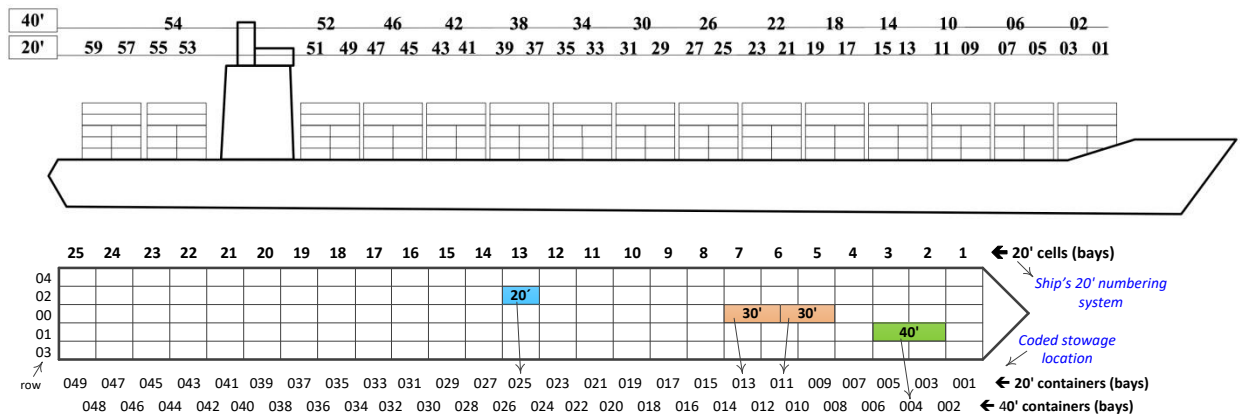

Figure 1: coding of the bays (sections).

Bay (section) coding 20' and 40' containers:

Uneven numbers indicate the 20' stowage locations and the even numbers indicate the 40' stowage locations, which replaces two 20' locations.

For example: Bay 001 and Bay 003 together form Bay 002 for a 40' container, and Bay 004 covers Bay 003 and 005 for the next 40' position.

Bay coding for 30' and 45' containers:

The coding of a 30' container is in principle the same as the coding of a 20' container. If the front of a 30' container falls between two 20' bays, then the greater bay number is used for coding the 30' container.

The coding of a 45' container is identical to that of a 40' container (an even bay number). The ISO container type of the container then indicates whether it concerns a 30' or 45' container.

Row coding (RR)

The row number indicates the row in which the container is located. Row 00 indicates the middle row of a ship. Rows are then numbered from the middle, where *even* numbers are used for port (left) and *uneven* numbers are used for starboard (right).

The middle row (00) can be omitted if a ship has an *even* number of rows. If an uneven number of containers, which do not form one (1) row, can be placed at the front or the back of the ship due to space considerations, then Row 00 is used for that bay.

Tier (layer) coding (TT)

The tier indicates on which layer the container is located. The layers are numbered with even numbers and start with Tier 02 (following the maritime standard). Tier 04 is the next layer.

Containers that are stowed on the upper deck (occurs infrequently with inland navigation) have a coding that begins with Tier 80. Tier 82 is the next layer on top of Tier 80.

Below are a number of coding examples for the stowage location.

Stowage location (BBBRRTT)	Explanation
0030202	Bay 003 (section 003 = 20' container) second 20' cell from the front in the first row on the port side of middle, on the first layer.
0030202	Bay 003 (30' container) first and second cell from the front in the first row on the port side of middle, on the first layer.
0120104	Bay 012 (section 012 = 40' container) sixth and seventh cell in the first row on the starboard side of middle, on the second layer (consists of Bay 011 and Bay 013).
0010002	Bay 001 (at the front) in the middle, on the first layer.

For more information, please consult the "Documentation" section of the BICS website (www.bics.nl).

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