

Personal Identification Code

The *personal identification code* is a code linked to a person. The code may be used for taxation, government benefits, health care and so on.

The system differs from country to country. In some countries, this code is given at birth (e.g. in Italy), in others when the person reaches a legal age (generally at 18).

The structure of the *personal identification code* differs from country to country, e.g. with respect to the number of digits and the use of letters and figures.

Problems may also arise because many countries have their own specific term for the *personal identification code*. Some countries often use abbreviations (e.g. *BSN*, which is a well-known abbreviation for *Burgerservicenummer* in the Netherlands) or other deviating constructions.