

# IUID Overview

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Item Unique Identification (IUID) is required for all new Department of Defense (DoD) acquisitions; items the government already owns, also known as legacy items; and government furnished property, or GFP, meeting any one of the following criteria:

- the item has a line item acquisition cost in its contract of \$5,000 or more
- the item is or will be serially managed by the DoD
- the item is or will be controlled or mission essential
- permanent identification is or will be wanted for any other reason

For embedded items, the only criteria are whether the item is or will be DoD serially managed or if permanent identification is or will be needed or desired for any other reason. Embedded items are parts or components delivered under contract without their own line item specifying their explicit cost.

For new acquisitions, the government must include DFARS clause 252.211-7003 in the contract, along with a list of items requiring IUID.

Items requiring IUID must be assigned a globally unique, permanent unique item identifier, or UII, and the UII registered, along with other item identifying information, in the DoD IUID Registry. The IUID Registry is hosted in the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) e-Business Suite of applications, which can be accessed from <https://wawf.eb.mil>.

The UII data is encoded into an ECC200 data matrix (shown below) and applied to the item. The IUID data matrix can be applied to the item using a variety of methods, ranging from adhesive labels, to laser marking, to thermal spray.

One of the two critical characteristics of IUID is the permanency of the UII assigned to the item. Once assigned to an item, the UII shall never, ever change. Whether an item is modified, resulting in a new part number; or sent to Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Disposition Services; or rebuilt at a depot; or expended or consumed in use, the UII for the item remains constant and associated to the item, never to be used for any other item.

The other critical characteristic is the uniqueness of the UII. The DoD recognizes six commercially used unique identifiers as IUID equivalents: the vehicle identification number, or VIN; the cellular mobile telephone identifier, or (CMTI); the mobile equipment identifier, or MEID; the electronic serial number, or ESN; the Global Individual Asset Identifier, or GIAI; and the Global Returnable Asset Identifier, or GRAI. These IUID equivalents may be used in lieu of assigning a new UII.

If no UII or IUID equivalent is already assigned, a UII can be built from one of two constructs. A Construct 1 UII is made by connecting three pieces of data: an issuing agency code designating what kind of enterprise is ensuring the uniqueness of the UII, an identifier for that enterprise, and finally a serial number the enterprise has uniquely assigned to that item. A Construct 2 UII is made by connecting four pieces of data: an issuing agency code designating what kind of enterprise is ensuring the uniqueness of the UII, an identifier for that enterprise, the original part number of the item, and finally the serial number uniquely assigned to that item within the part number. These data elements provide the foundation for a globally unique item identifier.