

**What is a SCAC?**

The acronym SCAC stands for Standard Carrier Alpha Code. SCACs consist of a two-to-four-character alpha abbreviation used to designate a transportation company. SCACs are assigned by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA).

**Example:** NS is the SCAC for the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

**Are all SCACs assigned to railroads?**

The NMFTA's SCAC File contains over 39,000 SCACs. Only 1,100 of those are Railroad SCACs.

**How can you differentiate a Railroad SCAC from the others in the NMFTA's SCAC File?**

The records in the NMFTA's SCAC File contain a field named "Mode Designation." In the records of Railroad SCACs, the mode designator is "RAILRD."

**What other types of SCACs are in the NMFTA's SCAC File?**

There are about 25 different mode designators in the NMFTA's SCAC File including AGENTS, AIRLIN, BROKER, PIPELN and, of course, RAILRD. There are many varieties of mode designator assigned to motor carriers.

**Are all SCACs assigned by the NMFTA?**

The NMFTA maintains the official source of all SCACs for North American transportation companies. Companies requesting a Railroad SCAC or a private mark (marks ending in X) must contact Railinc and complete the online [onboarding application](#). The NMFTA will refer the company to the AAR because there is more to being a railroad than just possessing a SCAC. All other types of SCACs are assigned by the NMFTA.

**The AAR maintains a MARK Industry Reference File. What is in it?**

The MARK IRF contains Railroad SCACs and Equipment MARKs including such fields as mark type, company name assigned to the mark, and when it went into effect.

**What is the difference between a Railroad SCAC in the MARK IRF and a SCAC in the NMFTA's SCAC File with mode designator RAILRD?**

All Railroad SCACs in the MARK IRF should first be in the NMFTA's SCAC File with mode designator RAILRD. The difference lies in the information stored in each of these records. In the NMFTA's SCAC File, the company name and address are found. In the MARK IRF, the company name is also found along with MARK type, rule 260 number, etc.

**What is a MARK type? What types of MARKs exist?**

In the MARK IRF, all records (MARKs) are assigned a type. In the MARK IRF today, the following MARK types are used:

- RR     Class I Railroad
- RR2   Regional Railroad (Class II Railroad)
- STC   Switching & Terminal Railroad
- RR3   Local Railroad (Shortline/Class III Railroad)
- PP     Equipment Provider

In addition, there are three other MARK types that have been defined for use in the MARK IRF, but no records in the file currently are designated as of these types:

AC Air Carrier  
MC Motor Carrier (truck)  
SS Water Carrier (steamship)

**Of the MARK types found in the MARK IRF, which are and are not assigned to Railroad SCACs?**

There are only two kinds of MARKs in the MARK IRF: Railroad SCACs and Equipment MARKs. MARK types RR, RR2, STC and RR3 are assigned to Railroad SCACs. Mark type PP records are Equipment MARKs.

**How is a SCAC or MARK obtained?**

For those wishing to obtain a SCAC or a MARK for Railroad or Private Cars, an application must be made through the AAR. The AAR then obtains approval before assignment of a SCAC/MARK from the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA). For Trucking companies or Container owners, the application is made directly to NMFTA. For Railroad owned or equipment MARKs, complete the online [onboarding application](#).

**Can a Railroad or Private Car owner reserve a SCAC or MARK while the application is being processed?**

Yes. However, from the start of the application process to the assignment of the SCAC or MARK, the normal reserve period is only 30 days. It is very important that once all the necessary applications are received by the applicant, they should be filled out and returned within the 30-day period.

**Is the MARK Roadmark Register an improvement over the Legacy Railroad Register?**

The MARK Roadmark Register is a significant step forward in maintaining a long-term continuity of historical data for all transactions. Historical transactions can be maintained. Future transactions can be created and held until the Record Effective date. Ownerships of equipment and railroad MARKs can be changed on a real time basis or with Future Effective dates. The MARK Roadmark Register represents a much more flexible and dynamic system.

**What procedures are there to ensure the quality of the information entered into the MARK Roadmark Register?**

A comprehensive set of data integrity checks are in place to ensure data accuracy when registering a new mark. Data integrity extends to all other Industry Reference Files, not just MARK.

**What if I have questions about the MARK File?**

For MARK related documents, see the [Mark Register page](#) on Railinc.com. Railinc's customer service team is available to answer your questions. For more information about MARKs, contact the Railinc Customer Success Center toll free at (877) 724-5462 or via email at [csc@railinc.com](mailto:csc@railinc.com).

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