# IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChl) InChl version 1, software version 1.03 (2010)

## **API Reference**

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This document is a part of the release of the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier with InChIKey, version 1, software version 1.03 (http://www.iupac.org/inchi).

InChI software v. 1.03 has merged functionality: it allows one to produce both standard and non-standard InChI identifiers, as well as their hashed representation (InChIKey).

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## **Overview**

The current version of InChI Identifier is 1; the current version of the InChI software is 1.03 (June 2010). Previously released versions 1.01 (2006), 1.02-beta (2007), and 1.02-standard (2009), as well as all earlier versions, are now considered obsolete.

By default, InChI software v. 1.03 (2010) generates standard InChI. In particular, standard identifier is generated when the software is used without any passed options. If some options are specified, and at least one of them qualifies as related to non-standard InChI, the software produces non-standard InChI/InChIKey.

However, for compatibility with the previous v. 1.02-standard (2009) release, API calls which deal only with standard InChI – for example, GetStdINCHI() - are retained (technically, they provide pre-customized interface to general-purpose API functions).

Below is a brief description of InChI/InChIKey API functions (for more details on the related data structures/parameters and see inchi\_api.h header file in the InChI software source code).

## InChl API - "classic" - general-purpose

The API functions for "classic" (v. 1.01-style, non-modularized) are similar to those present in InChI software v. 1.01 and v. 1.02-beta (see, however, the notes below).

## **GetINCHI**

int INCHI DECL GetINCHI(inchi Input \*inp, inchi Output \*out)

## Description

GetINCHI() is the primary function producing InChI.

GetINCHI produces standard InChI if no InChI creation/stereo modification options are specified. If at least one of the options SUU | SLUUD | RecMet | FixedH | Ket | 15T | SRel | SRac | SUCF is specified, generated InChI will be non-standard one.

## Input

Data structure inchi Input is created by the user.

Its layout is described in inchi api.h header file in the InChI software source code.

Options supplied to GetINCHI in inchi\_Input.szOptions should be preceded by '/' under Windows or '-' Linux). Valid options are listed below.

Option	Meaning	Default behavior
		(standard; if no option
		supplied)

Structure perception (compatible with standard InChI)

NEWPSOFF	Both ends of wedge point to	Only narrow end of
	stereocenters	wedge points to
		stereocenter
DoNotAddH	All hydrogens in input structure	Add H according to usual

are explicit valences

SNon Ignore stereo Use absolute stereo

Stereo interpretation (lead to generation of non-standard InChI)

SRac Use racemic stereo Use absolute stereo

Use relative stereo

SUCF Use Chiral Flag in MOL/SD file Use absolute stereo

record: if On – use Absolute

stereo, Off - Relative

ChiralFlagON Set chiral flag ON -

SRel

ChiralFlagOFF Set chiral flag OFF

InChI creation options (lead to generation of non-standard InChI)

SUU Always indicate Does not indicate unknown/undefined stereo unknown/undefined

stereo unless at least one

Use absolute stereo

defined stereo is present

SLUUD Stereo labels for "unknown" and Stereo labels for

"undefined" are different, 'u' "unknown" and

and '?', resp. (new option) "undefined" are the same

("?")

FixedH Include reconnected metals Do not include

results

RecMet Include Fixed H layer Do not include

KET Account for keto-enol Ignore keto-enol

tautomerism (experimental; tautomerism

extension to InChI 1)

Account for 1,5-tautomerism Ignore 1,5-tautomerism

(experimental; extension to

InChI 1)

## Miscellaneous

AuxNone	Omit auxiliary information	Include
Wnumber	Set time-out per structure in	The default value is
	seconds; W0 means unlimited	unlimited
OutputSDF	Output SDfile instead of InChI	
WarnOnEmptyStructure	Warn and produce empty InChI	
	for empty structure	
SaveOpt	Save custom InChI creation	
	options (non-standard InChI)	

## Output

Data structure inchi\_Output is described in inchi\_api.h header file. inchi\_Output does not need to be initialized out to zeroes; see FreeNCHI()/FreeSTDINCHI() on how to deallocate it. Strings in inchi\_Output are allocated and deallocated by InChI.

#### Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
inchi_Ret_OKAY	0	Success; no errors or warnings
inchi_Ret_WARNING	1	Success; warning(s) issued
inchi_Ret_ERROR	2	Error: no InChI has been created
inchi_Ret_FATAL	3	Severe error: no InChI has been created (typically,
		memory allocation failure)
inchi_Ret_UNKNOWN	4	Unknown program error
inchi_Ret_BUSY	5	Previuos call to InChI has not returned yet
inchi_Ret_EOF	-1	no structural data has been provided
inchi_Ret_SKIP	-2	not used in InChI library

#### **FreeINCHI**

void INCHI DECL FreeINCHI(inchi Output \*out)

## Description

This function should be called to deallocate char\* pointers obtained from each GetINCHI call

#### **GetINCHIfromINCHI**

#### Description

GetINCHIfromINCHI does same as -InChI2InChI option: converts InChI into InChI for validation purposes. It may also be used to filter out specific layers. For instance, SNon would remove stereochemical layer. Omitting FixedH and/or RecMet would remove Fixed-H or Reconnected layers. Option InChI2InChI is not needed.

Notes: options are supplied in inpInChI,szOptions should be preceded by '/' under Windows or '-' under Linux; there is no explicit tool to conversion from/to standard InChI

#### Input

inchi InputINCHI is created by the user.

#### **Output**

Strings in inchi\_Output are allocated and deallocated by InChI. inchi\_Output does not need to be initilized out to zeroes; see FreeINCHI() on how to deallocate it.

#### Return codes

Same as for GetINCHI.

#### **GetStructFromINCHI**

int INCHI\_DECL GetStructFromINCHI(inchi\_InputINCHI \*inpInChI,
inchi OutputStruct \*outStruct)

#### Description

This function creates structure from InChI string.

Option Inchi2Struct is not needed for GetStructFromINCHI.

## Input

Data structure inchi Inputinchi InputINCHI is created by the user.

For the description, see header file inchi api.h.

## **Output**

For the description of inchi\_OutputStruct, see header file inchi\_api.h. Pointers in inchi\_OutputStruct are allocated and deallocated by InChI. inchi\_OutputStruct does not need to be initilized out to zeroes; see FreeStructFromINCHI() on how to deallocate it.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

## **FreeStructFromINCHI**

void INCHI DECL FreeStructFromINCHI( inchi OutputStruct \*out )

## Description

Should be called to deallocate pointers obtained from each GetStructFromINCHI.

## Free inchi Input

void INCHI\_DECL Free\_inchi\_Input( inchi\_Input \*pInp )

## Description

To deallocate and write zeroes into the changed members of pInchiInp->pInp call

Free inchi Input ( inchi Input \*pInp ).

#### Get inchi Input FromAuxInfo

int INCHI\_DECL Get\_inchi\_Input\_FromAuxInfo(
char \*szInchiAuxInfo, int bDoNotAddH, int bDiffUnkUndfStereo, InchiInpData \*pInchiInp)

#### Description

This function creates input data structure for InChI out of auxiliary information string. Note the parameter bDiffUnkUndfStereo (if not 0, use different labels for unknown and undefined stereo) which is new for the software v. 1.03.

#### Input

szInchiAuxInfo

contains ASCIIZ string of InChI output for a single structure or only the AuxInfo line bDoNotAddH

if 0 then InChI will be allowed to add implicit H

bDiffUnkUndfStereo

if not 0, use different labels for unknown and undefined stereo plnchilnp

should have a valid pointer pInchiInp->pInp to an empty (all members = 0) inchi Input structure

#### Output

The following members of pInp may be filled during the call: atom, num\_atoms, stereoOD, num stereoOD

#### Return codes

Same as for GetINCHI.

## **CheckINCHI**

int INCHI\_DECL CheckINCHI(const char \*szINCHI, const int strict)

## Description

Check if the string represents valid InChI/standard InChI.

## Input

#### Input:

szINCHI source InChI

strict if 0, just briefly check for proper layout (prefix, version, etc.).

The result may not be strict.

If not 0, try to perform InChI2InChI conversion and returns success if a resulting InChI string exactly match source. Be cautious: the result may be too strict, i.e. the 'false alarm', due to imperfectness of conversion.

#### Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
INCHI_VALID_STANDARD	0	InChI is valid and standard
INCHI_VALID_NON_STANDARD	-1	InChI is valid and non-standard
INCHI_INVALID_PREFIX	1	InChI has invalid ptefix
INCHI_INVALID_VERSION	2	InChI has invalid version number (not
		equal to 1)
INCHI_INVALID_LAYOUT	3	InChI has invalid layout
INCHI_FAIL_I2I	4	Checking InChI thru InChI2InChI is
		either failed or produced the result which
		does not match source InChI string

## InChi API - "classic" - standard InChi subset

Described below are "standard" counterparts of general-purpose functions; these "standard" API calls are retained for compatibility reasons.

## **GetStdINCHI**

```
int INCHI_DECL GetStdINCHI(inchi_Input *inp, inchi_Output
*out)
```

#### Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of GetINCHI() which may produce only the standard InChI.

## Input

The same as for GetINCHI except that perception/creation options supplied in inchi Input.szOptions may be only:

NEWPSOFF DoNotAddH SNon

Other possible options are:

AuxNone

Wnumber

OutputSDF

WarnOnEmptyStructure

#### Output

The same as for GetINCHI except for that only standard InChI is produced.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

#### **FreeStdINCHI**

void INCHI DECL FreeStdINCHI(inchi Output \*out)

## Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of FreeINCHI which should be called to deallocate char\* pointers obtained from each GetStdINCHI call.

## **GetStructFromStdINCHI**

int INCHI\_DECL GetStructFromStdINCHI(inchi\_InputINCHI \*inpInChI, inchi\_OutputStruct \*outStruct)

#### Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of GetStructFromINCHI.

## Input

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

#### Output

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

## **FreeStructFromStdINCHI**

void INCHI\_DECL FreeStructFromStdINCHI(inchi\_OutputStruct \*out)

## Description

Should be called to deallocate pointers obtained from each GetStructFromINCHI.

## Free\_std\_inchi\_Input

```
void INCHI DECL Free std inchi Input( inchi Input *pInp )
```

## Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of Free inchi Input

#### Get std inchi Input FromAuxInfo

```
int INCHI_DECL Get_std_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo(char *szInchiAuxInfo, int bDoNotAddH,

InchiInpData *pInchiInp)
```

## Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of Get std inchi Input FromAuxInfo.

## InChl API - modularized - general-purpose

The main purpose of modularized interface of InChI library is to modularize the process of InChI generation by separating normalization, canonicalization, and serialization stages. Using these API functions allows, in particular, checking intermediate normalization results before performing further steps and getting diagnostics messages from each stage independently. The functions use exactly the same inchi\_Input and inchi\_Output data structures as "classic" InChI API functions do. However, a new data structure, INCHIGEN\_DATA, has been added to expose the normalization results (see inchi\_api.h header file).

A typical process of InChI generation with this API calls is as follows.

```
    Get handle of a new InChI generator object:
        HGen = INCHIGEN_Create();
    read a molecular structure and use it to initialize the generator:
        result = INCHIGEN_Setup(HGen, pGenData, pInp);
    normalize the structure:
        result = INCHIGEN_DoNormalization(HGen, pGenData);
        optionally, look at the results;
    obtain canonical numberings:
        result = INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization(HGen, pGenData);
    serialize, i.e. produce InChI string:
        retcode=INCHIGEN_DoSerialization(HGen, GenData, pResults);
    reset the InChI generator
        INCHIGEN_Reset(HGen, pGenData, pResults);
        and go to step 2 to read next structure, or
```

7) Finally destroy the generator object and free standard InChI library memories: INCHIGEN Destroy (HGen);

**INCHIGEN Create** 

INCHIGEN HANDLE INCHI DECL INCHIGEN Create(void)

Description

InChI Generator: create generator.

Once the generator is created, it may be used repeatedly for processing the new structures.

Before repetitive use, the pair of calls INCHIGEN Reset / INCHIGEN Setup should

occur.

Returns

The handle of InChI generator object or NULL on failure.

Note: the handle is used just to refer to the internal InChI library object, whose structure is

invisible to the user (unless the user chooses to browse the InChI source code). This internal

object is initialized and modified through the subsequent calls to INCHIGEN API functions.

**INCHIGEN\_Setup** 

int INCHI DECL INCHIGEN Setup (INCHIGEN HANDLE HGen,

INCHIGEN DATA \* pGenData,

inchi Input \* pInp)

Description

InChI Generator: initialization stage (storing a specific structure in the generator object).

Note: INCHIGEN DATA object contains intermediate data visible to the user, in particular,

the string accumulating diagnostic messages from all the steps.

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#### Input

INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen is one obtained through INCHIGEN Create call.

INCHIGEN\_DATA \* pGenData is created by the caller. It need not to be initialized.

Data structure inchi Input \* pInp is the same as for GetINCHI.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

#### **INCHIGEN DoNormalization**

int INCHI\_DECL INCHIGEN\_DoNormalization(INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN DATA \* pGenData)

## Description

InChI Generator: perform structure normalization.

Should be called after INCHIGEN Setup.

Note: INCHIGEN\_DATA object explicitly exposes the intermediate normalization data, see inchi api.h.

#### Input

INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen and INCHIGEN\_DATA \*pGenData as they are after calling INCHIGEN Setup.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

#### **INCHIGEN DoCanonicalization**

int INCHI\_DECL INCHIGEN\_DoCanonicalization(INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN\_DATA \* pGenData)

## Description

InChI Generator: perform structure canonicalization.

Should be called after INCHIGEN DoNormalization.

## Input

INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen and INCHIGEN\_DATA \*pGenData as they are after calling INCHIGEN DoNormalization.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

#### **INCHIGEN DoSerialization**

#### Description

InChI Generator: perform InChI serialization.

Should be called after INCHIGEN DoCanonicalization.

#### Input

INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen and INCHIGEN\_DATA \*pGenData as they are after calling INCHIGEN DoCanonicalization.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

#### **INCHIGEN Reset**

## Description

InChI Generator: reset (use before calling INCHIGEN\_Setup(...) to start processing the next structure and before calling INCHIGEN Destroy(...))

#### Input

INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen and INCHIGEN\_DATA \*pGenData as they are after calling INCHIGEN DoSerialization.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

## **INCHIGEN Destroy**

void INCHI DECL INCHIGEN Destroy(INCHIGEN HANDLE HGen)

#### Description

Destroys the generator object and frees associated InChI library memories.

Important: make sure INCHIGEN\_Reset(...) is called before calling INCHIGEN Destroy(...).

#### Input

The handle of InChI generator object.

## InChl API - modularized - standard InChl subset

Described below are "standard" counterparts of general-purpose functions; these "standard" API calls are retained for compatibility reasons.

#### **STDINCHIGEN Create**

INCHIGEN HANDLE INCHI DECL STDINCHIGEN Create (void)

#### Description

Standard InChI Generator: create generator.

This is a "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN Create.

#### Returns

The handle of standard InChI generator object or NULL on failure. Note: the handle serves to access the internal object, whose structure is invisible to the user (unless the user chooses to browse the InChI library source code which is open).

#### **STDINCHIGEN Setup**

#### Description

Standard InChI Generator: initialization stage (storing a specific structure in the generator object).

This is a "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN Setup.

Note: INCHIGEN\_DATA object contains intermediate data visible to the user, in particular, the string accumulating diagnostic messages from all the steps.

#### Input

INCHIGEN HANDLE HGen is one obtained through INCHIGEN Create call.

INCHIGEN\_DATA \* pGenData is created by the caller.

Data structure inchi Input \* pInp is the same as for GetINCHI.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetStdINCHI.

#### **STDINCHIGEN DoNormalization**

int INCHI\_DECL STDINCHIGEN\_DoNormalization(INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen, INCHIGEN\_DATA \* pGenData)

## Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform structure normalization.

The entry is "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN DoNormalization.

#### STDINCHIGEN DoCanonicalization

int INCHI\_DECL STDINCHIGEN\_DoCanonicalization(INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen, INCHIGEN\_DATA \* pGenData)

#### Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform structure canonicalization.

The entry is "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN DoCanonicalization.

#### **STDINCHIGEN DoSerialization**

#### Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform InChI serialization.

The entry is "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN DoSerialization.

#### STDINCHIGEN\_Reset

#### Description

Standard InChI Generator: reset (use before calling STDINCHIGEN\_Setup(...) to start processing the next structure and before calling STDINCHIGEN Destroy(...))

The entry is "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN Reset.

#### **STDINCHIGEN Destroy**

INCHI\_API void INCHI\_DECL STDINCHIGEN\_Destroy(INCHIGEN\_HANDLE HGen)

#### Description

Destroys the standard InChI generator object and frees associated InChI library memories.

This is a "standard" counterpart of INCHIGEN Destroy.

Important: make sure STDINCHIGEN\_Reset(...) is called before calling STDINCHIGEN Destroy(...).

## InChlKey API - general-purpose

#### **GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI**

int INCHI\_DECL GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI(const char\* szINCHISource, const int xtra1, const int xtra2, char\* szINCHIKey, char\* szXtra1, char\* szXtra2);

#### Description

Calculate InChIKey from InChI string.

#### Input

szINCHISource – source null-terminated InChI string. xtra1 =1 calculate hash extension (up to 256 bits; 1st block) xtra2 =1 calculate hash extension (up to 256 bits; 2nd block)

#### Output

szINCHIKey - InChIKey string, null-terminated. The user-supplied buffer szINCHIKey should be at least 28 bytes long.

szXtra1- hash extension (up to 256 bits; 1st block) string. Caller should allocate space for 64 characters + trailing NULL.

szXtra2 - hash extension (up to 256 bits; 2nd block) string. Caller should allocate space for 64 characters + trailing NULL.

#### Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
INCHIKEY_OK	0	Success; no errors or warnings
INCHIKEY_UNKNOWN_ERROR	1	Unknown program error

INCHIKEY_EMPTY_INPUT	2	Source string is empty
<pre>INCHIKEY_INVALID_INCHI_PREFIX</pre>	3	Invalid InChI prefix or invalid version
		(mot 1)
INCHIKEY_NOT_ENOUGH_MEMORY	4	Not enough memory
INCHIKEY_INVALID_INCHI	20	Source InChI has invalid layout
INCHIKEY_INVALID_STD_INCHI	21	Source standard InChI has invalid
		layout

## **CheckINCHIKey**

int INCHI\_DECL CheckINCHIKey(const char \*szINCHIKey)

## Description

Check if the string represents valid InChIKey.

## Input

szINCHIKey - source InChIKey string

#### Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
INCHIKEY_VALID_STANDARD	0	InChIKey is valid and standard
	-1	InChIKey is valid and non-standard
INCHIKEY_VALID_NON_STANDARD		
INCHIKEY_INVALID_LENGTH	1	InChIKey has invalid length
INCHIKEY_INVALID_LAYOUT	2	InChIKey has invalid layout
INCHIKEY_INVALID_VERSION	3	InChIKey has invalid version number
		(not equal to 1)
INCHIKEY_INVALID_LENGTH INCHIKEY_INVALID_LAYOUT	1 2	InChIKey has invalid length InChIKey has invalid layout InChIKey has invalid version number

## InChlKey API - standard InChl subset

Described below is "standard" counterpart of general-purpose function; this "standard" API call is retained for compatibility reasons.

## **GetStdINCHIKeyFromStdINCHI**

## Description

Calculate standard InChIKey from standard InChI string.

"Standard" counterpart of GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI.

For compatibility with v. 1.02-standard, no extra hash calculation is allowed. To calculate extra hash(es), use GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI with stdInChI as input.

#### Input

szINCHISource – source null-terminated InChI string.

#### **Output**

szINCHIKey - InChIKey string, null-terminated. The user-supplied buffer szINCHIKey should be at least 28 bytes long.

#### Return codes

The same as for GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI.

# InChl API - miscellaneous

#### **GetStringLength**

```
int INCHI DECL GetStringLength( char *p )
```

## Description

Returns string length.

## **Examples of InChi API use**

The distribution package of InChI software v. 1.03 contains the two examples of API usage.

1. The first one is C calling program located in inchi\_main/ subfolder of INCHI-1-API/INCHI\_API/ folder. This program calls InChI library libinchi.dll under Microsoft Windows or libinchi.so under Linux or Unix (note that the program is just a sample which is not supposed to be used for the production).

Defining CREATE\_INCHI\_STEP\_BY\_STEP in e\_mode.h makes the program use the modularized interface to InChI generation process. This is the default option. Commenting out the line containing this #define makes the program use "classic" ("GetINCHI"; software version 1.01-style) interface. The both options provide examples of using interface to the InChIKey part of the library.

If the testing application is compiled with CREATE\_INCHI\_STEP\_BY\_STEP option, an additional defining of OUTPUT\_NORMALIZATION\_DATA in e\_mode.h makes the program output the intermediate (normalization) data into the log file. The related data

structures are described in header file inchi\_api.h; their use is exemplified in e\_ichimain\_a.c file. Note that including the intermediate (normalization) data in the output may produce a very long log file.

Folder INCHI-1-API/INCHI\_API/vc9/inchi\_dll/ contains a MS Visual C++ 2008 project to build dynamically linked library libinchi.dll under Windows.

Folder INCHI-1-API/INCHI\_API/vc9/inchi\_main/contains a MS Visual C++ 2008 project to build both dynamically linked library libinchi.dll and the testing application InChI\_MAIN.exe under Windows (both library and executable are placed into subfolders Release or Debug of vc6 INCHI DLL folder).

Folder INCHI-1-API/INCHI\_API/gcc\_so\_makefile contains a gcc makefile for creating InChI library as a Linux shared object dynamically linked to the main program.

2. The second example illustrates how the InChI library (Windows DLL/Linux .so) functions may be accessed from within Python. Source code of a sample program is in the folder INCHI-1-API/INCHI\_API/python\_sample. The program has a simple Mol/SDfile reader and produces InChI strings and, optionally, generates InChIKey codes.

More details on these testing applications may be found in readme.txt files in the corresponding directories and in source codes.