GMEI (Global Market Entity Identifier) is a unique 20-character code associated with a single legal entity that enters into over-the-counter (OTC) derivative swaps. As a result of the Wall Street Consumer Protection Act (also known as Dodd-Frank), all business entities dealing with OTCs are now required to obtain and maintain a GMEI on an annual basis.

**GMEI Timeline**

- **July 2010**: Dodd-Frank passes in response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is charged with increasing transparency in futures and options markets.
- **August 2012**: In conjunction with the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) and the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), the CFTC issues temporary legal entity identifiers called CICI (CFTC Interim Compliant Identifiers).
- **April 2013**: All derivative counterparties subject to the CFTC’s jurisdiction are required to obtain a CICI.
- **December 2013**: The CICI becomes reclassified as the Global Market Entity Identifier (GMEI), and begins with more than 90,000 registered entities from over 140 countries.
- **May 2014**: The number of registered GMEIs grows to 130,000.
- **December 2014**: CT is the first legal services provider to offer GMEI compliance services.

**Industries Affected**

GMEI requirements affect a variety of companies within the financial industry. If you’re a hedge fund, private equity fund, sovereign fund, pension fund, REIT, or real estate company, there’s a good chance you need one, or several, GMEIs.

**Examples of Industries Affected by GMEI Legislation**

- Real Estate
- Private Equity Funds
- Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs)
- Mining
- Energy
- Municipal Corporate Entities
- Government Departments
- Funds (incl. Hedge Funds, Fund of Funds, and Sovereign Funds)
- Partnerships and Trusts
- Transportation Companies (Shipping and Airline)