
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



3166

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

Codes for the representation of names of countries

Codes pour la représentation des noms de pays

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that Committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3166 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Documentation*, and circulated to the Member Bodies in January 1974.

It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Hungary	Spain
Austria	India	Sweden
Belgium	Iran	Switzerland
Brazil	Ireland	Thailand
Canada	Israel	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Italy	United Kingdom
Denmark	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	U.S.A.
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Netherlands	U.S.S.R.
Finland	New Zealand	Yugoslavia
France	Norway	
Germany	Poland	

The Member Bodies of the following countries expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Bulgaria
Japan

NOTE — This International Standard has been elaborated in collaboration with the following International Organizations : Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), International Labour Office (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Union of Railways (UIC), United Nations Organization (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and World Health Organization (WHO).

Codes for the representation of names of countries

0 INTRODUCTION

The need for a universally applicable code for the representation of names of countries has become increasingly urgent. An effort has been made to incorporate into this code system the best elements of existing widely used codes, while not being bound by any one of them. The resulting code system has been derived largely from the vehicle designations established under the Convention on Road Traffic, and other codes.

The basic principle used in developing these alphabetic codes — a two-letter and a three-letter code — was to achieve maximum visual association value, and they are mainly based on the English language but also partly derived from the French and other languages.

Due consideration has been given to the problems of maintenance of the codes and their implementation. This International Standard includes basic guidelines for these functions.

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard provides a two-letter and a three-letter alphabetic code for representing the names of countries, dependencies, and other areas of special geopolitical interest for purposes of international exchange, and general directions for their maintenance. The designations "countries, dependencies, and other areas of special geopolitical interest" employed herein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

This International Standard is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of entities in coded form.

2 DEFINITION

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definition applies :

entity : The name of a country, dependency, or other area of special geopolitical interest.

3 PRINCIPLES FOR THE ENTITY LIST

3.1 This list includes entities intended to satisfy the requirements of the broadest possible range of applications. The entities appearing in sections one and two of this International Standard are based on the list included in the "Country Nomenclature for Statistical Use" established by the Statistical Office of the United Nations.¹⁾

3.2 In order to satisfy various interchange requirements, the list contains overlaps and the entities listed are not mutually exclusive.

3.3 Whenever required, entities are explained by references or notes.

3.4 Entities listed are intended to reflect current status. Historical status is not reflected in this International Standard.

4 PRINCIPLES FOR CODES

4.1 Section one of this International Standard contains the entity list and a two-letter alphabetic code (ISO alpha-2 country code), designed for general purposes and recommended for international exchange.

4.2 For such special instances where a three-letter alphabetic code would be of particular advantage, such a code (ISO alpha-3 country code) is provided in section two of this International Standard.

5 ENTITY LIST

See sections one and two.

6 MAINTENANCE

A maintenance agency will be entrusted with the following functions :

1 To add and to eliminate entities and assign codes as needed in accordance with the rules provided.

1) Those differences existing between the list of entities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and this International Standard were introduced with the view to providing more complete coverage of the land surfaces of the earth.

- 2 To advise users regarding applications of the codes.
- 3 To update and disseminate lists of entities, codes and their definitions.
- 4 To maintain a reference list of all country codes used and their period of use.
- 5 To establish, in normal course of work, after consultation with an advisory panel, additional rules for the practical application of the principles for assigning codes.

7 GUIDELINES FOR USERS

7.1 Implementation

In the development of this International Standard, information exchange requirements were a significant factor. Existing well-recognized code systems were also taken into consideration. However, this International Standard is not identical in coverage or coding to any existing system. Implementation of this International Standard is desired as early as possible in order to facilitate information transfer.

7.2 Subsets

In order to serve their specific purposes, users may need to derive subsets and definitions for their applications.

7.3 User-assigned codes

When additional entities are required, an application indicating the actual exchange requirement should be

made to the maintenance agency. An actual exchange requirement is considered appropriate justification for the inclusion of new entities. The agency will include these, as appropriately determined, notify the requestor of decisions made and promulgate changes or revisions.

The series of letters AA, XA to XZ, and ZZ, and the series AAA to AAZ, XAA to XZZ and ZZA to ZZZ respectively, are available for private use, and for provisional codes which should be recorded as soon as possible by the maintenance agency. An existing alpha-1 code which is in agreement with the first letter of the alpha-2 code may be used for an appropriate time to be fixed by the agency.

7.4 Notification of use of this International Standard

Users should notify the maintenance agency of their use of this International Standard, in order that they may be informed of future changes or actions. For this purpose, a copy of the user's implementation document or code list shall be transmitted to the maintenance agency.

7.5 Information exchange

When the list and codes derived from this International Standard are user-defined, it is essential that all interchanging parties be informed of exact definitions relating to their codes.

7.6 Conversion from existing codes

For those having difficulties in determining the best possible application of this code, the maintenance agency may be of assistance.



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S.U.P.

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Codes for the representation of names of countries

AMENDMENT 1

Amendment 1 to International Standard ISO 3166-1974 was drawn up by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency. It was submitted simultaneously to all member bodies for approval and to the ISO Council for acceptance, in accordance with the provisions of Council Resolution 9/1976, letter e), paragraph ii).

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Germany	Kenya	South Africa, Rep. of
Austria	Ghana	Mexico	Spain
Brazil	Hungary	Netherlands	Switzerland
Canada	India	Norway	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Ireland	Peru	U.S.A.
Denmark	Israel	Poland	Yugoslavia
Finland	Italy	Portugal	
France	Japan	Romania	

No member body expressed disapproval of the document.

1 CHANGES OF CODES (see the lists on pages 3 to 22 of ISO 3166-1974)

Former name of entity	Former code*		New name of entity	New code	
	Alpha-2	Alpha-3		Alpha-2	Alpha-3
DAHOMY Republic of Dahomey	DY	DHY	BENIN People's Republic of Benin	BJ	BEN
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS	GE	GEL	GILBERT ISLANDS TUVALU**	[unchanged] TV	[unchanged] TUV
PHILIPPINES Republic of the Philippines	PH	PHI	[unchanged]	[unchanged]	PHL
SIKKIM	SK	SKM	[deleted]		
VIET-NAM, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF	VD	VDR	VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUB- LIC OF	VN	VNM
VIET-NAM, REPUBLIC OF	VN	VNM			

* Former codes have been reserved, in accordance with the principles governing the maintenance of the codes; they will therefore not be re-allocated during a transitional period following the change-over, although during this period they will continue to appear, between parentheses, in future editions of ISO 3166.

** Tuvalu is the new name for the Ellice component of the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

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ISO 3166-1974/A1-1977 (E)

2 CHANGES OF NAMES OF ENTITIES* in addition to those indicated overleaf (see the lists on pages 3 to 22 of ISO 3166-1974)

Former name of entity	New name of entity
ALBANIA People's Republic of Albania	ALBANIA People's Socialist Republic of Albania
ALGERIA Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria	ALGERIA People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
ANGOLA	ANGOLA People's Republic of Angola
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS	SOLOMON ISLANDS
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS	CAPE VERDE Republic of Cape Verde
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE
COMORO ISLANDS	COMOROS
ETHIOPIA Empire of Ethiopia	ETHIOPIA
KHMER REPUBLIC	KAMPUCHEA, DEMOCRATIC
LAOS Kingdom of Laos	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
LIBYA Libyan Arab Republic	LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC
MACAO	MACAU
MADAGASCAR Malagasy Republic	MADAGASCAR Democratic Republic of Madagascar
MALTA	MALTA Republic of Malta
MOZAMBIQUE	MOZAMBIQUE People's Republic of Mozambique
PORTUGUESE TIMOR	EAST TIMOR**
SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
SPANISH SAHARA	WESTERN SAHARA**
SURINAM	SURINAM Republic of Surinam
SYRIA Syrian Arab Republic	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
TOKELAU ISLANDS	TOKELAU
WESTERN SAMOA Independent State of Western Samoa	SAMOA Independent State of Western Samoa

* In accordance with *Terminology Bulletin No. 285/Rev. 1* (ST/CS/SER.F/285/REV.1 — 10 October 1975) : *Names of Countries and Adjectives of Nationality*, published by the United Nations Secretariat, and *Country Nomenclature for Statistical Use, Rev. 8*, published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations (1971-02-18), including the latest corrections.

** Provisional changes.

SECTION ONE
ENTITY LIST AND ALPHA-2 CODE

ENTITY (English name) Official name in English	Alpha-2 code	Remarks
1	2	3
AFGHANISTAN Republic of Afghanistan	AF	
ALBANIA People's Republic of Albania	AL	
ALGERIA Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria	DZ	
AMERICAN SAMOA	AS	
ANDORRA	AD	
ANGOLA	AO	
ANTARCTICA	AQ	The territory south of 60° south latitude.
ANTIGUA	AG	Includes Barbuda and Redonda.
ARGENTINA Argentine Republic	AR	
AUSTRALIA Commonwealth of Australia	AU	Includes Lord Howe Island, Macquarie Island, Ashmore and Cartier.
AUSTRIA Republic of Austria	AT	
BAHAMAS Commonwealth of the Bahamas	BS	Turks and Caicos Islands not included.
BAHRAIN State of Bahrain	BH	
BANGLADESH People's Republic of Bangladesh	BD	
BARBADOS	BB	
BELGIUM Kingdom of Belgium	BE	
BELIZE	BZ	Formerly British Honduras.
BERMUDA	BM	
BHUTAN Kingdom of Bhutan	BT	
BOLIVIA Republic of Bolivia	BO	
BOTSWANA Republic of Botswana	BW	
BOUVET ISLAND	BV	Also called Bouvetøya.

ISO 3166-1974 (E)

1	2	3
BRAZIL Federative Republic of Brazil	BR	Includes Atol das Rocas, Arquipelago de Fernando de Noronha, Ilha da Trindade, Ilhas Martim Vaz, and Penedos de São Pedro e São Paulo.
BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY	BQ	Part of Antarctica.
BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY	IO	Includes Chagos Archipelago, Farquhar Atoll, Diego Garcia Island, Aldabra Islands, and Ile Desroches.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS	SB	Comprise Southern Solomon Islands, primarily Guadalcanal, Malaita, San Cristobal, Santa Isabel, Choiseul.
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	VG	Include Anegada, Jost Van Dyke, Tortola, and Virgin Gorda.
BRUNEI	BN	
BULGARIA People's Republic of Bulgaria	BG	
BURMA Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma	BU	
BURUNDI Republic of Burundi	BI	
BYELORUSSIAN SSR Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	BY	
CAMEROON United Republic of Cameroon	CM	
CANADA	CA	
CANTON AND ENDERBURY ISLANDS	CT	
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS	CV	Include Boa Vista, Brava, Fogo, Maio, Sal, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, São Tiago, and São Vicente.
CAYMAN ISLANDS	KY	Include Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman.
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	CF	
CHAD Republic of Chad	TD	
CHILE Republic of Chile	CL	Includes Easter Island, Islas Juan Fernandez, Isla San Felix, and Isla Sala y Gomez.
CHINA People's Republic of China	CN	
CHRISTMAS ISLAND	CX	
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS	CC	
COLOMBIA Republic of Colombia	CO	Includes San Andrés y Providencia, Isla de Malpelo, Roncador Cay, and Serrana and Serranilla banks.
CÓMORO ISLANDS	KM	Include Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mayotte, Mohéli, and other smaller islands.
CONGO People's Republic of the Congo	CG	

1	2	3
COOK ISLANDS	CK	
COSTA RICA Republic of Costa Rica	CR	Includes Cocos Islands.
CUBA Republic of Cuba	CU	
CYPRUS Republic of Cyprus	CY	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	CS	
DAHOMY Republic of Dahomey	DY	
DENMARK Kingdom of Denmark	DK	
DOMINICA	DM	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	DO	
DRONNING MAUD LAND	NQ	Part of Antarctica.
ECUADOR Republic of Ecuador	EC	Includes Galapagos Islands (Archipelago de Colon).
EGYPT Arab Republic of Egypt	EG	
EL SALVADOR Republic of El Salvador	SV	
EQUATORIAL GUINEA Republic of Equatorial Guinea	GQ	Includes Rio Muni and Isla de Macias Nguema Biyogo (formerly Fernando Po), Annobón, Corisco, and Elobey.
ETHIOPIA Empire of Ethiopia	ET	
FAEROE ISLANDS	FO	
FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)	FK	Include West Falkland and East Falkland, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands.
FIJI	FJ	Include Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and Rotuma Islands.
FINLAND Republic of Finland	FI	
FRANCE French Republic	FR	
FRENCH AFARS AND ISSAS French Territory of the Afars and the Issas	AI	
FRENCH GUIANA	GF	
FRENCH POLYNESIA	PF	Includes Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, Marquesas Islands, Tubuaï and Gambier Islands, the Iles Australes, and Clipperton Island.
FRENCH SOUTHERN AND ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES	FQ	Include New Amsterdam, St. Paul, Kerguelen, Crozet Islands and Adelieland (part of Antarctica).

1	2	3
GABON Gabonese Republic	GA	
GAMBIA The Republic of Gambia	GM	
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	DD	
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	DE	
GHANA Republic of Ghana	GH	
GIBRALTAR	GI	
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS	GE	Include Gilbert Islands, Ellice Islands (Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nukulailai, Nurakita), Fanning Island, Washington Island and Christmas Island in the Line Islands, Ocean Island, Phoenix Islands (Birnie, Gardner, Hull, Mc Kean, Phoenix, Sydney, excluding Canton and Enderbury).
GREECE Hellenic Republic	GR	Includes Aegean Islands, Ionian Islands, Dodecanese, Crete, and Mt. Athos autonomous area.
GREENLAND	GL	
GRENADA	GD	Includes Southern Grenadine Islands.
GUADELOUPE	GP	Includes Grande-Terre, Basse-Terre, Marie-Galante, Iles des Saintes, Iles de la Petite-Terre, la Désirade, Ile Saint-Barthélemy, and Northern St. Martin.
GUAM	GU	
GUATEMALA Republic of Guatemala	GT	
GUINEA Republic of Guinea	GN	
GUINEA-BISSAU Republic of Guinea-Bissau	GW	
GUYANA Republic of Guyana	GY	
HAITI Republic of Haiti	HT	
HEARD AND MC DONALD ISLANDS	HM	
HONDURAS Republic of Honduras	HN	Includes Swan Islands.
HONG-KONG	HK	Also called Hisiangkang and Xianggang.
HUNGARY Hungarian People's Republic	HU	
ICELAND Republic of Iceland	IS	
INDIA Republic of India	IN	Includes Amindivi, Laccadive, Minicoy, Andaman, and Nicobar Islands.

1	2	3
INDONESIA Republic of Indonesia	ID	
IRAN Empire of Iran	IR	
IRAQ Republic of Iraq	IQ	
IRELAND	IE	
ISRAEL State of Israel	IL	
ITALY Italian Republic	IT	
IVORY COAST Republic of the Ivory Coast	CI	
JAMAICA	JM	Includes Morant Cays and Pedro Cays.
JAPAN	JP	
JOHNSTON ISLAND	JT	
JORDAN Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	JO	
KENYA Republic of Kenya	KE	
KHMER REPUBLIC	KH	Formerly Cambodia.
KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF	KP	
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	KR	
KUWAIT State of Kuwait	KW	
LAOS Kingdom of Laos	LA	
LEBANON Lebanese Republic	LB	
LESOTHO Kingdom of Lesotho	LS	
LIBERIA Republic of Liberia	LR	
LIBYA Libyan Arab Republic	LY	
LIECHTENSTEIN Principality of Liechtenstein	LI	
LUXEMBOURG Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	LU	
MACAO	MO	Also called Ao-mén.