
**Codes for the representation of names
of countries and their subdivisions —**

**Part 2:
Country subdivision code**

*Codes pour la représentation des noms de pays et de leurs
subdivisions —*

Partie 2: Code pour les subdivisions de pays

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established 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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3166-2:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

- The codes have been moved to the database format.
- The components of the codes have been defined by descriptors, not by column or line numbers.
- The status of each alpha-2 country code element has been made explicit, as it is the main resource managed by ISO 3166/MA, necessary for traceability over time.
- All characters in the database, specifically those with diacritical marks, have been checked with the Universal Coded Character Set, ISO/IEC 10646, and are used consistently.
- The database encoding is UTF-8 (Universal Character Set Transformation Format - 8 bits) from ISO/IEC 10646, and the same has been used in many applications.
- The three parts — three codes — belong to the same database, updates are done only once for all parts.

A list of all parts in the ISO 3166 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.