



# Study Report on UN/LOCODE

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# Outline

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- 1. Background
- 2. Observations
- 3. The key problem
- 4. A further analysis
- 5. A possible solution





# 1. Background

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- The assignment from the third annual meeting of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group in 2019
- This study aims to analyse the problems that have arisen in the UN/LOCODE maintenance and propose a possible solution to guide the UN/LOCODE Maintenance Team to improve the UN/LOCODE data quality.
- NOTE: Not the consensus of the UN/LOCODE Maintenance Team.





# 2.Observations

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- Concept: Point or Area
  - Discussed for a long time
  - Definition of “Location” in Rec. 16
  - UN/LOCODE: a virtual area or a specific location?
    - Use cases for both
  - Rec.16 2020 version is correct
    - Since “Area” + “point” = “Area”





## 2.Observations

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- Dispute: to identify different ports in the same city because that these ports are
  - in distinct areas
  - independently managed and administered
  - perceived by the users as distinct ports

Proposal:

Distinction between the area and the point concept continues to be problematic and that practical solutions may be needed on a case-by-case basis.





# 2.Observations

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- Geographical coordinates
  - For a point location
  - Which point should be selected in an area?
    - An official center
    - A specific facility

## Proposals:

- An official center for the area with multiple functions
- A specific facility within an area with a single function  
(Except Function 3)





## 2.Observations

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- Country code for offshore terminal
  - The issue was raised in January 2020
  - There types of offshore locations
    - Within the continental shelf of a country
    - Within the exclusive economic zone of a country
    - In international waters
- Proposals
  - Rules should be clarified
  - Investigate the issue from UN convention on the Law of the sea





## 2.Observations

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- Scope of UN/LOCODEs
  - UN/LOCODEs have been intended to use for trade and transport locations
  - Other application areas have expressed their interest to use
    - Banking industry
    - Food and Agriculture Organization
    - World Food Programme
- Proposals
  - Experts shall be aware of the need of IS for identifying all world areas.







## 2.Observations

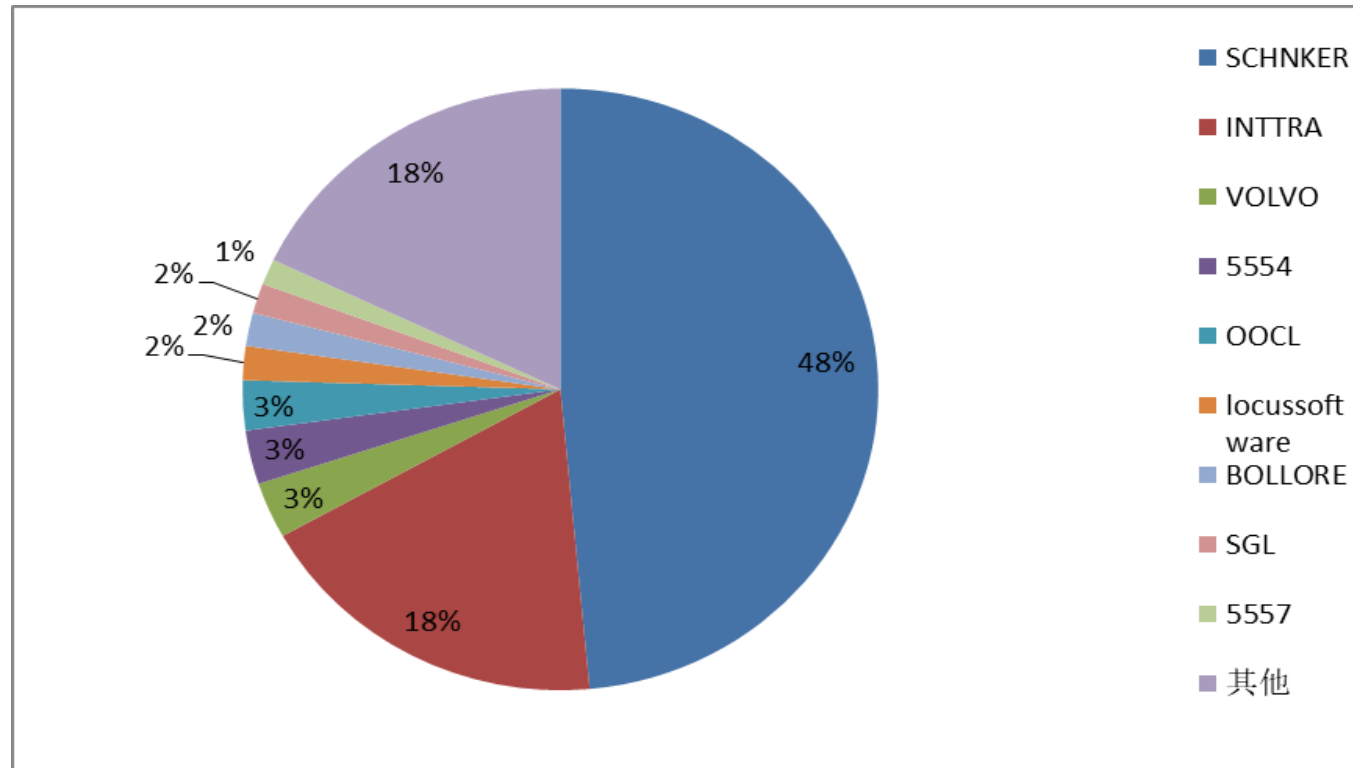
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- Unbalanced assignment of UN/LOCODEs
  - Possibility of sharing the UN/LOCODE already assigned to the nearby area.
  - Prefer a new code due to the different shipping rates.



# 2.Observations

- Statistics of DMR submitters
  - DMR submitters from 2019 to first half of 2020





# 3.The key issue

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- Function 3 is very different from other Functions
  - Definition of Function 3:A location that is connected to other ones by means of roads.
  - By this definition, based on the assumption that all areas are road connected, isn't it safe to say that all areas are qualified to be assigned a UN/LOCODE?
  - Other function codes are point locations
    - Limited size
    - Clear boundary
    - Well understood facilities
    - Identified precisely by coordinates

UN/LOCODE 2010 Function 3 codes far outnumber other function codes





# 4.A further analysis

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- Two types of objects that are identified
  - The identification of Function 3 locations as areas
    - Areas are structured hierarchically in the world, and with different levels among countries
    - ISO 3166-2 is not enough to identify areas
    - There is a need for an international standard to identify areas of higher granularity
    - Geo-coordinates: not practical to identify an area

# 4.A further analysis

- Two types of objects that are identified

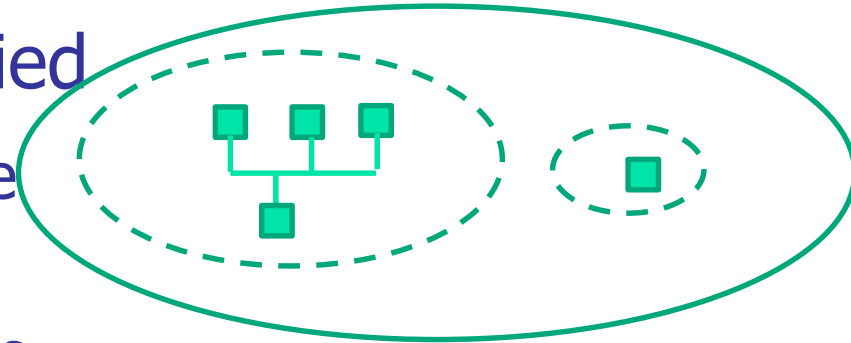
- The identification of other function code locations as points

- A group of interconnected terminals/facilities.

- Child codes applies

- A pair of geographical coordinates is very useful

- Much more connected and consistent with industries



Area



T&T Terminal



Free  
connection



# 5.A possible solution

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- In application of the Rec.16
  - Separate the code list into two code lists.
    - function 3 UN/LOCODES
    - other function UN/LOCODES
  - 100% transformation both directions
  - Expected benefit
    - Lower consumption of maintenance resources
    - Higher data quality
    - Addressing the wider world need of a location identification standard



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# Thank you!