

UN/LOCODE

UN/LOCODE –

Originally stands for : **Code for Ports and Other Locations**

Code for Trade and Transport Locations (*since 2001*)

Website <http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html>



The screenshot shows the official UN/LOCODE website. At the top is the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe logo and a search bar. Below the navigation menu, the 'TRADE' section is highlighted. The main content area is titled 'UN/LOCODE' and contains the following text:

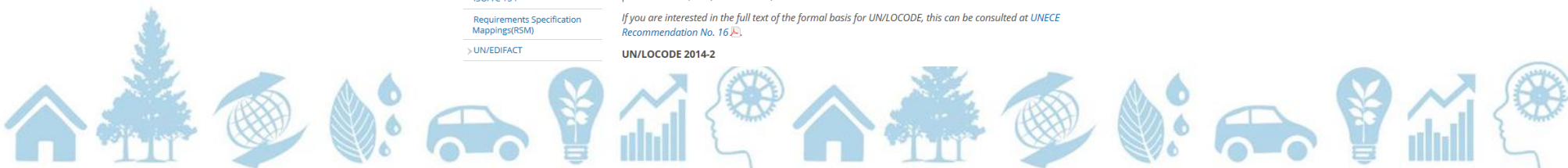
The "United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations" is commonly more known as "UN/LOCODE". Although managed and maintained by the UNECE, it is the product of a wide collaboration in the framework of the joint trade facilitation effort undertaken within the United Nations.

Initiated within the UNECE Working Party on Trade Facilitation, UN/LOCODE is based on a code structure set up by UN/ECLAC and a list of locations originating in UN/ESCAP, developed in UNCTAD in co-operation with transport organisations like IATA and the ICS and with active contributions from national governments and commercial bodies. Its first issue in 1981 provided codes to represent the names of some 8.000 locations in the world.

Currently, UN/LOCODE includes over 97,114 locations in 249 countries and installations in international waters. It is used by most major shipping companies, by freight forwarders and in the manufacturing industry around the world. It is also applied by national governments and in trade related activities, such as statistics where it is used by the European Union, by the UPU for certain postal services, etc (read more...)

If you are interested in the full text of the formal basis for UN/LOCODE, this can be consulted at UNECE Recommendation No. 16.

UN/LOCODE 2014-2





UN/LOCODE

I. Background



II. History



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges



IV. Projects



V. Conference





I. Background

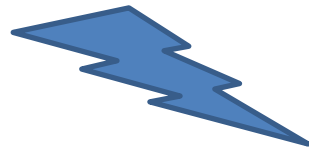
Why??

- Identification of location required In International trade and transport



- names of locations spelt : In different ways !!

=> creates confusion and difficulty.



a **unique and unambiguous way** – a code system for

1) facilitation of trade procedures & documentation

2) data exchange in a safer and more economical way





I. Background

Recommendation No.16

1. the five-character code system:

I. 2-character country code

II. 3-character location code

2. used for purposes of trade

3. to designate locations





I. Background

--Code list : example & explanation

Column "Ch" (Change Indicator)

- + added entry
- # Change in the location name
- X entry to be removed
- | entry has been changed

Column "SubDiv" (Subdivision)

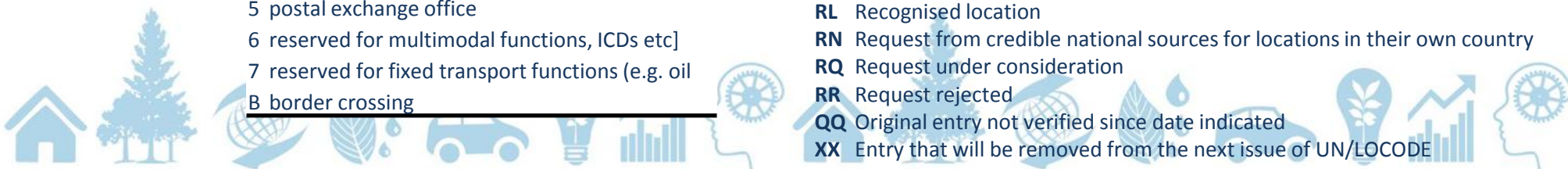
- ✓ state, province, department, etc
- ✓ Based contain the ISO 3166-2

Country codes
based on ISO
3166-1

Ch	LOCODE	Name	NameWoDiacritics	SubDiv	Function	Status	Date	IATA	Coordinates	Remarks
	DE BWZ	Bad Wurzach	Bad Wurzach	BW	-23--6--	RL	0901		4754N 00954E	
+	FR AC6	Arçonnay	Arconnay	72	--3-----	RL	1301		4824N 00050E	
	IN DMA	Dhamara	Dhamara	OR	123-----	RL	1301		2048N 08654E	@Fun
#	US PFT	Pfafftown	Pfafftown	NC	--3-----	RL	1301		3609N 08021W	
X	AU GNO	Geelong North	Geelong North	VIC	--3-----	XX	1301		3806S 14420E	Use AU GGN

-
- 1 port, as defined in Rec 16
 - 2 rail terminal
 - 3 road terminal
 - 4 airport
 - 5 postal exchange office
 - 6 reserved for multimodal functions, ICDs etc]
 - 7 reserved for fixed transport functions (e.g. oil
 - B border crossing
-

- AA Approved by competent national government agency
- AC Approved by Customs Authority
- AF Approved by national facilitation body
- AI Code adopted by international organisation (IATA or ECLAC)
- AS Approved by national standardisation body
- RL Recognised location
- RN Request from credible national sources for locations in their own country
- RQ Request under consideration
- RR Request rejected
- QQ Original entry not verified since date indicated
- XX Entry that will be removed from the next issue of UN/LOCODE





I Background

Available: free of charge

- *Code List by Country on the website*
(<http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html>)
- *Download complete code list on the website in three formats:*
 - mdb
 - txt
 - csv
- Distributed in computer diskettes (only before 2002)



I. Background

UN/LOCODE [?]
✗ = POSTAL CODE -- With features reflecting postal distribution,
less suitable for general trade purpose

UN/LOCODE [?]
✗ = IATA CODE -- only for airport coding

UN/LOCODE [?]
✗ = PORT CODE-- covering merely ports

➔ UN/LOCODE is most suitable for
General trade purpose!





UN/LOCODE

I. Background



II. History



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges



IV. Projects



V. Conference





II. History

Directories Releases:

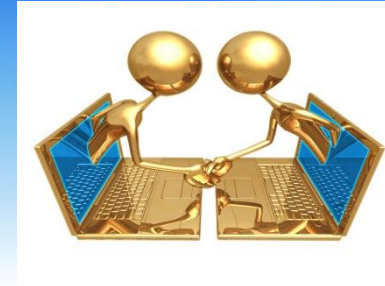
The first issue in 1981 contained codes for 8,000 locations.



The latest release 2014-2 includes around 100,000 entries covering 249 countries , dependent territories and special areas .



II. History



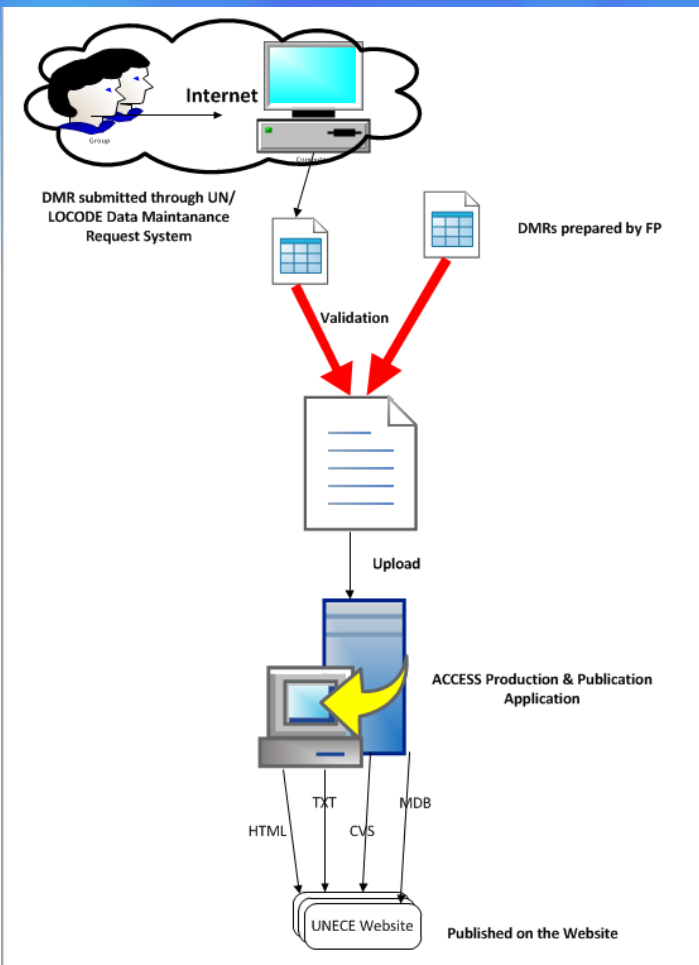
Milestones:

- **2000:** Directories are published biannually instead of annually
- **2001:** Rename of UN/LOCODE from 'the United Nations Code for Ports and Other Locations' to 'the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations'
- **2002:** Restructuring of the UN/LOCODE database by defining a new model. The UN/LOCODE directories are generated in formats of text, CSV, HTML and MS Access file and are published in the UNECE website.
- **2004:** Launch of UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request System to enable registered users to submit online requests for new entries and modification.



II. History

Current Work Flow:





UN/LOCODE

I. Background



II. History



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges



IV. Projects



V. Conference





III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

Use of UNLOCODE

- **Used by**
 - EDIFACT
 - WCO Data Model

No global statistics on use of each code.

United Nations Directories
for Electronic Data Interchange for

Administration, Commerce and Transport



UN/EDIFACT

Change indicators

a plus sign (+)	for an addition
an asterisk (*)	for an amendment to structure
a hash sign (#)	for changes to names
a vertical bar ()	for changes to text for descriptions and notes
a minus sign (-)	for marked for deletion (within either batch and interactive messages)
a X sign (X)	for marked for deletion (within both batch and interactive messages)

3225 Location identifier

Desc: To identify a location.

Repr: an..35

Note:

1 Recommend use UN/ECE Recommendation No. 16: UN/LOCODE. If not applicable, use appropriate code set in combination with 1131/3055.



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

Data Quality

- *Misspelling of location names*
- *Incorrect Functions – especially confused with 1 and 6*
- *Missing information such as subdivisions and coordinates*
- *Duplication*
- *Relevance*
- *Conflicts with existing IATA airport codes*



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

For each country there can be a maximum of

- $26 \times 26 \times 26 = 17\,576$ entries, using only letters
- $34 \times 34 \times 34 = 39\,304$ entries using letters and digits

Country Name	Entries
The Unites States of America(US)	18705
France (FR)	12345
Germany (DE)	9375
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GB)	5653
Italy (IT)	5311



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

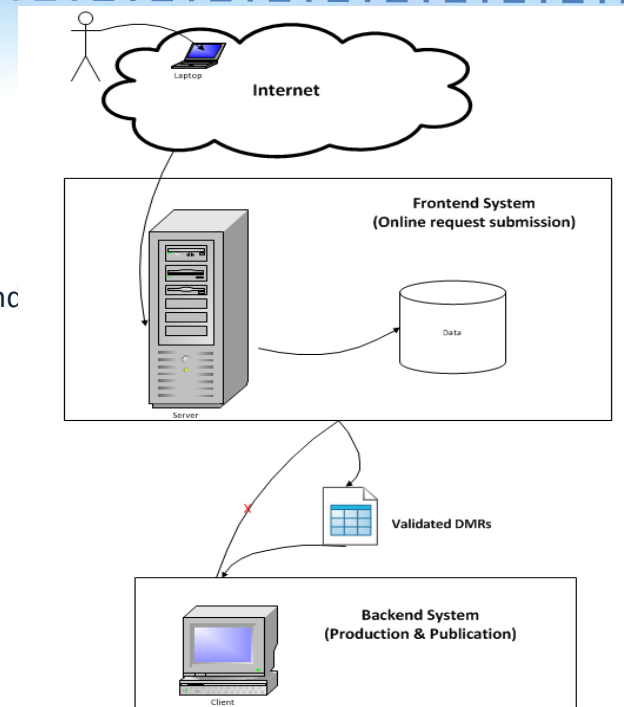
- **Limits of ICT System**

- **No data interface between frontend and backend system**
- **Process by batch**




Validate thousands of DMRs (a heavy workload, within a short period and

- **Requesters can not follow up since submission**



III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

- *Lacking in resources*
 - *Geographical validation*

 - *No clues in context of international trade*



IV. Projects

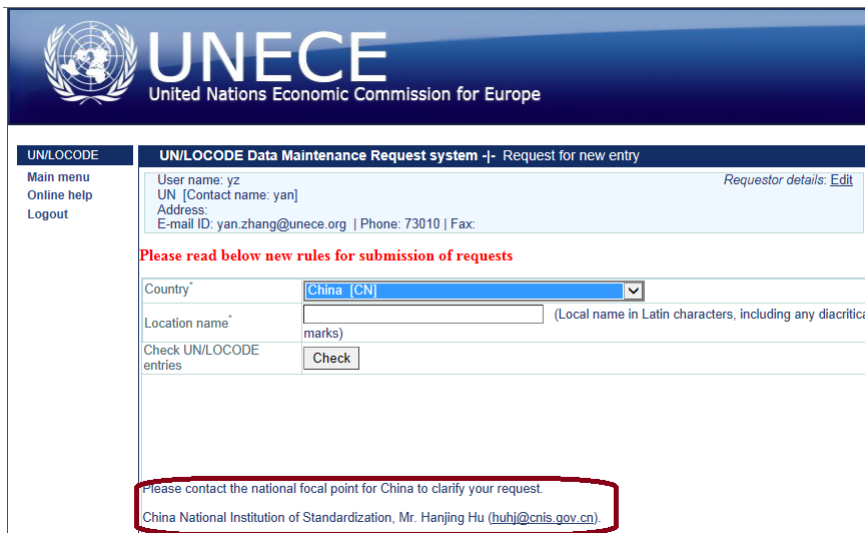
Pilot projects

- **For Japan**

Validate DMRs four times per year instead of biannually.

- **For China**

Disable web-based online DMRs submission.



The screenshot shows the UNECE website header and the UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request system interface. The interface includes a sidebar with links to Main menu, Online help, and Logout. The main content area is titled 'UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request system - Request for new entry'. It displays user information: User name: yz, UN [Contact name: yan], Address, and E-mail ID: yan.zhang@unece.org | Phone: 73010 | Fax. A red text prompt reads 'Please read below new rules for submission of requests'. Below this, there is a form with a 'Country' dropdown menu set to 'China [CN]', a 'Location name' input field with a placeholder '(Local name in Latin characters, including any diacritical marks)', and a 'Check UN/LOCODE entries' button. At the bottom, a red-bordered box contains the text: 'Please contact the national focal point for China to clarify your request. China National Institution of Standardization, Mr. Hanjing Hu (huji@cnis.gov.cn)'.





IV. Projects

National Maintenance Agency through Focal Points Networking

- **Countries with full Focal Point**
China, Japan, South Korea. India., Brazil, Thailand, Norway
 - **Countries with partial Focal Point**
Estonia, Greece, Nepal. New Zealand
 - **Others**
-





IV. Projects

Tasks of Focal Point

- Review existing code list
 - Validate requests for new codes and modification
 - Address issues raised by user community
 - Promote use of UN/LOCODE
-





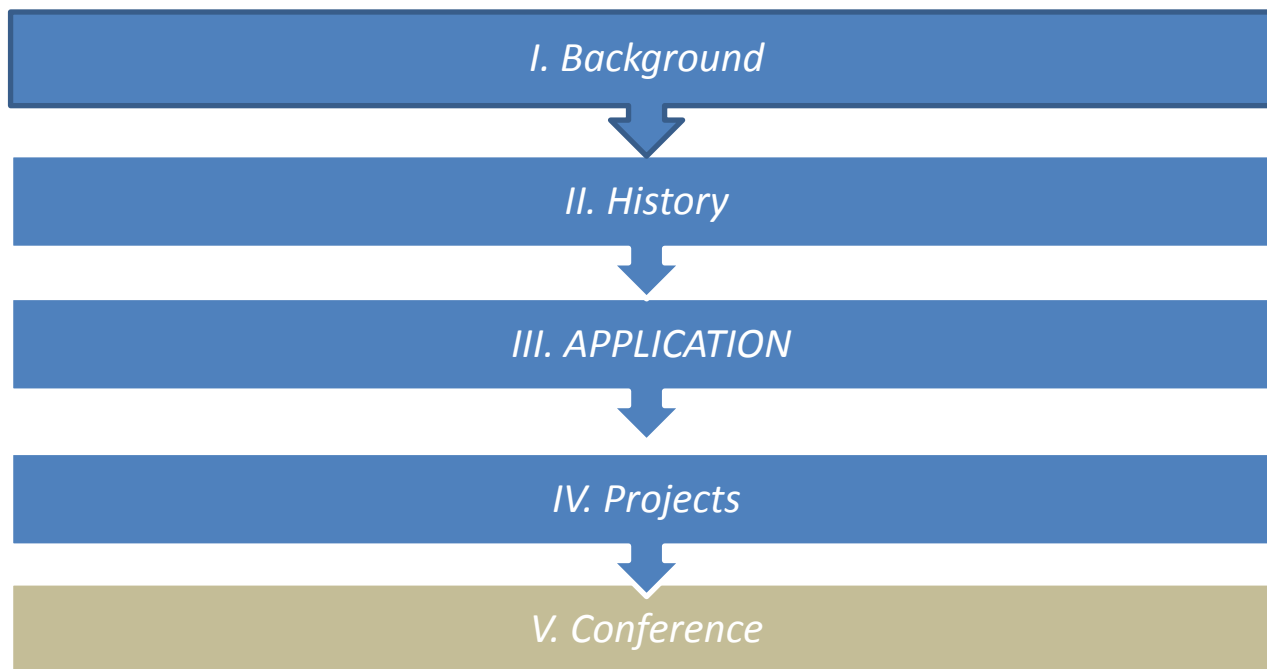
IV. Projects

Reengineering ICT System

- Enhancements to adapt requirements of Focal Point Networking
 - **Recourses needed**
-



Recommendation No.16





V. Conference

UN/LOCODE

April 2015, Geneva

-
- ❖ *Survey to be conducted before conference*
 - ❖ *Official letters to countries to nominate Focal Points*
 - ❖ *Draft ToR of Focal Point*





V. Conference

UN/LOCODE

April 2015, Geneva

❖ *Key Speakers from UN/CEFACT and User Community*

❖ *Workshop of Focal Points*

❖ *Brainstorming*





V. Conference

UN/LOCODE

April 2015, Geneva

Expected outputs

❖ *ToR of Focal Point*

❖ *Decide to revise Recommendation No. 16*

❖ *Fund raising for Reengineering*

