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Trade Division

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**UN/LOCODE (CODE FOR TRADE AND TRANSPORT LOCATIONS)**  
**Issue 2003-1**

**Note to the users of UN/LOCODE**

1. The UN/ECE Secretariat has the pleasure to introduce herewith UN/LOCODE 2003-1.
2. UN/LOCODE is available on the Internet World Wide Web, on a site dedicated exclusively to the UN/LOCODE Manual with its code lists:

<http://www.unece.org/locode>

3. The full text of UN/ECE Recommendation No 16 on “Codes for Trade and Transport Locations” (formerly “Codes for Ports and Other Locations”), with the text part of the Manual, as revised in 1998, is available at the site dedicated to the UN/ECE facilitation activity in general:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/download/99trd227.pdf>

4. On request, UN/LOCODE 2003-1 can also be made available in a diskette version which will include the following files:
  - 1). UN/LOCODE Manual, Part 1 (Annex to Recommendation 16)
  - 2). UN/LOCODE Manual, Part 2: Code list in alphabetical country code order
  - 3). UN/LOCODE Manual, Part 3: Support codes:
    - 3.1 Two-letter country code (ISO 3166-1/1997)
    - 3.2 1-3 character subdivision code (ISO 3166-2/1998)

The diskette also includes “Contents” and “Readme” files.

**CHANGES IN UN/LOCODE 2003-1**

5. In 2001 a number of changes were made in the presentation of UN/LOCODE, some of which will call for changes in Recommendation 16 and the UN/LOCODE Manual. Pending a forthcoming revision of these documents, the following changes that were implemented in UN/LOCODE 2001 are maintained in UN/LOCODE 2003-1:

## 5.1 Double columns

6. As agreed at the time of the 1998 revision of Recommendation 16, the code list is now presented in two versions, one which includes diacritic marks in place names and one from which these marks have been removed.

## 5.2 Geographical coordinates

7. A new column for geographical coordinates (lat/long) was introduced in UN/LOCODE 2002-1. Data is being added in this column as it becomes available to the secretariat. In order to avoid unnecessary use of non-standard characters and space, the following standard presentation is used:

0000N 00000W 0000S 0000E

where the two last digits refer to minutes and the two or three first digits indicate the degrees. Coordinates are stated for close to 8.200 locations in UN/LOCODE 2003-1

## 5.3 Classifiers in Change column

8. The classifiers in the Change column reflect practice elsewhere in the UN/EDIFACT environment. This means that in UN/LOCODE 2003-1, the following classifiers are used:

| Change | Description                                                                   |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| X      | Marked for deletion in the next issue                                         |
| #      | Change in the location name                                                   |
| !      | Other change in the entry                                                     |
| +      | Entry added to the current issue                                              |
| =      | Reference entry                                                               |
| !      | Retained for certain entries in the USA code list ("controlled duplications") |

## 5.4 Alignment of function classifiers

9. In order to align the use of function classifiers in Recommendations 16 and 19, it had been agreed that the classifier "8" in Rec. 16 should be reserved for inland waterway and lake ports whereas the letter "B" should represent border crossings. The change would be introduced once a list of inland waterway and lake ports had been established. However, as only 118 such "inland ports" had been notified to the secretariat and classified as such in UN/LOCODE 2002-1, the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to discontinue the use of classifier "8" for this purpose and instead to use classifier "1" for all ports serving any kind of waterborne transport. (This agreement will be reflected in a revised Recommendation 16.)

10. Recommendation 16 includes a definition of "Inland Clearance Depot" (with synonyms "Dry Port", Inland Clearance Terminal, etc.) and the classifier "6" is reserved in the Recommendation for this type of function. Following a request from one country the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to activate classifier "6" to ICDs in UN/LOCODE 2002-2.

11. There is also a provision in Recommendation 16 for the function "fixed transport functions (e.g. oil platform); the classifier "7" is reserved for this function. Noting that the description "oil pipeline terminals" would be more relevant, and could be extended to cover also electric power line and ropeway terminals, the Expert Group agreed that the classifier "7" should be activated in UN/LOCODE 2002-2.

## 5.5 Deletion of Column GEO

12. In view of the few entries having a value in the GEO field in UN/LOCODE database (less than 500 entries) and that the function anyway will be provided through the geographical coordinates and - to a lesser

extent - the subdivisions specified for certain countries, the UN Secretariat proposed to the Expert Group to remove this column from UN/LOCODE 2002-2. The Expert Group agreed the proposal and this column is consequently not present in UN/LOCODE 2003-1.

## **UN/LOCODE in figures**

13. The UN/LOCODE main code list now contains 38.000 entries. 707 entries (marked with a “+” sign) have been added in the 2003-1 version. Changes in location names (#) - most of them caused by spelling improvements and/or errors - have been made in 2.779 cases and other changes (!) in 523 entries, in most cases because of the addition of functions, subdivision codes and/or coordinates. Each change affecting the location (can be more than one) will be stated with a four-digit tag in column Remarks. The tags and their meanings are:

- @Fun: Change affects the Function
- @Coo: Change affects the Coordinates
- @Sub: Change affects the Subdivision
- @Sta: Change affects the Status

14. There are 2 entries marked with an “X” representing duplications, which will be deleted from the next issue. Entries marked for deletion in UN/LOCODE 2002-2 have now been removed; their code elements will, when relevant, be reserved for a period of five years.

15. The UN/LOCODE database now contains a total of 71.000 entries.

16. The Universal Postal Union has adopted the UN/LOCODE as a basis for location codes used as International Mail Processing Centres (IMPC), at present nearly 1.400 such location entries exist. The Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) is using the UN/LOCODE for certain statistical reporting related to nearly 1.600 port functions. In both cases, the UPU and EUROSTAT databases are incorporated in the UN/LOCODE database. In the UPU case code extensions are used, as envisaged in para 4.1 of the UN/LOCODE Manual, Part 1. It is recalled that UN/LOCODE database also includes similar databases from IATA (11.000 entries), ECLAC (450 records) and Lloyds Register (18.000 records).

## **USA country revision**

17. After a major revision in 2001 of the code list for USA, still 5.391 entries remain with “RQ” status, not having been verified since 1993. These will be reviewed with a view to establishing their correct status.

18. There still remain about 103 cases in the US code list where the 3-letter part of the code duplicates IATA airport identifiers. These mainly refer to military installations and minor facilities which are of little relevance for UN/LOCODE users. The entries concerned have been marked with an exclamation mark (!). In application of para. 3.1.4 of the UN/LOCODE Manual, these duplications should not cause any problems for users.

## **Application of inclusion criteria**

19. The adoption in 2000 of new inclusion criteria enabled the Secretariat to review a large number of outstanding requests for inclusion of place names; over 27.000 entries now have been given one of the “approved” status indicators. The status classifier “RQ” (Request under consideration) is now used only in cases where it has not been possible to verify the existence of a location. However, some 8.750 entries with RQ status remain to be examined with a view to upgrading.

## **Handling of IATA codes**

20. The fact that some IATA 3-letter codes differ from existing codes for the same places in UN/LOCODE has caused problems for users. In order to resolve this problem, the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to introduce a separate column, to be used only in cases where the IATA code deviates from

UN/LOCODE. In all other cases, the presence of an airport function code would mean that the code elements are identical. In UN/LOCODE 2003-1, this rule has now been applied for all countries; the result is that the "IATA column" contains around 640 differing from IATA codes.

### **New Request procedure**

21. Para 6.2.1 of the UN/LOCODE Manual stipulates that requests for inclusion of additional locations should preferably be transmitted on diskette or other electronic medium. In connection with the publication of UN/LOCODE 2001, an electronic form for submitting requests was introduced on the website, enabling requestors to put forward any requests for new code entries directly by entering the data specified on that form. See Annex 2.

22. The electronic Request form should preferably be used. However, for occasional proposals of a limited number, not exceeding 10 entries, hard copy, e-mail or fax transmission is still acceptable. Moreover, for more extensive lists of requests, these can also be submitted as an EXCEL file. In both cases, the condition is that all required information is provided. The file formats, which are acceptable for request submissions, are specified in Section 6.4. of the Manual. These include

Microsoft ACCESS, version 97 or newer

Microsoft EXCEL, version 5.0/95 or newer

23. It is also possible to use a character separated ASCII file or a table ASCII file for request submissions, as described in section 6.4.3 of the Manual.

### **Use of diacritic signs in UN/LOCODE**

24. Place names in the UN/LOCODE are given in their national language versions as expressed in the Roman alphabet using the 26 characters of the character set adopted for international trade data interchange, with diacritic signs, when practicable (cf. para 3.2.2 of the UN/LOCODE Manual). International Standard character sets are laid down in ISO 8859-1 (1987) and ISO 10646-1 (1993). (The standard United States character set (437), which conforms to these ISO standards, is also widely used in trade data interchange.)

25. Several countries use national alphabets based on the 26 character set referred to above, but with the addition of diacritical signs which may change the pronunciation of the names concerned, their place in the alphabetical order and sometimes their meaning. With the increasing use of UN/LOCODE also in national and regional trade, the absence of diacritic signs caused serious disadvantages and problems for users.

26. For these reasons it was agreed in 1995 to introduce in the data base such characters which consist of a basic letter of the 26 character set but with an added diacritic sign (examples are â, å, ä, é, è, ö, ô, ø, ü), and to produce print-out on paper and Web pages showing these characters. (The Danish/Norwegian character "æ" had to be replaced by a single "a").

27. However, where UN/LOCODE is distributed on diskettes in ASCII format, certain types of software (DOS Editor, Windows Write, etc) will show these diacritics as different graphic signs. If newer software is used (Word Perfect, Word for Windows and others) the proper diacritic characters will appear.

28. The introduction of diacritic signs as from the 1995 UN/LOCODE therefore had some undesirable effects for certain users importing or printing out data from the UN/LOCODE ASCII file. Diacritic characters in some cases were represented by other characters or graphic signs and thus became meaningless. The reason is that, although international standards exist for character sets including accents and diacritic characters, industry standards do not always allow their use.

29. To aid users with such problems, as from the 2001 version of UN/LOCODE, two columns are provided for place names, one reflecting national name versions, with diacritic signs, and one in which diacritic signs have been removed from the names. Countries for which diacritic signs are used in

UN/LOCODE 2003-1 include AT, BR, CH, CL, DE, DK, FI, FO, FR, HU, IS, MX, NO, PA, PE, PT, SE, SJ, TR and VN.

30. The following list shows those roman characters with accents and diacritic marks, which are used in location names in UN/LOCODE. If they cannot be read or produced with available equipment, they should be substituted as set out in the second column of the list.

| DIACRITIC           | CONVERSION |
|---------------------|------------|
| À, Á, Â, Ã, Ä, Å, Æ | A          |
| Ç                   | C          |
| È, É, Ê, Ë          | E          |
| Ì, Í, Î, Ï          | I          |
| Ñ                   | N          |
| Ò, Ó, Ô, Õ, Ö, Ø    | O          |
| Ù, Ú, Û, Ü          | U          |
| Ý                   | Y          |
| à, á, â, ã, ä, å, æ | a          |
| ç                   | c          |
| è, é, ê, ë          | e          |
| ì, í, î, ï          | i          |
| ñ                   | n          |
| ò, ó, ô, õ, ö, ø    | o          |
| ù, ú, û, ü          | u          |
| Ý, ÿ                | y          |

31. If characters produced are irrelevant or not recognisable, examples of actual names are given in Annex 1, which may help users to identify and substitute basic Roman characters in such names.

### Sorting order

32. Another problem is caused by the fact that alphabetical sorting conventions vary among countries using diacritic characters, and between computer software specifications. As the UN/LOCODE 2003-1 is produced mainly using the United States character set 437, the sorting order follows the one specified for that character set.

33. For some countries a national sorting order exists; this is indicated under the country name, e.g. for Sweden: "Sorting order a - z, å, ä, ö"

34. It should be noted that the sorting order in the list without diacritic signs might differ from the one that contains such signs. The secretariat would be grateful to be informed about practical experiences among users. Solutions of any remaining technical problems will then be sought before the next issue of UN/LOCODE.

## ANNEX 1

If characters produced are irrelevant or not recognisable, the following examples of actual names may enable users to identify and substitute basic Roman characters in such names:

|        |                                                                                                |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FR MAC | Mâcon: Substitute second character with “a”                                                    |
| SE VAJ | Väja: Substitute second character with “a”                                                     |
| CL KNA | Viña del Mar: Substitute third character with “n”                                              |
| SE ALM | Älmhult: Substitute first character with “A”                                                   |
| SE AMA | Åmål: Substitute first character “A” and third character with “a”                              |
| DK AAR | Århus: Substitute first character with “A”                                                     |
| DK AGP | Agerbæk: Substitute sixth character with “a”                                                   |
| DK ARK | Ærøskøbing: Substitute first character with “A” Substitute third and sixth characters with “o” |
| DE OKB | Østbirk: Substitute first character with “O”                                                   |
| SE GOT | Göteborg: Substitute second character with “o”                                                 |
| SE ORB | Örebro: Substitute first character with “O”                                                    |
| DE LBC | Lübeck: Substitute second character with “u”                                                   |
| DE UER | Ürzig: Substitute first character with “U”                                                     |
| FR BET | Béthune: Substitute second character with “e”                                                  |
| FR CMP | Compiègne: Substitute sixth character with “e”                                                 |

ANNEX 2

UN/LOCODE Request Form

Requests for additions to UN/LOCODE should preferably be made using the Request Form shown below.

**UN/LOCODE REQUEST FORM**

**Request for addition or modification:**

Date of request:  Format: dd/mm/yy

**Requestor:**

Company Name\*:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address\*:  Phone N°:  Fax N°:

Contact Person\*:

**COUNTRY:**

AFGHANISTAN AF  Choose two-letter country code from the dropdown list

Information on Locations Requested

| Location Data:           |                      |                      |                      |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          | Coordinates              | Remarks                  |                          |   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Country code             | Code                 | Location Name        | Subdiv.              | Function                 |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |   |
|                          |                      |                      |                      | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        | 6                        |                          |                          | 7                        | B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |

**Function Specifications:**  
 1-Maritime, 2-Rail, 3-Road, 4-Air, 5-Mail processing centre, 6-Multimodal, 7-Fixed Transport, B-Border crossing point