



**UNECE**  
UN / CEFAC

**Executive Guide**

**UN/LOCODE**

## Introduction

The United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) identifies locations related to international trade around the world. It is a five-character code where the first two characters represent the International Standards Organization (ISO) country code followed by a three-character code unique within that country. These codes have been maintained and published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat since 1981. Updates and new entries are published twice yearly (cut off dates for submissions are 30 April and 31 October).

**UN/LOCODE is used at least 1.5 billion times for international trade each year**

**The first UN/LOCODE Directory Publication contained codes for 8.000 locations**

In order to ensure the precise identification of national locations, the UNECE relies on a network of national focal points to validate all new entries and update requests before they are published. The

national focal points also work with key stakeholders in an Advisory Group in order to propose improvements in processes and maintenance.

The basis of UN/LOCODE is UNECE Recommendation 16. The first edition was published in 1980 and has been updated twice since. The first issue of UN/LOCODE had 8000 codes and today has over 100,000 from 249 countries, dependent territories and special areas.



## Applications

UN/LOCODE is widely used by most major shipping companies, freight forwarders, and the maritime and manufacturing industries. It is also used by national Governments, especially by customs and port authorities, and in related activities such as statistics.

Each UN/LOCODE entry provides several details, such as the subdivision of the location country code, the function of the location (maritime port,

**The latest Directory release 2017-2 includes over 100.000 entries covering 249 countries, dependent territories and special areas**

airport, road hub, etc.), an indicative geolocation coordinate, and the status of the entry (if it has been validated by a national administration, an economic operator or other), etc.

## Benefits

By using UN/LOCODE, operators and authorities can unambiguously identify where transport services begin, where goods will enter an economy and where the goods will be cleared—without needing to know national codes or national languages. It is used for goods movements associated with trade and for use in information exchange between participants in international trade.

## More information

Link to UN/LOCODE page of website

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

# What is UN/CEFACT?

UN/CEFACT, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to **exchange products and relevant services effectively**. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through **the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows**, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce.

**UN/CEFACT has a global mandate. Participation in the UN/CEFACT Forum is open to all.** There are some 300 experts representing every region in the world.

Within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves as the focal point for **trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards**, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. In this context UN/CEFACT was established, as a subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE.

Participation in the development of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations is free of charge.

If you are interested in joining us, you should register at  
<https://uncefact.unece.org/display/uncefactpublic/UNCEFACT+Expert+Registration>

All resulting deliverables are available online free of charge at <http://www.unece.org/cefact>

For more information:  
<http://www.unece.org/cefact>  
See also: <http://tfig.unece.org/>

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