

# Recommendation 3

## *ISO COUNTRY CODE for Representation of Names of Countries*

At its first session, held in January 1972, the Group of Experts on Automatic Data Processing and Coding decided to include in its programme of work the following task:

*“To define requirements for country codes for use in international trade, to be forwarded to ISO and to be pursued in co-operation with it”.*

It was entrusted to the secretariat to pursue this task.

At a Meeting of the relevant ISO body, Working Group 2 of Technical Committee 46 “Documentation” in April 1972, it was agreed to set up a Co-ordination Committee with the task to prepare proposals regarding a list of entities, candidate numerical and alphabetical codes and maintenance arrangements. This Committee was composed of one representative each from ISO and ITU and of the UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Adviser.

The Report of the Co-ordinating Committee was accepted with some amendments by the Working Group 2 of TC 46 and a draft International Standard was elaborated which has been considered at several meetings of the Group of Experts on Automatic Data Processing and Coding. The draft International Standard was adopted at the plenary meeting of TC 46 in July 1974 and was accepted and published as an International Standard by ISO Council in September 1974.

At the 1st, 2nd and 3rd sessions of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, a number of delegations made observations regarding possibility of using this code in international trade, as well as on the question of incompleteness of the list of names of countries and territories.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, subsidiary organ of the Committee on the Development of Trade of the Economic Commission for Europe, at its third session on 4 October 1974 adopted the following Recommendation:

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Recommendation No.3, third edition, adopted by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, Geneva, January 1996 ECE/TRADE/201 [Edition 96.1].

The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures,

*Being aware* of the need of an internationally agreed code system to represent names of countries,

*Considering* the International Standard ISO 3166 “Codes for the representation of names of countries” as a suitable basis for application in international trade,

*Recommends* that the two-letter alphabetic code referred to in the International Standard ISO 3166 as “ISO ALPHA-2 Country Code”, should be used for representing the names of countries for purposes of International Trade whenever there is a need for a coded alphabetical designation;

*Invites* the secretariat to inform the appropriate ISO body responsible for the maintenance of ISO 3166 of any amendments which the Working Party may suggest.

At that session representatives attended from: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Canada; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom; United States of America, Japan and Nigeria.

The following specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were also represented: Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO); General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); Central Office for International Railway Transport (OCTI); International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); International Air Transport Association (IATA); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Union of Railways (UIC); International Chamber of Shipping (ICS); International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA). Also present at the invitation of the secretariat were staff officials of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA); the European Communities (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

### I. SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

The Standard ISO 3166 sets out, in an introductory part, its scope and field of application as being to provide a two-letter and a three-letter alphabetic code, for representing the names of countries, dependencies and other areas of

special geopolitical interest for purposes of international interchange, and general directions for their maintenance. The designations “countries, dependencies, and other areas of special geopolitical interest” employed therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers. The International Standard is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of entities in coded form. For the purposes of the Standard the term “Entity” is defined as “the name of country, dependency, or other area of special geopolitical interest”.

## II. PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED CODES

The recommended codes are presented in two sections containing a two-letter alphabetic code, recommended for international exchange, and a three-digit numeric

code. A three-letter alphabetic code is listed in the ISO 3166 Standard.

## III. PROVISIONS FOR THE UP-DATING OF THE STANDARD

The list of countries and their code elements are subject to amendment according to the rules set out in ISO Standard 3166. A maintenance agency for ISO 3166 has been appointed, serviced by the Secretariat of ISO/TC 46 Deutscher Normenausschuss (DIN), Berlin. As required, the ECE Secretariat will provide code supplements containing the current version of the Alpha-2 code. The list below reflects the version valid on 1 January 1996.

*The full text of ISO 3166, with the official names of the countries concerned are included in the Standard, which can be procured from the ISO Central Secretariat or from national ISO member bodies.*

AFGHANISTAN	AF	004	CANADA	CA	124
ALBANIA	AL	008	CAPE VERDE	CV	132
ALGERIA	DZ	012	CAYMAN ISLANDS	KY	136
AMERICAN SAMOA	AS	016	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	CF	140
ANDORRA	AD	020	CHAD	TD	148
ANGOLA	AO	024	CHILE	CL	152
ANGUILLA	AI	660	CHINA	CN	156
ANTARCTICA	AQ	010	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	CX	162
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	AG	028	COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS	CC	166
ARGENTINA	AR	032	COLOMBIA	CO	170
ARMENIA	AM	051	COMOROS	KM	174
ARUBA	AW	533	CONGO	CG	178
AUSTRALIA	AU	036	COOK ISLANDS	CK	184
AUSTRIA	AT	040	COSTA RICA	CR	188
AZERBAIJAN	AZ	031	COTE D'IVOIRE	CI	384
			CROATIA	HR	191
BAHAMAS	BS	044	CUBA	CU	192
BAHRAIN	BH	048	CYPRUS	CY	196
BANGLADESH	BD	050	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZ	203
BARBADOS	BB	052			
BELARUS	BY	112	DENMARK	DK	208
BELGIUM	BE	056	DJIBOUTI	DJ	262
BELIZE	BZ	084	DOMINICA	DM	212
BENIN	BJ	204	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	DO	214
BERMUDA	BM	060			
BHUTAN	BT	064			
BOLIVIA	BO	068	EAST TIMOR	TP	626
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	BA	070	ECUADOR	EC	218
BOTSWANA	BW	072	EGYPT	EG	818
BOUVET ISLAND	BV	074	EL SALVADOR	SV	222
BRAZIL	BR	076	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	GQ	226
BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY	IO	086	ERITREA	ER	232
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	BN	096	ESTONIA	EE	233
BULGARIA	BG	100	ETHIOPIA	ET	231
BURKINA FASO	BF	854			
BURUNDI	BI	108	FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)	FK	238
			FAROE ISLANDS	FO	234
CAMBODIA	KH	116	FIJI	FJ	242
CAMEROON	CM	120	FINLAND	FI	246
			FRANCE	FR	250

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FRANCE, METROPOLITAN	FX	249	MALAWI	MW	454
FRENCH GUIANA	GF	254	MALAYSIA	MY	458
FRENCH POLYNESIA	PF	258	MALDIVES	MV	462
FRENCH SOUTHERN TERRITORIES	TF	260	MALI	ML	466
			MALTA	MT	470
GABON	GA	266	MARSHALL ISLANDS	MH	584
GAMBIA	GM	270	MARTINIQUE	MQ	474
GEORGIA	GE	268	MAURITANIA	MR	478
GERMANY	DE	276	MAURITIUS	MU	480
GHANA	GH	288	MAYOTTE	YT	175
GIBRALTAR	GI	292	MEXICO	MX	484
GREECE	GR	300	MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF	FM	583
GREENLAND	GL	304	MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	MD	498
GRENADA	GD	308	MONACO	MC	492
GUADELOUPE	GP	312	MONGOLIA	MN	496
GUAM	GU	316	MONTSERAT	MS	500
GUATEMALA	GT	320	MOROCCO	MA	504
GUINEA	GN	324	MOZAMBIQUE	MZ	508
GUINEA-BISSAU	GW	624	MYANMAR	MM	104
GUYANA	GY	328			
			NAMIBIA	NA	516
HAITI	HT	332	NAURU	NR	520
HEARD ISLAND AND MC DONALD ISLANDS	HM	334	NEPAL	NP	524
HONDURAS	HN	340	NETHERLANDS	NL	528
HONG KONG	HK	344	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	AN	530
HUNGARY	HU	348	NEW CALEDONIA	NC	540
			NEW ZEALAND	NZ	554
ICELAND	IS	352	NICARAGUA	NI	558
INDIA	IN	356	NIGER	NE	562
INDONESIA	ID	360	NIGERIA	NG	566
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	IR	364	NIUE	NU	570
IRAQ	IQ	368	NORFOLK ISLAND	NF	574
IRELAND	IE	372	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	MP	580
ISRAEL	IL	376	NORWAY	NO	578
ITALY	IT	380			
			OMAN	OM	512
JAMAICA	JM	388	PAKISTAN	PK	586
JAPAN	JP	392	PALAU	PW	585
JORDAN	JO	400	PANAMA	PA	591
			PAPUA NEW GUINEA	PG	598
KAZAKHSTAN	KZ	398	PARAGUAY	PY	600
KENYA	KE	404	PERU	PE	604
KIRIBATI	KI	296	PHILIPPINES	PH	608
KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF	KP	408	PITCAIRN	PN	612
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	KR	410	POLAND	PL	616
KUWAIT	KW	414	PORTUGAL	PT	620
KYRGYZSTAN	KG	417	PUERTO RICO	PR	630
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	LA	418	QATAR	QA	634
LATVIA	LV	428	REUNION	RE	638
LEBANON	LB	422	ROMANIA	RO	642
LESOTHO	LS	426	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	RU	643
LIBERIA	LR	430	RWANDA	RW	646
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	LY	434			
LIECHTENSTEIN	LI	438	SAINT HELENA	SH	654
LITHUANIA	LT	440	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	KN	659
LUXEMBOURG	LU	442	SAINT LUCIA	LC	662
			SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON	PM	666
MACAU	MO	446	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	VC	670
MADAGASCAR	MG	450	SAMOA	WS	882
			SAN MARINO	SM	674

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SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE	ST	678	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	TT	780
SAUDI ARABIA	SA	682	TUNISIA	TN	788
SENEGAL	SN	686	TURKEY	TR	792
SEYCHELLES	SC	690	TURKMENISTAN	TM	795
SIERRA LEONE	SL	694	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	TC	796
SINGAPORE	SG	702	TUVALU	TV	798
SLOVAKIA	SK	703			
SLOVENIA	SI	705	UGANDA	UG	800
SOLOMON ISLANDS	SB	090	UKRAINE	UA	804
SOMALIA	SO	706	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	AE	784
SOUTH AFRICA	ZA	710	UNITED KINGDOM	GB	826
SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS	GS	239	UNITED STATES	US	840
SPAIN	ES	724	UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS	UM	581
SRI LANKA	LK	144	URUGUAY	UY	858
SUDAN	SD	736	UZBEKISTAN	UZ	860
SURINAME	SR	740			
SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN ISLANDS	SJ	744	VANUATU	VU	548
SWAZILAND	SZ	748	VATICAN CITY STATE (HOLY SEE)	VA	336
SWEDEN	SE	752	VENEZUELA	VE	862
SWITZERLAND	CH	756	VIET NAM	VN	704
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	SY	760	VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	VG	092
			VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S.)	VI	850
TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA	TW	158			
TAJIKISTAN	TJ	762	WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS	WF	876
TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF	TZ	834	WESTERN SAHARA	EH	732
THAILAND	TH	764			
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	MK	807	YEMEN	YE	887
TOGO	TG	768	YUGOSLAVIA	YU	891
TOKELAU	TK	772			
TONGA	TO	776	ZAIRE	ZR	180
			ZAMBIA	ZM	894
			ZIMBABWE	ZW	716

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