INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 3166-2

Fourth edition
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Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions —

Part 2:
Country subdivision code

Codes pour la représentation des noms de pays et de leurs subdivisions —

Partie 2: Code pour les subdivisions de pays

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Contents

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3166-2:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

— The codes have been moved to the database format.

— The components of the codes have been defined by descriptors, not by column or line numbers.

— The status of each alpha-2 country code element has been made explicit, as it is the main resource managed by ISO 3166/MA, necessary for traceability over time.

— All characters in the database, specifically those with diacritical marks, have been checked with the Universal Coded Character Set, ISO/IEC 10646, and are used consistently.

— The database encoding is UTF-8 (Universal Character Set Transformation Format - 8 bits) from ISO/IEC 10646, and the same has been used in many applications.

— The three parts — three codes — belong to the same database, updates are done only once for all parts.

A list of all parts in the ISO 3166 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The initial edition of the International Standard ISO 3166 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, in collaboration with the following International Organizations: Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), [since 1995: World Customs Organization (WCO)], United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), International Labour Office (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Union of Railways (UIC), United Nations Organization (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and World Health Organization (WHO).

ISO 3166 was first published in 1974, subsequent editions in 1981, 1988 and 1993. In 1997, it was divided into three parts.

— Editions of ISO 3166-1: ISO 3166-1:1997, ISO 3166-1:2006, ISO 3166-1:2013.

— Editions of ISO 3166-2: ISO 3166-2:1998, ISO 3166-2:2007, ISO 3166-2:2013.

— Editions of ISO 3166-3: ISO 3166-3:1999, ISO 3166-3:2013.

ISO 3166 provides universally applicable coded representations of names of countries (current and non-current), dependencies, and other areas of particular geopolitical interest and their subdivisions.

ISO 3166-1 establishes codes that represent the current names of countries, dependencies, and other areas of particular geopolitical interest, on the basis of country names obtained from the United Nations.

ISO 3166-2 establishes a code that represents the names of the principal administrative divisions, or similar areas, of the countries and entities included in ISO 3166-1.

ISO 3166-3 establishes a code that represents non-current country names, i.e. the country names deleted from ISO 3166 since its first publication in 1974.

The ISO 3166 series do not express any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, dependency, or other area named herein, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

The 2013 edition of the ISO 3166 series has been the last one published as paper standard, with the descriptive text, and the codes together.

At the end of 2013, the split had happened: ISO 3166 codes have been moved to the database format (de facto merging three contents together), with access from ISO Online Browsing Platform, while the descriptive text have been awaiting updates.

This 2020 edition of the ISO 3166 series includes an update of the descriptive text (description of the codes) from 2013, for each of three parts. It takes into account the stricter database rules imposed on the code itself, as opposed to paper documents.

The International Standard ISO 3166 has been the very first ISO achievement of the concept of "standard as a database", implemented in the end of 2013. The ISO Online Browsing Platform (ISO OBP) is an application to visualise ISO3166 codes on the web interface, the data being stored in the unseen database.

The International Standard ISO 3166, for each of its three parts - three codes - is formed of two components: documented description of its content, and its related content inside a database.

Both terms "this document" and "the code corresponding to this document" are used throughout this 2020 edition of the ISO 3166 series.

Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions —

Part 2: Country subdivision code

1 Scope

This document specifies basic guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of country subdivision codes.

This code is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of current country subdivision names in coded form.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
code
set of data transformed or represented in different forms according to a pre-established set of rules

[SOURCE: ISO 5127:2017, 3.1.13.10]

3.2
code element
result of applying a code to an element of a coded set

Note 1 to entry: In the country subdivision code part, a code element represents a country subdivision name.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 2382:2015, 2121555]

3.3
country code
list of country names with their representations by code elements

Note 1 to entry: The country code types are alpha-2, alpha-3 and num-3.

3.4
country name
name of a country, dependency, or other area of particular geopolitical interest

3.5
script
set of graphic characters used for the written form of one or more languages

Note 1 to entry: Codes for the representation of names of scripts are defined in ISO 15924 standard.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 10646-1:2017, 3.50]

3.6
language of the ISO 3166 standard
language in which the terminology has been defined, the terminology shall be maintained current

Note 1 to entry: English and French are the main languages of the ISO 3166 standard.

3.7
administrative language of the country
written language used by the administration of the country at the national level

3.11
alpha-2 country code element
alphabetic 2 character (alpha-2) code

Note 1 to entry: An alpha-2 code is generally recommended to represent country names.

3.14
short NAME of country
<capital letters> short form of the country name, distinctive word first

Note 1 to entry: In language of the ISO 3166 standard.

Note 2 to entry: This item might be inverted, allowing the distinctive word to appear first, so that items can be easily found in an alphabetical list.

3.20
alpha-2 language code element
alpha-2 ISO 639 language code element of each *administrative language of the country* (3.7)

Note 1 to entry: With a hyphen-minus when the code element is missing.

3.21
alpha-3 language code element
alpha-3 ISO 639 language code element ("T" terminological version) of each *administrative language of the country* (3.7)

Note 1 to entry: When an alpha-3 language code element for a language name used in the ISO 3166 is missing in ISO 639-2 and in ISO 639-3, it is indicated with a number, such is 002.

3.22
local short name of country
short name of country given in an administrative language of the country.

Note 1 to entry: It might be noted in language of the ISO 3166 standard as remark part 1 (3.18).

EXAMPLE 1

Schweiz (die) is local short country name in German language for the Switzerland.

Svizzera (la) is local short country name in Italian language for the Switzerland.

Magyarország is local short country name in Hungarian language for Hungary.

EXAMPLE 2

Zhongguo is local short country name in Chinese language for China, with Romanization system National 1958 = ISO 7098:2015 = UN III/8 1977, used to convert Han (Simplified variant) script to Latin script.

Qaṭar is local short country name in Arabic language for Qatar, with Romanization system BGN/PCGN 1956, used to convert Arab script to Latin script.

3.23
romanization system used
conversion of writing system from a different writing system to the Roman (Latin) script

Note 1 to entry: If the administrative language so requires.

Note 2 to entry: In language of the ISO 3166 standard.

3.24
description of the subdivision
description of the subdivision of the country

Note 1 to entry: With the relevant term in English, in French and in the administrative language, with the corresponding counters.

3.25
list source of the subdivision
reference to the source of the list

3.26
code source of the subdivision
reference to the source of the code

3.27
remarks part 2
remarks concerning subdivision

Note 1 to entry: In language of the ISO 3166 standard.

3.28
country subdivision code
coded representation of country subdivision names

Note 1 to entry: The country subdivision code is composed of a maximum length of 6 characters, starting with alpha-2 country code, followed by a hyphen-minus, and up to 3 characters from A-Z;0-9 as a code within the country.

3.29
country subdivision name
name of a unit resulting from the division of a country, dependency, or other area of special geopolitical interest contained in ISO 3166-1

Note 1 to entry: In written language used by the administration of the country for this subdivision.

Note 2 to entry: In exceptional cases, variants of the same country subdivision name are shown in square brackets beside that name.

3.30
parent subdivision
code of another level of regional subdivision not used as part of the subdivision code element

Note 1 to entry: Optional information, when available.

3.31
country subdivision name local variant
name of a unit resulting from the division of a country, dependency, or other area of special geopolitical interest contained in the ISO 3166-1

3.32
sorting order
of an administrative language

Note 1 to entry: Optional information, when available.

4   Principles for inclusion in the list of country subdivision names

4.1   List purpose

The list of country subdivision names in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database includes those required to satisfy the broadest possible range of applications.

4.2   Sources

The country subdivision names included in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database shall be those that properly reflect the subdivisions of the countries included in ISO 3166-1 of the ISO 3166 database. Names reflect the complete currently known subdivision of the countries, without overlaps, as notified by the national authorities concerned or otherwise obtained from sources to which reference is given (see Annex A).

4.3   One-to-one correspondence

A one-to-one correspondence with country names in part 1 of the ISO 3166 database is maintained. Each alpha-2 code element assigned to a country name in part 1 of the ISO 3166 database is also shown in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database.

4.4   Categories of subdivisions

Where different terms are used to categorize country subdivisions, they are included. Country subdivision names are listed within their category. The terms used to describe such categories are those used by the countries concerned, with their approximate equivalents in English and in French, if required and available. In some cases, a subdivision term is consistently included as its omission would change the grammatical form of the subdivision name.

EXAMPLE   LT-VL   Vilniaus Apskritis

Omitting Apskritis (meaning county in Lithuanian) would result in changing the subdivision name to Vilnius (the city name).

4.5   Relationship between categories of subdivisions

In part 2 of the ISO 3166 database, whenever several levels occur, the existing relationship between them is documented.

4.6   Choice of language, romanization, character set

A country's administrative language is a written language used by the administration of the country at the national level.

The country name and the subdivision name of the country are given in the administrative language(s) of the country concerned as expressed in the Latin alphabet and with the provisions as to character set as stated below.

EXAMPLE   DE-BY Bayern (not: Bavaria)

Where the country subdivision names are submitted in non-Roman alphabets, they are shown in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database in romanized form, to the extent possible in accordance with the relevant

International Standards, especially those which are recommended by the United Nations Expert Group on Geographical names (UNGEGN), or otherwise with indication of the source.

For the country subdivision names listed in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database, the 26-character alphabet in Latin script is used, in relevant cases using diacritic signs as contained in the character inventory of ISO/IEC 10646.

4.7 Special provisions: alternative names

In exceptional cases, variants of the same country subdivision name exist. However, in the case of several administrative languages, the alphanumeric order of the code elements is considered. The sources of the variants are generally indicated.

In cases where country subdivision names exist in more than one administrative language, these may be shown with the same code element. The language used is indicated by the relevant ISO 639 code element, if it exists.

5 Principles for assigning (country subdivision) code elements

5.1 Code element formation

Code element shall consist only of the following characters (cf. ISO/IEC 10646):

— LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A through LATIN CAPITAL LETTER Z

— DIGIT ZERO through DIGIT 9

— HYPHEN-MINUS

Code elements alpha-2 and alpha-3 are formed with LETTERS, num-3 is formed with DIGITS.

Code elements alpha-4 are formed with LETTERS.

Code elements for subdivisions are formed with up to 6 characters: alpha-2, HYPHEN-MINUS, and 1 up to 3 LETTERS or DIGITS.

5.2 Relationship to national or international code systems

It is desirable that country subdivision code elements assigned in the ISO 3166 reflect code systems already established nationally or internationally. If the ISO 3166/MA has not been notified of code elements, it assigns appropriate code elements (see Clause 7). These code elements are marked by an asterisk. The sources used by the ISO 3166/MA are included in the lists.

5.3 Structure of country subdivision code elements

The country subdivision code elements shall have a maximum length of six characters, including a hyphen-minus as separator). The coding structure is as follows:

a) the first two characters are the alpha-2 country code element provided in part 1 of the ISO 3166 database;

b) the alpha-2 country code element is followed by a hyphen-minus and the code element of the country subdivision name;

c) the code element designating the country subdivision name shall consist of one, two or three alphabetical and/or numeric characters.

6   List of country subdivision names and their code elements

6.1   Specification for use

The list of country subdivision names and their code elements is available online at the ISO Online Browsing Platform at https://www.iso.org/obp. It is maintained current irrespective of the issue status of this document.

6.2   Content of the list

A single entry in this list is shared with all three parts of this standard. For this part the following items apply:

HEADER

— item 3.11: alpha-2 country code element

— item 3.14: short NAME of country, in English

— item 3.14: short NAME of country, in French

The name of the country in each of the administrative languages (item 3.7) of the country concerned; this information is on a single line, and has following three fields:

{

— item 3.20: alpha-2 language code element

— item 3.21: alpha-3 language code element

— item 3.22: local short name of country

}

A description of the subdivision of the country with the relevant term in English, in French and in the administrative language (item 3.7), with the corresponding counters:

— list 3.24: description of the subdivision

Reference to the source of the information:

— item 3.25: list source about subdivision

— item 3.26: code source for subdivision

— item 3.27: remarks part 2

— item 3.32: sorting order of an administrative language

LISTING

For each category of subdivision, in an administrative language (item 3.7), the following information is on a single line and have following fields:

{

— subdivision category from the list 3.24: description of the subdivision,

— item 3.28: country subdivision code

— item 3.29: country subdivision name

— item 3.31: country subdivision name local variant

— item 3.20: alpha-2 language code element

— item 3.21: alpha-3 language code element

— item 3.23: romanization system used, if any

— item 3.30: parent subdivision

    }

See Table B.1 for the ISO 639 language codes elements, alpha-2 and alpha-3, used in the ISO 3166 series of International Standards of country codes.

7 Maintenance

7.1 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA)

A Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) has been established by the ISO Council to operate under guidelines approved by the Council. It has been entrusted with the following functions:

a) to add and eliminate country names and country subdivision names and to assign code elements as needed, in accordance with the rules in the ISO 3166 series;

b) to advise users and ISO member bodies regarding application of the codes;

c) to update and disseminate lists of country names and country subdivision names, code elements and their definitions;

d) to maintain a reference list of the code associated with the country names and their subdivisions used in the standard and their periods of validity;

e) to issue and distribute information announcing changes made to the codes;

f) to administer the reservation of code elements.

Changes to the code corresponding to this document are decided by the ISO 3166/MA and become effective immediately upon publication.

The criteria provided in 7.3 to 7.5 shall be observed by the ISO 3166/MA for changes to the list of country names and to the list of country subdivision names, and their code elements, and for reservations of code elements.

7.2 Standard as a database — Change of paradigm

The ISO 3166 series of standards as a database requires the ISO 3166/MA to facilitate work with experts by providing them adequate means to analyse the database content and traceability of changes, such as:

a) to publish for experts the entire content of the database as tables, so the subsequent publication as PDF, for visual comparison, or global view shall be easy for everyone;

b) to publish for experts once a year all labels used in all three parts, making correspondence with all definitions as stated in Clause 3;

c) to document any necessary changes and adjustments in labels and presentations, and announce it in advance to experts;

d) to preserve traceability, diff files will be produced once a year, with the date in the file name, and a short statement or summary posted to all experts;

e) all ISO 3166 tables shall be either Excel or CSV files or XML files, UTF-8 encoding, and shall follow the best practices in that matters — it includes communication with experts;

f) for traceability purposes all ISO 3166 tables shall be preserved in the dedicated ISO 3166/MA space, similar to N documents.

7.3   Change of country subdivision names

All additions, deletions and alterations in the list of country subdivision names shall be made on the basis of information identified in Clause 4.

7.4   Alteration to country subdivision code elements

The Maintenance Agency shall endeavour to maintain stability in the lists of code elements. A significant change of a country subdivision name may require the ISO 3166/MA to alter the code element after appropriate consultation with the authorities concerned.

7.5   Reservation of code elements for country subdivision names

Code elements may be reserved, in exceptional cases, for country subdivision names which the ISO 3166/MA has decided not to include in part 2 of the ISO 3166 database but for which an interchange requirement exists. Before such code elements are reserved, advice from the relevant authority shall be sought.

A list of reserved code elements and a record of changes shall be kept by the ISO 3166/MA Secretariat.

7.6   Advice regarding use of country subdivision codes

The name and contact information of the Maintenance Agencies and Registration Authorities can be found at https://www.iso.org/mara.

Annex A
(informative)

Reference sources for country subdivision names and code elements

BET	Bureau d'Études Toponymiques 23 rue Étienne Dolet 56100 Lorient France
EUROPLATE	The European Registration Plate Association — Registration Plates of the World, GB, 1987 and subsequent edition 1995
BGN	United States Board on Geographic Names
DIN	Deutsches Institut für Normung
IATA	International Air Transport Association — Location Identifier Handbook (1982).
IGN	Institut Géographique National, Paris — Commission de Toponymie — Pays et Capitales du Monde (1986), completed by the subsequent supplements.
PCGN	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, The Royal Geographic Society. London, United Kingdom.
SITPROSA	Organization for Simplification of International Trade Procedures in South Africa
STATOIDS	Administrative Divisions of Countries ("Statoids") http://www.statoids.com/statoids.html
UNCTAD/FALPRO	UNCTAD Special Programme on Trade Facilitation — FALPRO
UN-ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe — Recommendation 16: UN/LOCODE United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (1998) 3rd ed., http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode — Code for ports and other locations; site for UN/LOCODE 2006-2 http://unece.unog.ch/UNLocode
UPU	Universal Postal Union — International nomenclature of Post Offices (1977)

Annex B
(informative)

List of ISO 639 language codes elements, alpha-2 and alpha-3, used in the ISO 3166 series of standards of country codes

This annex provides the user of the ISO 3166 series with a reference list, Table B.1, of the code elements for language names used in the ISO 3166 series of standards and the language names which they represent.

The code elements for language names used in the ISO 3166 series are taken from the code lists of the ISO 639-1 and the ISO 639-2 ("T" terminological version).

When a code element for a language name used in the ISO 3166 series is missing in the ISO 639-1 and in the ISO 639-2, the ISO 639-3 is consulted.

When a code element for a language name used in the ISO 3166 series is missing in all the three parts of the ISO 639, it is indicated with a number, such is 002.

Table B.1 — Languages

#	ISO 639-1 alpha-2 language code element	ISO 639-2 alpha-3 language code element	ISO 639-3 alpha-3 language code element	Language name in English Nom de langue en anglais	Language name in French Nom de langue en français
1	af	afr		Afrikaans	afrikaans
2	am	amh		Amharic	amharique
3	ar	ara		Arabic	arabe
4	ay	aym		Aymara	aymara
5	az	aze		Azerbaijani	azerbaïdjanais, azéri
6	be	bel		Belarusian	biélorusse
7	bn	ben		Bengali	bengali
8	bi	bis		Bislama	bichlamar
9	bs	bos		Bosnian	bosniaque
10	bg	bul		Bulgarian	bulgare
11	ca	cat		Catalan	catalan
12	cs	ces		Czech	tchèque
13		cnr		Montenegrin	monténégrin
14	cy	cym		Welsh	gallois
15	da	dan		Danish	danois
16	de	deu		German	allemand
17	dv	div		Divehi	maldivien
18	dz	dzo		Bhutani	dzongkha
19	el	ell		Greek	grec
20	en	eng		English	anglais
21	et	est		Estonian	estonien
22	eu	eus		Basque	basque
NOTE Lines are numbered in alphabetical order of ISO 639-2 alpha-3 codes.					

Table B.1 (continued)

#	ISO 639-1 alpha-2 language code element	ISO 639-2 alpha-3 language code element	ISO 639-3 alpha-3 language code element	Language name in English Nom de langue en anglais	Language name in French Nom de langue en français
23	fo	fao		Faroese	féroïen
24	fa	fas		Persian	persan
25	fj	fij		Fijian	fidjien
26	fi	fin		Finnish	finnois
27	fr	fra		French	français
28	fy	fry		Frisian	frison
29		gil		Gilbertese	kiribati
30	ga	gle		Irish	irlandais
31	gn	grn		Guarani	guarani
32	ht	hat		Haitian; Haitian Creole	créole haïtien
33	he	heb		Hebrew	hébreu
34	hi	hin		Hindi	hindi
35	ho	hmo		Hiri Motu	hiri motu
36	hr	hrv		Croatian	croate
37	hu	hun		Hungarian	hongrois
38	hy	hye		Armenian	arménien
39	id	ind		Indonesian	indonésien
40	is	isl		Icelandic	islandais
41	it	ita		Italian	italien
42	ja	jpn		Japanese	japonais
43	kl	kal		Kalaallisut; Greenlandic	groenlandais
44	ka	kat		Georgian	géorgien
45	kk	kaz		Kazakh	kazakh
46	km	khm		Khmer	khmer
47	rw	kin		Kinyarwanda	rwanda
48	ky	kir		Kirghiz	kirghiz
49	ko	kor		Korean	coréen
50	lo	lao		Lao	lao
51	la	lat		Latin	latin
52	lv	lav		Latvian	letton
53	lt	lit		Lithuanian	lituanien
54	lb	ltz		Luxembourgish; Letzeburgesch	luxembourgeois
55	mh	mah		Marshallese	marshall
56	mk	mkd		Macedonian	macédonien
57	mg	mlg		Malagasy	malgache
58	mt	mlt		Maltese	maltais
59	mn	mon		Mongolian	mongol
60	mi	mri		Maori	maori
61	ms	msa		Malay	malais
62	my	mya		Burmese	birman

NOTE Lines are numbered in alphabetical order of ISO 639-2 alpha-3 codes.