



ISO 3166 Maintenance
Agency

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Reserved code elements

under

**ISO 3166-1 "Codes for the representation of names of countries
and their subdivisions - Part 1: Country codes"**

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Reserved code elements under ISO 3166-1 "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions - Part 1: Country codes"

Note: The tables in this document do not necessarily contain official names of countries and are not part of the International Standard ISO 3166-1. The tables are updated when appropriate. Information on any recently reserved and not yet published code elements is available from the secretariat of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) at the address given on page 3.

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0 Introduction

In the course of the continuous updating and implementation of ISO 3166-1, some country code elements may become obsolete and some code elements which do not qualify for inclusion in ISO 3166-1 may be required in order to enable a particular user application of the standard.

To avoid transitional application problems and to aid users who require specific additional code elements for the functioning of their coding systems, the ISO 3166/MA, when justified, may set aside code elements which it undertakes not to use for other than specified purposes during a limited or indeterminate period of time. These are called **Reserved Code Elements** and their use is governed by the provisions of this document.

Code elements, not included in the current version of ISO 3166-1, may be reserved by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA),

- a) as transitional reservations, as a consequence of changes in the standard. Code elements of this category may be used only during a transitional period while new code elements that may have replaced them are taken into use;
- b) as indeterminate reservations, if justified by their presence in other coding systems associated with ISO 3166-1 and where their reservation may facilitate the use of the system concerned. Any use outside such systems is prohibited and such code elements are expected eventually to be either eliminated, or replaced by code elements in ISO 3166-1;
- c) as exceptional reservations, at the request of national member bodies, governments and international organisations. This applies to certain code elements required in order to support a particular application, as specified by the requesting body and limited to such use; any further use of such code elements is subject to approval by the ISO 3166/MA.

Exceptional reservations may also be made on the initiative of the ISO 3166/MA itself when particular circumstances motivate a reservation.

The ISO 3166/MA Secretariat is available for consultation and assistance on the use of ISO 3166-1 reserved code elements and on the use of country names in coded form at the following address:

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1 Code elements not to be used in the context of ISO 3166-1

1.1 Transitional reservations

Code elements which the ISO 3166/MA has altered or deleted from the 1988 and 1993 versions of ISO 3166-1 will not be reallocated during a period of at least five years after the change. The exact period is determined in each case on the basis of the extent to which the former code element was used (7.4.1 of ISO 3166-1:1997)

Such code elements may be used only during a transitional period while new code elements that may have replaced them are taken into use. No other use of transitionally reserved code elements is allowed; they may be reallocated by the ISO 3166/MA after the expiration of the transitional period.

The transitionally reserved code elements are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Transitionally reserved alpha-2 code elements

Alpha-2 code element	Formerly used country name	Date of reservation
BU	Burma	1989-12
NT	Neutral Zone	1993-07
SF	Finland	1995-09
SU	USSR	1992-09
TP	East Timor	2002-05
YU	Yugoslavia	2003-07
ZR	Zaire	1997-07

Table 2: Transitionally reserved alpha-3 code elements

Alpha-3 code element	Formerly used country name	Date of reservation
BUR	Burma	1989-12
BYS	Byelorussian SSR	1992-06
CSK	Czechoslovakia	1993-06
NTZ	Neutral Zone	1993-07
ROM	Romania	2002-02
SUN	USSR	1992-09
TMP	East Timor	2002-05
YUG	Yugoslavia	2003-07
ZAR	Zaire	1997-07

1.2 Indeterminate Reservations

Certain code elements used to designate road vehicles under the 1949 and 1968 United Nations Conventions on Road Traffic but differing from those contained in ISO 3166-1 are not used by the ISO 3166/MA to designate other country names therein (7.4.2 of ISO 3166-1:1997). These code elements are expected eventually to be either eliminated or replaced by code elements within ISO 3166-1. In the meantime, the ISO 3166/MA has reserved such code elements for an indeterminate period. Any use beyond the application of the two Conventions is discouraged and will not be approved by the ISO 3166/MA.

The indeterminately reserved code elements are listed in Tables 3 and 4, where "R 49" refers to the 1949 Road Traffic Convention, "R 68" to the 1968 Convention and "R" to a list of car vehicle distinguishing signs notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under these two conventions. "R *)" refers to car vehicle distinguishing signs which are in use but which were not notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the 1949 Convention.

Note: The Maintenance Agency has noted that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) uses nine ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code elements not assigned in ISO 3166-1 for particular purposes in its Standard ST.3.

Additionally the Maintenance Agency has noted that certain alpha-3 code elements not assigned in ISO 3166-1 are used for particular purposes in ISO/IEC 7501-1 (1993) "Identification cards - Machine readable travel documents - Part 1: Machine readable passport".

The ISO 3166/MA will not use these alpha-2 and alpha-3 code elements in ISO 3166-1 at the present stage (see Annex A).

Table 3: List of indeterminately reserved alpha-2 code elements

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
DY	Benin	R
EW	Estonia	R
FL	Liechtenstein	R *)
JA	Jamaica	R 49
LF	Libya Fezzan	R *)
PI	Philippines	R 49
RA	Argentina	R 49
RB	Bolivia [cf. Botswana: identical code element]	R *)
RB	Botswana [cf. Bolivia: identical code element]	R 49
RC	China	R 49
RH	Haiti	R
RI	Indonesia	R 49

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
RL	Lebanon	R 49
RM	Madagascar	R 49
RN	Niger	R 68
RP	Philippines	R 68
WG	Grenada	R
WL	Saint Lucia	R
WV	Saint Vincent	R
YV	Venezuela	R

Table 4: List of indeterminately reserved alpha-3 code elements

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
ADN	Aden	R
BDS	Barbados	R
BRU	Brunei	R
CDN	Canada	R
EAK	Kenya	R
EAT	Tanganyika [Part of Tanzania, United Republic of]	R
EAU	Uganda	R
EAZ	Zanzibar [Part of Tanzania, United Republic of]	R
GBA	Alderney	R
GBG	Guernsey	R
GBJ	Jersey	R
GBM	Isle of Man	R
GBZ	Gibraltar	R
GCA	Guatemala	R
HKJ	Jordan	R
MAL	Malaysia	R
RCA	Central African Republic	R
RCB	Congo, People's Republic of	R
RCH	Chile	R
RMM	Mali	R
RNR	Zambia	R
ROK	Korea, Republic of	R

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
RSR	Southern Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe]	R
RSM	San Marino	R
SLO	Slovenia	R
SME	Surinam	R
TMN	Turkmenistan	R
WAG	Gambia	R
WAL	Sierra Leone	R
WAN	Nigeria	R
ZRE	Zaire, People's Republic of	R

2 Code elements reserved for use in particular circumstances in the context of ISO 3166-1

2.1 Exceptional reservations

In particular coding systems, code elements for country names not included in ISO 3166-1 may be required in order to enable or facilitate the application of the system concerned. On request from a national ISO member body, a government or an international organisation, the ISO 3166/MA, as provided in 7.4.3 of ISO 3166-1:1997, may decide to make exceptional reservations of code elements, with the consent of the government holding sovereignty over the area concerned. Such reserved code elements may be used for the purposes specified by the requesting body. Any further use of such code elements is subject to approval by the ISO 3166/MA.

The following countries and organisations have requested exceptional reservations, supported by justifications accepted by the ISO 3166/MA:

- **Finland**
(To provide a code element for the semiautonomous province of Åland)
- **France**
(To provide code elements to codify the metropolitan part of France)
- **United Kingdom**
(Lest the code element UK be used for any other country)
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
(To provide code elements for locations of certain telecommunications installations)
- **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**
(To provide code elements for certain stamp issuing areas)
- **World Customs Organisation (WCO)**
(To provide code elements for certain areas not covered by European Union Customs arrangements)
- **Maintenance Agency for ISO 4217 "Codes for the representation of names of currencies and funds" (ISO 4217/MA)**
(To provide a country code basis for the European monetary unit Euro (ISO 4217 code element: EUR))
- **Maintenance Agency for ISO 3166 "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions" (ISO 3166/MA)**

The exceptionally reserved code elements are listed in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: List of exceptionally reserved alpha-2 code elements

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
AC	Ascension Island	UPU
AX	Åland	Finland
CP	Clipperton Island	ITU
DG	Diego Garcia	ITU

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
EA	Ceuta, Melilla	WCO
EU	European Union	ISO 4217/MA ¹
FX	France, Metropolitan	France
GG	Guernsey	UPU
IC	Canary Islands	WCO
IM	Isle of Man	UPU
JE	Jersey	UPU
TA	Tristan da Cunha	UPU
UK	United Kingdom	United Kingdom

Table 6: List of exceptionally reserved alpha-3 code elements

Code element	Area name or country name	Reserved on behalf/request of
ASC	Ascension Island	UPU, also used by ITU
CPT	Clipperton Island	ITU
DGA	Diego Garcia	ITU
FXX	France, Metropolitan	France
GGY	Guernsey	UPU
IMN	Isle of Man	UPU
JEY	Jersey	UPU
TAA	Tristan da Cunha	UPU

¹ In March 1998 the scope of the reservation of the code element EU was extended by the ISO 3166/MA to cover also applications of ISO 6166 "Securities - International securities identification numbering system (ISIN). In August 1999 the scope of the reservation of the code element EU was extended to cover any application of ISO 3166-1 that needs a coded representation of the name European Union

Annex A Code elements from coding systems based on ISO 3166-1 but not denoting country names

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) uses the following ten alpha-2 code elements in its Standard ST.3:

AP	=	African Regional Industrial Property Organization
BX	=	Benelux Trademarks and Designs Office
EF	=	Union of Countries under the European Community Patent Convention
EM	=	European Trademark Office
EP	=	European Patent Organization
EA ²	=	Eurasian Patent Organization
GC	=	Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)
IB	=	International Bureau of WIPO
OA	=	African Intellectual Property Organization
WO	=	World Intellectual Property Organization

In ISO/IEC 7501-1 (1993) "Identification cards - Machine readable travel documents - Part 1: Machine readable passport" the following seven alpha-3 code elements are used:

GBD	=	identifies a British Passport holder who is a "dependent territories citizen"
GBN	=	identifies a British Passport holder who is an "Overseas National"
GBO	=	identifies a British Passport holder who is an "Overseas Citizen"
GBP	=	identifies a British Passport holder who is a "Protected Person"
GBS	=	identifies a British Passport holder who is a "Subject"
UNO	=	used to designate the UN Organization as the issuer and used as a substitute for nationality where the holder is an Official of the UN Organization
UNA	=	used as a substitute for nationality where the holder is an Official of a Specialized Agency of the UN Organization
UNK	=	identifies Kosovo residents to whom travel documents were issued by the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK)

² As to the Eurasian Patent Organization, WIPO uses the code element "EA" to represent that organization in its ST.3 standard, without the consent of the ISO 3166/MA which in 1995 had set aside the code element "EV" for the purpose. As "EA" has for a long time been reserved for customs purposes to represent Ceuta and Melilla in the context of ISO 3166-1, the MA is unable in this case to honour its undertaking, set out in the third paragraph of the Note to 1.2, not to use this code element at the present stage.