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

**Part 3:
Code for formerly used names of
countries**

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

Partie 3: Code pour les noms de pays antérieurement utilisés



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For review by WG (Common data standard for International Logistics)



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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 third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3166-3:2013), 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 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.

The ISO 3166 series 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: the 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 of standards include 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 OBP (Online Browsing Platform) 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.

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

Part 3: Code for formerly used names of countries

1 Scope

This document specifies basic guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of codes for formerly used names of countries.

This code is intended to represent non-current country names, i.e. the country names deleted from ISO 3166 since its first publication in 1974.

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 formerly used names of countries part, a code element represents a formerly used country 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.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 10646:2017, 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.

**3.8
date of the beginning of period of validity**

date when alpha-2 code element was assigned to a given country name

Note 1 to entry: For each period of validity of formerly used, or reserved, country code element, in ISO format [YYYY-MM-DD].

**3.9
date of the end of period of validity**

date when a given country's-attributes were modified in a significant way

Note 1 to entry: For each period of validity of formerly used, or reserved, country code element, in ISO format, [YYYY-MM-DD].

**3.10
status of the alpha-2 country code element**

information whether the code element is assigned, unassigned, reserved: transitionally, exceptionally, or for an indeterminate period

Note 1 to entry: Changes in status of alpha-2 country code elements have been kept by ISO 3166/MA since the first publication of ISO 3166 in 1974.

**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.

**3.12
alpha-3 country code element**

alphabetic 3 character (alpha-3) code

Note 1 to entry: An alpha-3 code element is based on the alpha-2 country code when possible, for use in cases where a specific need has been identified.

**3.13
num-3 country code element**

three-digit numeric (num-3) code

Note 1 to entry: A numeric code is intended for use in cases where language independence is needed.

**3.14
short NAME of country**

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

Note 1 to entry: In the 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.

3.15**short name of country**

short form of the country name, distinctive word first, based on official short form in UNTERM

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

Note 2 to entry: This item might be inverted, listed with its articles if any, allowing an alphabetical order on the distinctive word.

3.33**alpha-4 formerly used country code element**

coded representation of country no longer in use

Note 1 to entry: An alpha-4 code element composed of the original alpha-2 code element followed by two letters, which meaning depends on change of country attributes:

- change of country name — [5.2](#);
- division of country — [5.3](#);
- merger of countries — [5.4](#);
- deletion of country name — [5.5](#);
- change of country name, only alpha-3 affected — [5.6](#);
- change of status of an alpha-2 country code element — [5.7](#).

3.34**remarks part 3**

remarks about formerly used country name

Note 1 to entry: Such as the kind of action that caused the removal of the names from the different editions of ISO 3166 and ISO 3166-1, short forms of new names presently covering the same areas, their new code elements, etc. of the formerly used country name.

3.35**traceability of status of formerly used country code elements**

reference document, status after change, date to be unassigned or to change reservation, current situation with former alpha-2 or with former alpha-3 (such as delay in planned changes, or change of plans)

Note 1 to entry: Possible status for alpha-2 and alpha-3 code elements are: assigned, unassigned; reserved; transitionally, exceptionally, indeterminately.

4 Principles for inclusion in the list of formerly used names of countries**4.1 General**

Country names which have been removed from the 1974, 1981, 1988, 1993, and ISO 3166-1:1997, ISO 3166-1:2006, ISO 3166-1:2013 editions, and subsequent ISO 3166 standard as database, are included in part 3 of the ISO 3166 database, if one of the conditions given in [4.2](#) to [4.6](#) applies.

4.2 Change of country name

The significant part of a country name, which forms the basis for assigning the country code element in ISO 3166-1 of the ISO 3166 database, is changed in such a way that no visual association between the new country name and the formerly used country code element is possible or could be misleading.

EXAMPLE BURMA (BU) name changed to MYANMAR (MM) in 1989.

4.3 Division of country

A country, dependency or other area of particular geopolitical interest in part 1 of the ISO 3166 database is divided into two or more new countries, dependencies or other areas of geopolitical interest.

EXAMPLE CZECHOSLOVAKIA (CS) was divided into the CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ) and SLOVAKIA (SK) in 1993.

4.4 Merger of countries

Two or more countries, dependencies or other areas of particular geopolitical interest in part 1 of the ISO 3166 database merge into one new country, dependency or other area of particular geopolitical interest. In this process, the name of at least one of the countries, dependencies or other areas of particular geopolitical interest becomes a formerly used country name.

EXAMPLE 1 YEMEN, DEMOCRATIC (YD) and YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (YE) merged into YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF (YE) in 1990 (change of both country names).

EXAMPLE 2 GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (DD) united with GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF (DE) in 1990 (removal of one country name).

NOTE If the new country name allows no visual association with one of the formerly used code elements, a new code element will be assigned.

4.5 Obsolescence of country name

The area denominated by a country name is absorbed by neighbouring countries and the country name ceases to be used.

EXAMPLE NEUTRAL ZONE (NT); the name was deleted in 1993. The area is now absorbed into IRAQ (IQ) and SAUDI ARABIA (SA).

4.6 Change of status of an alpha-2 country code element

The status of an alpha-2 country code is changed in a significant way, such as from reserved exceptionally to assigned, or from reserved transitionally to unassigned, or from reserved indeterminately to unassigned.

EXAMPLE ISLE OF MAN (IM); in 2006 the alpha-2 code of Isle of Man changes its status, from exceptionally reserved by UPU in 1974, to assigned.

5 Principles for assigning code elements for formerly used country names

5.1 Structure of code elements for formerly used country names

The code elements for formerly used country names shall have a length of four alphabetical characters (alpha-4 code elements). The first two characters are, in all cases, the original alpha-2 code element representing the former country name removed from any edition of ISO 3166 and ISO 3166-1. The coding structure of the second two characters reflects the five categories for inclusion defined in 4.2 to 4.6

NOTE The structure of code elements for a particular case of change of country name is defined in 5.6.

5.2 Change of country name (see 4.2)

The original alpha-2 code element is followed by the alpha-2 code element for the new country name.

EXAMPLE BURMA (BU) name change to MYANMAR (MM).

Code element for formerly used country name for BURMA: BUMM.

5.3 Division of country (see 4.3)

The original alpha-2 code element is followed by the two letters HH to indicate that the country name is a formerly used one and no single successor covering the same area is established.

EXAMPLE CZECHOSLOVAKIA (CS) divided into CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ) and SLOVAKIA (SK)

Code element for formerly used country name for CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CSHH.

5.4 Merger of countries (see 4.4)

The original alpha-2 code element of the country name that ceases to be used is followed by the alpha-2 code element of the country name the first one is merged into.

EXAMPLE 1 YEMEN, DEMOCRATIC (YD) and YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (YE) merged into YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF (YE).

Code element for formerly used country name for YEMEN, DEMOCRATIC: YDYE.

EXAMPLE 2 GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (DD) united with GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF (DE).

Code element for formerly used country name for GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: DDDE.

5.5 Deletion of country name (see 4.5)

The original alpha-2 code element is followed by the two letters HH to indicate that the country is absorbed by neighbouring countries and the country name ceases to be used.

EXAMPLE 1 NEUTRAL ZONE (NT) deleted in 1993.

Code element for formerly used country name for NEUTRAL ZONE: NTHH.

In the case of a second deletion of an ISO 3166-1 code element, which would have been reassigned to represent another country name, the corresponding ISO 3166-3 alpha-4 code element shall finish by the two letters XX instead of the two finishing letters HH as in the first deletion.

EXAMPLE 2 From 1974 to 1993, the alpha-2 code element CS represented the country name CZECHOSLOVAKIA. It was then deleted and included in ISO 3166-3 as CSHH. But CS was then reassigned between 2003 and 2006 to represent the country name SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, and was then deleted and included in ISO 3166-3 as CSXX.

5.6 Change of country name (only alpha-3 code element affected)

The original alpha-2 code element is followed by the two letters AA to indicate that a substantial change of the country name resulted in the change of only the alpha-3 code element but not the alpha-2 code element.

EXAMPLE BYELORUSSIA (BY/BYS) name changed to BELARUS (BY/BLR).

Code element for formerly used country name for BYELORUSSIA: BYAA.

5.7 Change of status of an alpha-2 country code element (see 4.6)

The original alpha-2 country code element is followed by the two letters OO to indicate that the country name is a formerly used one, but the status of its alpha-2 country code element has been changed.

EXAMPLE ISLE OF MAN (IM) country code status changed from reserved exceptionally to assigned, the name of territory remains.

Code element for formerly used territory name by ISLE OF MAN: IMOO.

6 List of formerly used names of countries and their code elements

6.1 General

The list of formerly used names of countries 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 Source of the list

The list of formerly used country names in the code corresponding to this document is exclusively derived from the 1974, 1981, 1988, 1993, and the editions ISO 3166-1:1997, ISO 3166-1:2006, and ISO 3166-1:2013. Any subsequent element of the list is derived from the ISO 3166 standard as database, which superseded paper editions.

6.3 Content of the list

A single entry in this list is shared with all three parts of the ISO 3166 series. For the code corresponding to this document, the following information is on a single line and have following fields:

- item [3.15](#): short name of country, in English, of the formerly used country name, removed from ISO 3166 since the first edition in 1974;
- item [3.15](#): short name of country, in French, of the formerly used country name, removed from ISO 3166 since the first edition in 1974;
- item [3.11](#): obsolete alpha-2 country code element;
- item [3.12](#): obsolete alpha-3 country code element;
- item [3.13](#): obsolete num-3 country code element (where relevant; numeric code elements from the UNSD were first contained in ISO 3166:1981);
- item [3.10](#): status of alpha-2 country code element;
- item [3.8](#): date of the beginning of period of validity;
- item [3.9](#): date of the end of period of validity;
- item [3.33](#): alpha-4 code of formerly used country code, short description and Clause number [in 2019 edition];
- item [3.35](#): traceability of status of formerly used country code element, reference document, status after change, date to be unassigned or to change reservation, current situation with former alpha-2 and with former alpha-3 (such as delay in planned changes, or change of plans);
- item [3.34](#): remarks part 3, about the formerly used country name, in English, such as the kind of action that caused the removal of the names from the different editions of ISO 3166 and ISO 3166-1, short forms of new names presently covering the same areas, their new code elements, etc.;
- item [3.34](#): remarks part 3, about the formerly used country name, in French, such as the kind of action that caused the removal of the names from the different editions of ISO 3166 and ISO 3166-1, short forms of new names presently covering the same areas, their new code elements, etc.