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ISO 3166-1:2020



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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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

Part 1: Country code



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AS/NZS 2632.1:2020

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard™ was prepared by Joint Technical Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology — Learning, Education, Training and Research. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 17 November 2020 and by the New Zealand Standards Approval Board on 2 December 2020.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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

## Part 1: Country code

Originated in Australia as AS 2632.1—1999.  
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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology — Learning, Education, Training and Research, to supersede AS/NZS 2632.1:2015.

The objective of this document is to specify basic guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of country codes. This code is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of current country names in coded form.

This document is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 3166-1:2020, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country code*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/SS F17, *Administrative documents*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the descriptive text of the third edition (ISO 3166-1:2013), 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 3165/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](http://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 representation 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 components together), with access from ISO Online Browsing Platform, while the descriptive text has 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 OBP (Open 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.

# Australian/New Zealand Standard

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

### Part 1: Country code

#### 1 Scope

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

This code is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of current country 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 code part, a code element represents a 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 10646-1:2017, 3.50]