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# UN/LOCODE (CODE FOR TRADE AND TRANSPORT LOCATIONS) Issue 2009-2

## Note to the users of UN/LOCODE

1. The UNECE secretariat has the pleasure to introduce herewith UN/LOCODE 2009-2.

2. UN/LOCODE is available on the Internet World Wide Web, on a site dedicated exclusively to the UN/LOCODE Manual with its code lists:

http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode

3. The secretariat has decided to publish the UN/LOCODE code list only as a MS Access database. This decision was taken because of the too large volume of the .csv and .txt files due to the ever growing number of records in the database and because the proper sorting/displaying of the code list was only possible in database format. The database can be opened also by open source software (i.e. OpenOffice) and the necessary file formats created directly from the database.

4. The full text of UNECE Recommendation No 16 on "Codes for Trade and Transport Locations" (formerly "Codes for Ports and Other Locations"), with the text part of the Manual, as revised in 1998, is available at the site dedicated to the UNECE trade facilitation activity in general:

http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/download/99trd227.pdf

### CHANGES IN UN/LOCODE 2009-2

5. In 2001 a number of changes were made in the presentation of UN/LOCODE, some of which will call for changes in Recommendation 16 and the UN/LOCODE Manual. Pending a forthcoming revision of these documents, the following changes that were implemented in UN/LOCODE 2001-1 and later issues are maintained in UN/LOCODE 2009-2:

**Double columns**

6. Since the 1998 revision of Recommendation 16, the code list is presented in two versions, one which includes diacritic marks in place names and one from which these marks have been removed. The use of diacritic signs is explained in paragraphs 33 to 38. It should be noted that the alphabetic sorting order varies between countries whose character sets include diacritics. These are therefore ignored in the sorting within the "Name" column.

**Geographical coordinates**

7. A column for geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude) was introduced in UN/LOCODE 2002-1. Data is being added in this column as it becomes available to the Secretariat. In order to avoid unnecessary use of non-standard characters and space, the following standard presentation is used:

**ddmm**N **dddmm**W, **ddmm**S **dddmm**E, etc.,

where the two last digits refer to minutes and the two or three first digits indicate the degrees. Coordinates are stated for 48186 locations in UN/LOCODE 2009-2 issue.

**Classifiers in the Change column**

8. The classifiers in the Change column reflect practice elsewhere in the UN/EDIFACT environment. This means that in UN/LOCODE, the following classifiers are used:

| Change | Description |
|---|---|
| X | Marked for deletion in the next issue |
| # | Change in the location name |
| ¦ | Other change in the entry |
| + | Entry added to the current issue |
| = | Reference entry |
| ! | Retained for certain entries in the USA code list ("controlled duplications") |

**Alignment of function classifiers**

9. In order to align the use of function classifiers in Recommendations 16 and 19, it had been agreed that the classifier "8" in Recommendation 16 would be reserved for inland waterway and lake ports, whereas the letter "B" would represent border crossings. However, as only 118 such inland waterway and lake ports had been notified to the secretariat in 2002, the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to discontinue this use of classifier "8" and instead to use classifier "1" for all ports serving any kind of waterborne transport. (This agreement will be reflected in a revised Recommendation 16.)

10. Recommendation 16 includes a definition of "Inland Clearance Depot – ICD" (with synonyms "Dry Port", "Inland Clearance Terminal", etc) and the classifier "6" is reserved in the Recommendation for this type of function. Following a request from one country the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to activate classifier "6" to ICDs as from UN/LOCODE 2002-2.

11. There is also a provision in Recommendation 16 for the function "fixed transport functions (e.g. oil platform)"; the classifier "7" is reserved for this function. Noting that the description "oil pipeline terminal" would be more relevant, and could be extended to cover also electric power lines and ropeway terminals, the Expert Group agreed that the classifier "7" should be activated as from UN/LOCODE 2002-2.

**Notes in the "Remarks" column**

12. Each change affecting a location entry in UN/LOCODE is indicated in the "Change" column, using the indicators specified in paragraph 7 above; the reasons for the change are explained in the "Remarks" column. Remarks affecting the current issue of UN/LOCODE may be deleted from later issues. To indicate such temporary changes the following "tags" are used as an aid:

| Tag | Description |
|---|---|
| @Coo | Change affecting or adding Coordinates (change indicator '¦') |
| @Fun | Change affecting the Function (change indicator '¦') |
| @Sta | Change of status (change indicator '¦') |
| @Sub | Addition or change of subdivision code (change indicator '¦') |
| | Change in the location name (change indicator '#') |
| | Correction of spelling of name (change indicator '#') |

There may be more than one reason for the change. Remarks of permanent nature will not be preceded by a tag.

**Problems of off-shore installations and terminals**

13. At the fifth meeting of the UN/LOCODE Expert Group it was reported that requests had been received for allocation of code entries for oil platforms and similar installations located in coastal or international waters. In many cases national sovereignty over such installations could not be determined.

14. Pending a more profound study of the problem it was agreed to use the provision in clause 3.1.4 in the UN/LOCODE Manual, which refers to installations in international waters or international co-operation zones, for which the country code element "XZ" is available. Agreeing that most of these cases reflected bona fide needs that should be honoured, the Expert Group agreed to use the code "XZ" to identify offshore installations.

15. Since that decision was taken an increasing number of requests have been received for entries of this kind. Many of them do not refer to named facilities, but give a rather vague description, supported by coordinates. This creates a difficulty for the Secretariat to create a meaningful "name" for the entry – often the description uses terms as "off" a place or a geographical feature. Recommendation 16 defines a location as a "named geographical place" and the majority of requests do not qualify for inclusion in UN/LOCODE under that criterion.

16. A similar problem exists in regard to land-based terminals which often do not refer to a geographical location but are named after a company, person or activity.

17. Under the circumstances, the Secretariat is unable to honour a certain number of requests, pending a further study of the problem and consideration within the UN/LOCODE Expert Group. All requests concerned will, however, be registered and temporary solutions sought in consultation with the parties concerned.

**UN/LOCODE in figures**

18. UN/LOCODE 2009-2 includes 76375 entries. New entries and other changes are specified in the table below:

| **Change** | | **Total** |
|---|---|---|
| + | Additions to the current issue | 4377 |
| ¦ | Other changes | 347 |
| # | Spelling and other changes in location names | 85 |
| X | Entries marked for deletion in the next issue | 165 |
| **Total number of changes** | | **4974** |

19. The Universal Postal Union has adopted the UN/LOCODE as a basis for location codes used for "International Mail Processing Centres" (IMPC), at present nearly 1400 such entries exist. The Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) is using the UN/LOCODE for certain statistical reporting related to nearly 1600 port functions. In both cases, the UPU and EUROSTAT databases are incorporated in the UN/LOCODE database. In the UPU case code extensions are used, as envisaged in paragraph 4.1 of the UN/LOCODE Manual, Part 1. It is recalled that UN/LOCODE database also includes similar databases from IATA (11000 locations), ECLAC (450 records) and Lloyds Register (18000 records).

**Country revision**

**USA**

20. As the 17575 possible permutations of 3-character codes has been almost exhausted for USA and some other countries the secretariat as from the 2006-2 issue of UN/LOCODE introduces entries where the third position of 3-letter codes is represented by a numerical digit 2 to 9. This option provided for in the UN/LOCODE Manual (section 3.2.1).

21. There still remain many cases in the US code list where the 3-letter part of code duplicates IATA airport identifiers. These mainly refer to military installations and minor facilities which are of little relevance for UN/LOCODE users. The entries concerned have been marked with an exclamation mark ('!'). In application of paragraph 3.1.4 of the UN/LOCODE Manual, these duplications should not cause any problems for users.

22. In the 2009-1 issue of UN/LOCODE there appeared 21 codes of locations in USA only with two digit code. The reason of this was a malfunctioning of the extraction function retrieving the correct codes from the database. In 2009-2 this issue has been solved and the correct codes reintroduces. The affected records have a note "Code correction" in the Remarks column.

**Revision of code list for Finland**

23. With the aid of national expertise, the code list for Finland has been partially revised and updated. National legislation provides name versions in the official languages Finnish and Swedish for a large number of place names in Finland and this is reflected in the code list, where relevant, by double entries giving both names with the second version placed within brackets, i.e. "FI ANT Ansku (Antskog)" and "FI ANT Antskog (Ansku)". This is therefore not cases of code duplication; if they cause problems in data bases, it is recommended to delete the version that will not need to be used.

24. In a large number of cases, co-ordinates have been added, where they were missing, or corrected where not exact. The corrections are in most cases very minor (changing only the last digit of the previous number) and do not cause the need for updating the previous entry for any practical application. The updating of the code list will be finalised in the next issue of UN/LOCODE .

**Deletion of duplicate entries**

25. Over the recent years many duplicate entries of already published ones have been requested and have published due to slight differences in names, country subdivisions the locations belong to and other details. In the 2009-2 issue we have tried to eliminate these entries from countries starting from Andorra and ending with Israel. The secretariat has had valuable help in this task from our colleagues in Swiss office of DHL. We shall continue this work with other countries in the future UN/LOCODE issues.

**Missing codes in 2009-1 issue**

26. About 200 codes of locations were not displayed in the 2009-1 issue. This was probably the fault of too many new records being inserted into one publication that lead to the program malfunction. These codes have been now reinstated into the publication.

**Application of inclusion criteria**

27. As a result of the continuous review of inclusion criteria, over 57500 code entries now have one of the "approved" status indicators. The status classifier "RQ" (Request under consideration) is used only in cases where it has not yet been possible to verify the existence of a location. However, some 17700 entries with "RQ" status remain to be examined with a view to upgrading. The status indicator "QQ", which means that the entry remains from the original 1980 input to UN/LOCODE still applies in 907 cases which are being reviewed and verified.

**Handling of IATA codes**

28. The fact that some IATA 3-letter codes differ from the 3-letter part of the existing codes for the same places in UN/LOCODE has caused problems for users. In order to resolve this problem, the UN/LOCODE Expert Group agreed to introduce a separate column, to be used only in cases where the IATA code deviates from UN/LOCODE. In all other cases, the presence of an airport function code would mean that the code elements are identical. In UN/LOCODE 2009-2, the "IATA column" contains 1134 differing IATA codes.

**Automated request procedure**

29. Para 6.2.1 of the UN/LOCODE Manual stipulates that requests for inclusion of additional locations should preferably be transmitted by electronic medium or diskette. In connection with the publication of

UN/LOCODE 2001-1, an electronic form for submitting requests was introduced on the UN/LOCODE website, enabling requesters to put forward any requests for new code entries directly by entering the data specified on the form.

30. The creation of a new data base offered the opportunity to introduce an automated entry request system which was being put into use with the 2006-1 issue of UN/LOCODE. Its functions are described in a Users Guide and can be summarized as follows:

31. The UN/LOCODE Entry Request System invites requesters to register on-line via a web-site accessible from the main UN/LOCODE menu. Registered users will be identified by a username and will be able to submit requests via a web-form. Data will be automatically checked against present entries in UN/LOCODE, place name and code duplications will be detected and valid requests will be immediately included in a temporary file, pending the next issue of the code.

32. Requesters will receive an on-screen response message, confirming the receipt of the data submitted and issuing a Request Reference Number for any subsequent communication with the secretariat. The response message will state whether the request has been *Accepted*, in which case it will be included in the next UN/LOCODE issue, or *Noted,* which means that further processing is needed but allowing the requester to use his proposed code in the meantime. *Rejected* means that either the name already figures in UN/LOCODE, or that the proposed code already is allocated; reasons for the rejection will be given. Other functions will enable users to propose certain changes in existing entries, and to obtain a historic record of previous requests.

**Use of diacritic signs in UN/LOCODE**

33. Place names in UN/LOCODE are given in their national language versions as expressed in the Roman alphabet using the 26 characters of the character set adopted for international trade data interchange, with diacritic signs, when practicable (cf. Paragraph 3.2.2 of the UN/LOCODE Manual). International ISO Standard character sets are laid down in ISO 8859-1 (1987) and ISO10646-1 (1993). (The standard United States character set (437), which conforms to these ISO standards, is also widely used in trade data interchange).

34. Several countries use national alphabets based on the 26 character set referred to above, but with the addition of diacritical signs which may affect the pronunciation of the names concerned, their place in the alphabetical order and sometimes their meaning. With the increasing use of UN/LOCODE also in national and regional trade, the absence of diacritic signs caused serious disadvantages and problems for users.

35. For these reasons it was agreed in 1995 to introduce in the data base such characters which consist of a basic letter of the 26 character set but with an added diacritic sign or accent (examples are â, å, ä, é, è, ö, ô, ø, ü), and to produce print-out on paper and Web pages showing these characters. (The Danish and Norwegian character “æ” had to be replaced by a single “a”).

36. To aid users with such problems, as from the 2001 version of UN/LOCODE, two columns are provided for place names, one reflecting national name versions, with diacritic signs, and one in which diacritic signs have been removed from the names. Countries for which diacritic signs are used in UN/LOCODE are: AT, BO, BR, CH, CL, CR, DE, DK, FI, FO, FR, HU, IS, KR, MX, NO, PA, PE, PT, SE, SJ, TR and VN. In this ”diacritics” column it was also possible to include accented letters.

37. The following list shows those roman characters with accents and diacritic marks which are used in location names in UN/LOCODE. If they cannot be read or produced with available equipment, they should be substituted as set out in the second column of the list.

38. If characters are irrelevant or not recognizable, examples of actual names are given in Annex 1, which may help users to identify and substitute basic Roman characters in such name

| DIACRITIC | SUBSTITUTE |
|---|---|
| À, Á, Â, Ã, Ä, Å, Æ, Ā | A |
| Ç | C |
| È, É, Ê, Ë | E |
| Ì, Í, Î, Ï | I |
| Ñ | N |
| Ò, Ó, Ô, Õ, Ö, Ø | O |
| Ù, Ú, Û, Ü | U |
| Ý | Y |
| à, á, â, ã, ä, å, æ, ā | a |
| ç | c |
| è, é, ê, ë | e |
| ì, í, î, ï | i |
| ñ | n |
| ò, ó, ô, õ, ö, ø | o |
| ù, ú, û, ü | u |
| ý, ÿ | y |

## ANNEX 1.

If characters produced are irrelevant or not recognisable, the following examples of actual names may enable users to identify and substitute basic Roman characters in such names:

FR MAC Mâcon: Substitute second character with “a”

SE VAJ Väja: Substitute second character with “a”

SE ALM Älmhult: Substitute first character with “A”

SE AMA Åmål: Substitute first character “A” and third character with “a”

DK AGP Agerbæk: Substitute sixth character with “a”

FR BET Béthune: Substitute second character with “e”

FR CMP Compiègne: Substitute sixth character with “e”

CL KNA Viña del Mar: Substitute third character with “n”

DK ARK Ærøskøbing: Substitute first character with “A” Substitute third and sixth characters with “o”

DE OKB Østbirk: Substitute first character with “O”

SE GOT Göteborg: Substitute second character with “o”

SE ORB Örebro: Substitute first character with “O”

DE LBC Lübeck: Substitute second character with “u”

DE UER Ürzig: Substitute first character with “U”