UN/LOCODE –
Originally stands for: **Code for Ports and Other Locations**

**Code for Trade and Transport Locations (since 2001)**

*Website*  [http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html)
I. Background

Why??

- **Identification of location required** In International trade and transport
- names of locations spelt: *In different ways!!*

=> creates *confusion and difficulty.*

A unique and unambiguous way – a code system for
1) facilitation of trade procedures & documentation
2) data exchange in a safer and more economical way
Recommendation No. 16

I. Background

1. the five-character code system:
   I. 2-character country code
   II. 3-character location code

2. used for purposes of trade
3. to designate locations
## I. Background

### Code list: example & explanation

**Column "Ch" (Change Indicator)**
- + added entry
- # Change in the location name
- X entry to be removed
- \(\) entry has been changed

**Column "SubDiv" (Subdivision)**
- ✓ state, province, department, etc
- ✓ Based contain the ISO 3166-2

### Country codes based on ISO 3166-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ch</th>
<th>LOCODE</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>NameWoDiacritics</th>
<th>SubDiv</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>IATA</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>BWZ Bad Wurzach</td>
<td>Bad Wurzach</td>
<td>BW</td>
<td>-23--6--</td>
<td>RL</td>
<td>0901</td>
<td>4754N 00954E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>AC6 Arçonnay</td>
<td>Arconnay</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>--3-----</td>
<td>RL</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>4824N 00050E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>DMA Dhamara</td>
<td>Dhamara</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>123-----</td>
<td>RL</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>2048N 08654E</td>
<td></td>
<td>@Fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>PFT Pfafftown</td>
<td>Pfafftown</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>--3-----</td>
<td>RL</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>3609N 08021W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>AU</td>
<td>GNO Geelong North</td>
<td>Geelong North</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>--3-----</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>3806S 14420E</td>
<td>Use AU GGN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. port, as defined in Rec 16
2. rail terminal
3. road terminal
4. airport
5. postal exchange office
6. reserved for multimodal functions, ICDs etc
7. reserved for fixed transport functions (e.g. oil
   B border crossing

AA Approved by competent national government agency
AC Approved by Customs Authority
AF Approved by national facilitation body
AI Code adopted by international organisation (IATA or ECLAC)
AS Approved by national standardisation body
RL Recognised location
RN Request from credible national sources for locations in their own country
RQ Request under consideration
RR Request rejected
QQ Original entry not verified since date indicated
XX Entry that will be removed from the next issue of UN/LOCODE
Available: free of charge

- **Code List by Country on the website**
  (http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html)

- **Download complete code list on the website in three formats:**
  - mdb
  - txt
  - csv

- Distributed in computer diskettes (only before 2002)
I. Background

UN/LOCODE = POSTAL CODE -- With features reflecting postal distribution, less suitable for general trade purpose

UN/LOCODE = IATA CODE -- only for airport coding

UN/LOCODE = PORT CODE -- covering merely ports

➔ UN/LOCODE is most suitable for **General trade purpose!**
I. Background

II. History

III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

IV. Projects

V. Conference
Directories Releases:

The first issue in 1981 contained codes for 8,000 locations.

The latest release 2014-2 includes around 100,000 entries covering 249 countries, dependent territories and special areas.
Milestones:

- **2000**: Directories are published *biannually* instead of annually
- **2002**: Restructuring of the UN/LOCODE database by defining a new model. The UN/LOCODE directories are generated in formats of *text*, *CSV*, *HTML* and *MS Access file* and are published in the UNECE website.
- **2004**: Launch of *UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request System* to enable registered users to submit online requests for new entries and modification.
II. History

Current Work Flow:

1. DMR submitted through UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request System
2. Validation
3. DMRs prepared by FP
4. Upload
5. ACCESS Production & Publication Application
6. Published on the Website

Internet
I. Background

II. History

III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

IV. Projects

V. Conference
III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

Use of UNLOCODE

- **Used by**
  - EDIFACT
  - WCO Data Model

No global statistics on use of each code.

United Nations Directories
for Electronic Data Interchange for
Administration, Commerce and Transport

UN/EDIFACT

Change indicators

- a plus sign (+) for an addition
- an asterisk (*) for an amendment to structure
- a hash sign (#) for changes to names
- a vertical bar (|) for changes to text for descriptions and notes
- a minus sign (-) for marked for deletion (within either batch and interactive messages)
- a X sign (X) for marked for deletion (within both batch and interactive messages)

3225 Location identifier

Desc: To identify a location.

Rep: an...35

Note: Recommend use UN/ECE Recommendation No. 16: UN/LOCODE. If not applicable, use appropriate code set in combination with 1131/2055.
III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

Data Quality

- **Misspelling of location names**
- **Incorrect Functions** – especially confused with 1 and 6
- **Missing information such as subdivisions and coordinates**
- **Duplication**
- **Relevance**
- **Conflicts with existing IATA airport codes**
For each country there can be a maximum of

- $26 \times 26 \times 26 = 17,576$ entries, using only letters
- $34 \times 34 \times 34 = 39,304$ entries using letters and digits

### Country Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>Entries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The United States of America (US)</td>
<td>18705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (FR)</td>
<td>12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany (DE)</td>
<td>9375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GB)</td>
<td>5653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy (IT)</td>
<td>5311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

- **Limits of ICT System**
  - No data interface between frontend and backend system
  - Process by batch
    - Validate thousands of DMRs (a heavy workload, within a short period)
  - Requesters cannot follow up since submission
III. Problems, Difficulties & Challenges

- Lacking in resources

  - Geographical validation

  - No clues in context of international trade
IV. Projects

Pilot projects

• **For Japan**
  Validate DMRs four times per year instead of biannually.

• **For China**
  Disable web-based online DMRs submission.

Please read below new rules for submission of requests:

- Please contact the national focal point for China to clarify your request.
- China National Institution of Standardization, Mr. Hanqing Hu (huhq@znmis.gov.cn)
National Maintenance Agence through Focal Points Networking

- Countries with full Focal Point
  China, Japan, South Korea, India, Brazil, Thailand, Norway

- Countries with partial Focal Point
  Estonia, Greece, Nepal, New Zealand

- Others
Tasks of Focal Point

- Review existing code list
- Validate requests for new codes and modification
- Address issues raised by user community
- Promote use of UN/LOCODE

IV. Projects
IV. Projects

Reengineering ICT System

- Enhancements to adapt requirements of Focal Point Networking
- Recourses needed
V. Conference

UN/LOCODE
April 2015, Geneva

- Survey to be conducted before conference
- Official letters to countries to nominate Focal Points
- Draft ToR of Focal Point
V. Conference

UN/LOCODE
April 2015, Geneva

- Key Speakers from UN/CEFACT and User Community
- Workshop of Focal Points
- Brainstorming
UN/LOCODE
April 2015, Geneva

Expected outputs

- ToR of Focal Point
- Decide to revise Recommendation No. 16
- Fund raising for Reengineering