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# Australian Standard 2632—1983

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## CODES FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF NAMES OF COUNTRIES



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
*Incorporated by Royal Charter*



This Australian standard was prepared under the direction of Committee IS/1, Information Processing Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 10 May 1983 and published on 4 July 1983.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# CODES FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF NAMES OF COUNTRIES

AS 2632—1983

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Information Processing Systems. It is identical with and has been substantially reproduced from International Standard ISO 3166, drawn up by ISO/TC 46, Documentation.

The purpose of this standard is to provide basic two-letter alphabetic codes, three-letter codes and three-digit numerical codes for the representation of names of countries, dependencies and other areas of special interest for purposes of international exchange.

This standard is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of entities in coded form.

For the purpose of this Australian standard, the text of the ISO standard given herein should be modified by substituting 'Australian standard' for 'International Standard' and 'AS 2632' for 'ISO 3166' wherever they appear.

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\*Not included in this Australian standard.

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# STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

# Codes for the representation of names of countries

## 0 Introduction

The need for universally applicable codes for the representation of names of countries has become more and more evident. This coding system incorporates the best elements of existing widely-used codes, while at the same time not being bound by any one of them. The resulting codes have been derived largely from the country designations for vehicles reported by the governments of states adhering to the Conventions on Road Traffic (1949 and 1968), but designations have also been derived from other sources.

The basic principle employed in developing the alphabetic codes in this International Standard was a visual association between the codes and the entity names in English and French, but also in other languages. In applying this principle, the codes were generally assigned on the basis of the short name under which the entities are commonly known, thus avoiding, wherever possible, reflection of their political status.

Due consideration has been given to the problem of maintenance of the codes and their implementation. This International Standard includes basic guidelines for these functions.

## 1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard provides basic two-letter alphabetic codes (ISO alpha-2 country code), three-letter codes (ISO alpha-3 country code) for special purposes and three-digit numerical codes (ISO numeric-3 country codes) established by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. The codes represent the names of countries, dependencies and other areas of special interest for purposes of international exchange, without indicating expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

This International Standard is intended for use in any application requiring the expression of entities in coded form.

## 2 Definition

For the purpose of this International Standard, the following definition applies :

**Entity** : The name of a country, dependency, or other area of special geopolitical interest.

## 3 Principles for the entity list

**3.1** The list appearing in this International Standard includes entities to satisfy the requirements of the broadest possible range of applications. It is based on the list included in the "United Nations Standard Country or Area Code for Statistical Use" established by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. The name of the entities correspond to those given in the United Nations "Terminology Bulletin", issued by the Department of Conference Services. Some additional entities are included in this International Standard with a view to providing more complete global coverage.

**3.2** The list contains overlaps in those cases where entities are geographically separated from their main entity and where a resulting interchange requirement justifies a separate code; the entities are not mutually exclusive.

*Example* : FRANCE, FR, FRA, 250;

MARTINIQUE, MQ, MTQ, 474

**3.3** Whenever required, entities are described by means of references or notes.

**3.4** Entities listed are intended to reflect current status. Historical status is not reflected in this International Standard.

**3.5** Where changes of names of entities have occurred since the previous edition of this International Standard (1974), cross-references to the former names have been included.

## 4 Principles for codes

**4.1** This International Standard establishes two-letter codes (ISO alpha-2 country code) for general purposes which are recommended for international exchange. The codes are intended to give, wherever possible, a visual association with the short name of the entity avoiding reference to geographic or geopolitical status.

**4.2** In those specific instances where a three-letter alphabetic code would be of particular advantage, such a code (ISO alpha-3 country code) is provided in this International Standard.