

# G POST\*CODE® Addressing Issues

**General Addressing Issues** 



#### Addressing Knowledge Centre

#### **General Addressing Issues**

#### 1 Which countries in the world have/do not have a postcode system?

Nearly every country has a different addressing system.

Most countries have a postcode system which indicates the delivery zone or office. When a letter is sent to a given country, it needs to be addressed correctly and with the postcode in the position required by that country.

However, some countries do not have a postcode system or have one but do not use it.

Here you can find two lists: a list of countries with a postcode system and a list of countries without a postcode system.

|   |                                   |                           | Universal Dat                    | aBase (Sep. 2023)                              |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| List of countries w                     | hich require postal               | codes:                    |                                  |  |
| Country/territory<br>name               | Country/territory<br>name         | Country/territory<br>name | Country/territory<br>name        | Country/territory<br>name                      |
| A-C                                     | C-I                               | I-M                       | M-S                              | S-Z  |
| Afghanistan                             | Cyprus                            | Iran                      | Mozambique                       | San Marino                                     |
| Äland                                   | Czech Republic                    | Iraq                      | Myanmar                          | Saudi Arabia                                   |
| Albania                                 | Denmark                           | Ireland                   | Namibia                          | Senegal  |
| Algeria                                 | Diego Garcia (IOT)                | Isle of Man               | Nauru                            | Serbia   |
| American Samoa                          | Djibouti                          | Israel                    | Nepal                            | Singapore                                      |
| Andorra                                 | Dominican Republic                | Italy                     | Netherlands                      | Slovakia                                       |
| Anguilla                                | Ecuador                           | Japan                     | New Caledonia                    | Slovenia                                       |
| Argentina                               | Egypt                             | Jersey                    | New Zealand                      | South Africa                                   |
| Armenia                                 | El Salvador                       | Jordan                    | Nicaragua                        | South Georgia and<br>South Sandwich<br>Islands |
| Ascension                               | Estonia                           | Kazakhstan                | Niger                            | Spain  |
| Australia                               | Eswatini                          | Kenya                     | Nigeria                          | Sri Lanka                                      |
| Austria                                 | Ethiopia                          | Kiribati                  | Niue                             | Sudan  |
| Azerbaijan                              | Falkland Island<br>(Malvinas)     | Korea (Rep.)              | Norfolk Island                   | Svalbard and Jan<br>Mayen                      |
| Bahrain                                 | Faröe Islands                     | Kosovo (UNMIK)            | North Macedonia<br>(Republic of) | Sweden   |
| Bangladesh                              | Federated States of<br>Micronesia | Kuwait                    | Northern Mariana<br>Islands      | Switzerland                                    |
| Barbados                                | Finland                           | Kyrgyzstan                | Norway                           | Taiwan   |
| Belarus                                 | France                            | Laos                      | Oman                             | Tajikistan                                     |
| Belgium                                 | French Guiana                     | Latvia                    | Pakistan                         | Tanzania                                       |
| Bermuda                                 | French Southern<br>Territories    | Lebanon                   | Palau                            | Thailand                                       |
| Bhutan                                  | Gabon                             | Lesotho                   | Palestine                        | Timor-Leste                                    |
| Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina               | Georgia                           | Liberia                   | Panama                           | Trinidad and Tobago                            |
| Brazil                                  | Germany                           | Liechtenstein             | Papua New Guinea                 | Tristan da Cunha                               |
| British Antarctic<br>Territory          | Ghana                             | Lithuania                 | Paraguay                         | Tunisia  |
| British Indian Ocean<br>Territory (IOT) | Gibraltar                         | Luxembourg                | Peru                             | Türkiye  |

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| Brunei Darussalam         | Greece                               | Масао            | Philippines                                       | Turkmenistan                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Bulgaria                  | Greenland                            | Madagascar       | Pitcairn, Henderson,<br>Ducie and Oeno<br>Islands | Turks and Caicos<br>Islands |
| Cabo Verde                | Guadeloupe                           | Malawi           | Poland  | Uganda                      |
| Cambodia                  | Guam                                 | Malaysia         | Portugal  | Ukraine                     |
| Canada                    | Guatemala                            | Maldives         | Puerto Rico                                       | United Kingdom              |
| Cayman Islands            | Guernsey                             | Malta            | Réunion   | Uruguay                     |
| Chile                     | Guinea                               | Marshall Islands | Rhode Island                                      | USA                         |
| China                     | Guinea-Bissau                        | Martinique       | Romania   | Uzbekistan                  |
| Christmas Island          | Haiti                                | Mauritius        | Russian Federation                                | Vatican City                |
| Clipperton Island         | Hawaii                               | Mayotte          | Saint Barthélemy                                  | Venezuela                   |
| Cocos (Keeling)<br>Island | Heard Island and<br>McDonald Islands | Mexico           | Saint Helena                                      | Viet Nam                    |
| Colombia                  | Honduras                             | Moldova          | Saint Kitts and Nevis                             | Virgin Islands, British     |
| Comoros                   | Hong Kong                            | Monaco           | Saint Lucia                                       | Virgin Islands, U.S.        |
| Congo (Dem. Rep.)         | Hungary                              | Mongolia         | Saint Martin (FRA)                                | Wallis and Futuna           |
| Costa Rica                | Iceland                              | Montenegro       | Saint Pierre and<br>Miquelon                      | Western Sahara              |
| Croatia                   | India                                | Montserrat       | Saint Vincent and<br>Grenadines                   | Zambia                      |
| Cuba                      | Indonesia                            | Morocco          | Samoa   | Zimbabwe                    |

| Universal DataBase (Sep. 2023)  |                 |  |                             |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| List of countries which use a single postal code for the whole country: |                 |  |                             |  |  |  |  |
| Country/territory name  | Single Postcode | Country/territory name                         | Single Postcode             |  |  |  |  |
| Anguilla  | AI-2640         | Hong Kong                                      | 999077<br>(from CHN to HKG) |  |  |  |  |
| Ascension   | ASCN 1ZZ        | Масао  | 999078<br>(from CHN to MAC) |  |  |  |  |
| British Antarctic Territory   | BIQQ 1ZZ        | Nauru  | NRU68                       |  |  |  |  |
| British Indian Ocean Territory<br>(IOT)                                 | BBND 1ZZ        | Niue   | 9974                        |  |  |  |  |
| Christmas Island  | 6798            | Norfolk Island                                 | 2899                        |  |  |  |  |
| Cocos (Keeling) Island  | 6799            | Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie<br>and Oeno Islands | PCRN 1ZZ                    |  |  |  |  |
| Diego Garcia (IOT)  | BBND 1ZZ        | Saint Helena                                   | STHL 1ZZ                    |  |  |  |  |
| Falkland Island (Malvinas)  | F1QQ 1ZZ        | Samoa  | AS 96799                    |  |  |  |  |
| French Southern Territories   | 97408           | South Georgia and South<br>Sandwich Islands    | SIQQ 1ZZ                    |  |  |  |  |
| French Southern Territories<br>(La Terre-Adélie)                        | 95724           | Tristan da Cunha                               | TDCU 1ZZ                    |  |  |  |  |
| French Southern Territories<br>(Île Tromelin)                           | 97410           | Turks and Caicos Islands                       | TKCA 1ZZ                    |  |  |  |  |
| Gibraltar   | GX11 1AA        | Vatican City                                   | 00120                       |  |  |  |  |
| Heard Island and McDonald<br>Islands                                    | 7151            |  |                             |  |  |  |  |

| Universal DataBase (Sep. 2023)    |  |  |                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| List of countries which           | List of countries which do not require postal codes: |  |                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Country/territory name            | Country/territory name                               | Country/territory name   | Country/territory name                |  |  |  |  |  |
| A-B                               | C-G  | G-S  | S-Z                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Angola                            | Cameroon   | Guyana   | Solomon Islands                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Antarctica                        | Central African Rep.                                 | Jamaica  | Somalia                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Antigua and Barbuda               | Chad   | Korea (Dem. Rep.)  | South Sudan                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aruba                             | Comoros  | Libya (State of)   | Suriname                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ashmore and Cartier<br>Islands    | Congo (Rep.)   | Mali   | Syria                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australian Antarctic<br>Territory | Cook Islands   | Mauritania   | Тодо                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bahamas                           | Côte d'Ivoire  | Netherlands Antilles<br>(Bonaire,<br>Saint Eustatius and Saba,<br>Curaçao, Sint Maarten,<br>Aruba) | Tokelau                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Belize                            | Curaçao  | Qatar  | Tonga                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Benin                             | Dominica   | Queen Maud Land and<br>Peter I Island  | Tuvalu                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bolivia                           | Equatorial Guinea                                    | Ross Dependency  | U.S. Minor Outtlying<br>Islands (UMI) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba | Eritrea  | Rwanda   | United Arab Emirates                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Botswana                          | Fiji   | Sao Tomé and Principe  | Vanuatu                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bouvet Island                     | Gabon  | Seychelles   | Yemen                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Burkina Faso                      | Gambia   | Sierra Leone   | Zimbabwe                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| Burundi                           | Grenada  | Sint Maarten (Dutch part)  |                                       |  |  |  |  |  |

#### 2 What is the longest postcode in the world?

The longest postcodes in the world belong to Iran (Islamic Rep.) and the United States of America.

Postcodes in Iran consist of 10 digits below the locality name.

Click here to display the detailed description of the postcode and addressing system in Iran: <a href="https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/PostalEntitiesFiles/addressingUnit/irnEn.pdf">https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/PostalEntitiesFiles/addressingUnit/irnEn.pdf</a>

In the United States of America, the ZIP+4 system defines postcodes as having five digits, a hyphen, and four digits. In total, this gives nine digits plus a hyphen, which results in 10 characters that must be reserved for U.S. postcodes on labels, in databases, etc.

Click here to display the detailed description of the postcode and addressing system in the U.S.:

https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/PostalEntitiesFiles/addressingUnit/usaEn.pdf

#### 3 Do UPU documents contain any official statements, proposals or recommendations regarding the use of ISO 3166 Alpha 2 signs for addressing (SI-1000 Ljubljana for Slovenia, SK for Slovakia, FR for France, etc.)?

The issue of two-character ISO codes preceding postcodes can be quite confusing.

First of all, prefixing a postcode with a two-character ISO code is not - and has never been - an international standard. It is up to the administration of the country concerned to decide whether two-character ISO codes should appear in the addresses or not.

Some countries dislike this practice because it disturbs their sorting routines, which is why they have excluded ISO codes from their recommended address format.

However, countries from some regions (e.g. Scandinavia, Benelux, Baltic countries) still use them, which is where the issue of ISO codes in addresses becomes complex. The use of ISO codes is not discouraged by the UPU either.

However, since it is common practice not to use country codes, the UPU recommends using them only if recommended by the country concerned. This recommendation was issued in International Bureau circular 201 of 22 May 2006 (Amendment of the Letter Post Regulations).

(...) Administrations may recommend that, on items addressed to countries where the recommended position of the postcode is in front of the name of the location of destination, the postcode should be preceded by the EN ISO 3166-1 Alpha 2 country code followed by a hyphen. This shall in no way detract from the requirement for the name of the destination country to be printed in full. (...)

Information about the correct addressing systems for each country is available on our website at:

http://www.upu.int/en/activities/addressing/postal-addressing-systems-in-member-countries.html

|                           |         |  | Univ | versal DataBase (Nov    | . 2024) |
|---------------------------|---------|--|------|-------------------------|---------|
| Countries using IS        | O codes | as prefix:                                 |      |                         |         |
| Country/territory<br>name |         | Country/territory name                     |      | Country/territory name  |         |
| A-G                       |         | G-N  |      | P-V                     |         |
| Albania                   | No      | Germany                                    | No   | Norway                  | No      |
| Andorra                   | Yes     | Greece                                     | No   | Palestine               | No      |
| Armenia                   | No      | Hungary                                    | No   | Poland                  | No      |
| Austria                   | No      | Iceland                                    | No   | Portugal                | No      |
| Azerbaijan                | Yes     | Ireland                                    | No   | Romania                 | No      |
| Belarus                   | No      | Italy                                      | No   | Russian Federation      | No      |
| Belgium                   | No      | Kazakhstan                                 | No   | San Marino              | No      |
| Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina | No      | Kiribati                                   | Yes  | Serbia                  | No      |
| Bulgaria (Rep.)           | No      | Latvia                                     | Yes  | Slovakia                | No      |
| Croatia                   | Yes     | Liechtenstein                              | No   | Slovenia                | Yes     |
| Cyprus                    | Yes     | Lithuania                                  | Yes  | Spain                   | No      |
| Czech Rep.                | No      | Luxembourg                                 | Yes  | Sweden                  | No      |
| Denmark                   | No      | Macedonia (the former Yugoslav<br>Rep. of) | No   | Switzerland             | No      |
| Djibouti                  | No      | Malta                                      | No   | Timor-Leste (Dem. Rep.) | Yes     |
| Estonia                   | No      | Moldova                                    | Yes  | Türkiye                 | No      |

Below is a table indicating which countries use the ISO prefix.

| Finland | No | Monaco      | No  | Ukraine       | No |
|---------|----|-------------|-----|---------------|----|
| France  | No | Netherlands | No  | Great Britain | No |
| Georgia | No | Nauru       | Yes | Vatican       | No |

# 4 Is there a table summarizing the length of postcodes by country? I am trying to determine which countries have postcodes exceeding six characters in length.

Below is a list of postcode lengths by country. Please note that this list includes only countries which are UPU members and which provide their data for inclusion in the Universal POST\*CODE® DataBase.

| Country/territory name      | PC   | Country/territory name               | PC   | Country/territory name     | PC   |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
|                             | Lgth |                                      | Lgth |                            | Lgth |
| A-G                         |      | G-N                                  |      | N-Z                        |      |
| Afghanistan                 | 4    | Guinea-Bissau                        | 4    | Palau                      | 5    |
| Äland                       | 8    | Haiti                                | 6    | Palau                      | 10   |
| Åland Islands               | 5    | Hawaii                               | 5    | Palestine                  | 8    |
| Albania                     | 4    | Hawaii                               | 10   | Palestine                  | 4    |
| Algeria                     | 5    | Heard Island and<br>McDonald Islands | 4    | Panama                     | 4    |
| American Samoa              | 5    | Honduras                             | 5    | Papua New Guinea           | 3    |
| American Samoa              | 10   | Hong Kong                            | 6    | Paraguay                   | 6    |
| Andorra                     | 5    | Hungary                              | 4    | Peru                       | 5    |
| Anguilla                    | 7    | Iceland                              | 3    | Philippines                | 4    |
| Argentina                   | 8    | India                                | 6    | Pitcairn                   | 8    |
| Armenia                     | 4    | Indonesia                            | 5    | Poland                     | 6    |
| Ascension                   | 8    | Iran                                 | 6    | Portugal                   | 8    |
| Australia                   | 4    | Iran                                 | 10   | Puerto Rico                | 5    |
| Australia                   | 9    | Iraq                                 | 5    | Puerto Rico                | 10   |
| Austria                     | 4    | Ireland                              | 7    | Réunion                    | 5    |
| Azerbaijan                  | 6    | Isle of Man                          | 7    | Rhode Island               | 5    |
| Bahrain                     | 3    | Israel                               | 7    | Rhode Island               | 10   |
| Bahrain                     | 4    | Italy                                | 5    | Romania                    | 6    |
| Bangladesh                  | 4    | Japan                                | 8    | Russian Federation         | 6    |
| Barbados                    | 7    | Jersey                               | 7    | S. Georgia and S. Sandwich | 8    |
| Belarus                     | 6    | Jordan                               | 5    | Saint Barthélemy           | 5    |
| Belgium                     | 4    | Kazakhstan                           | 6    | Saint Helena               | 8    |
| Bermuda                     | 4    | Kazakhstan                           | 7    | Saint Kitts and Nevis      | 6    |
| Bhutan                      | 5    | Kenya                                | 5    | Saint Lucia                | 8    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina      | 5    | Kiribati                             | 6    | Saint Martin (FR)          | 5    |
| Br. Indian Ocean Ter.       | 8    | Korea (Rep.)                         | 5    | Saint Pierre and Miquelon  | 5    |
| Brazil                      | 9    | Kosovo (UNMIK)                       | 5    | Samoa                      | 6    |
| British Antarctic Territory | 8    | Kuwait                               | 5    | San Marino                 | 5    |
| Brunei Darussalam           | 6    | Kyrgyzstan                           | 6    | Saudi Arabia               | 5    |
| Bulgaria                    | 4    | Laos                                 | 5    | Saudi Arabia               | 8    |
| Cabo Verde                  | 4    | Latvia                               | 7    | Saudi Arabia               | 10   |
| Cambodia                    | 6    | Lebanon                              | 4    | Senegal                    | 5    |
| Canada                      | 7    | Lebanon                              | 10   | Serbia                     | 5    |
| Cayman Islands              | 8    | Lesotho                              | 3    | Serbia                     | 6    |

| Chile                             | 7  | Liberia                  | 4  | Singapore                     | 6  |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|
| China                             | 6  | Liechtenstein            | 4  | Slovakia                      | 6  |
| Christmas Island                  | 4  | Lithuania                | 8  | Slovenia                      | 4  |
| Clipperton Island                 | 5  | Luxembourg               | 6  | South Africa                  | 4  |
| Cocos (Keeling) Is.               | 4  | Масао                    | 6  | Spain                         | 5  |
| Colombia                          | 6  | Madagascar               | 3  | Sri Lanka                     | 5  |
| Comoros                           | 8  | Malawi                   | 6  | St. Vincent and<br>Grenadines | 6  |
| Congo (Dem. Rep.)                 | 7  | Malaysia                 | 5  | Sudan                         | 5  |
| Costa Rica                        | 5  | Maldives                 | 5  | Svalbard and Jan Mayen        | 4  |
| Croatia                           | 8  | Malta                    | 3  | Sweden                        | 5  |
| Cuba                              | 5  | Malta                    | 5  | Switzerland                   | 4  |
| Cyprus                            | 7  | Malta                    | 8  | Taiwan                        | 5  |
| Czech Republic                    | 6  | Marshall Islands         | 5  | Tajikistan                    | 6  |
| Denmark                           | 4  | Marshall Islands         | 10 | Tanzania                      | 5  |
| Diego Garcia                      | 8  | Martinique               | 5  | Thailand                      | 5  |
| Djibouti                          | 5  | Mauritius                | 5  | Timor-Leste (Dem. Rep.)       | 7  |
| Dominican Republic                | 5  | Mayotte                  | 5  | Trinidad and Tobago           | 6  |
| Ecuador                           | 6  | Mexico                   | 5  | Tristan da Cunha              | 8  |
| Egypt                             | 5  | Moldova                  | 7  | Tunisia                       | 4  |
| Egypt                             | 7  | Monaco                   | 5  | Türkiye                       | 5  |
| El Salvador                       | 4  | Mongolia                 | 5  | Turkmenistan                  | 6  |
| Estonia                           | 5  | Mongolia                 | 10 | Turks and Caicos Is.          | 8  |
| Eswatini                          | 4  | Montenegro               | 5  | Uganda                        | 5  |
| Ethiopia                          | 4  | Montserrat               | 7  | Ukraine                       | 5  |
| Falkland Is. (Malvinas)           | 8  | Morocco                  | 5  | United Kingdom                | 6  |
| Faröe Islands                     | 6  | Mozambique               | 4  | United Kingdom                | 7  |
| Federated States of<br>Micronesia | 5  | Myanmar                  | 5  | United Kingdom                | 8  |
| Federated States of<br>Micronesia | 10 | Myanmar                  | 7  | United Kingdom                | 7  |
| Finland                           | 5  | Namibia                  | 5  | United Kingdom                | 7  |
| France                            | 5  | Nauru                    | 5  | United Kingdom                | 8  |
| French Guiana                     | 5  | Nepal                    | 5  | Uruguay                       | 5  |
| French Polynesia                  | 5  | Netherlands              | 4  | USA                           | 9  |
| Gabon                             | 2  | Netherlands              | 7  | USA                           | 5  |
| Georgia                           | 4  | New Caledonia            | 5  | Uzbekistan                    | 6  |
| Germany                           | 5  | New Zealand              | 4  | Vatican City                  | 5  |
| Ghana                             | 11 | Nicaragua                | 5  | Venezuela                     | 4  |
| Ghana                             | 6  | Niger                    | 4  | Viet Nam                      | 5  |
| Gibraltar                         | 8  | Nigeria                  | 6  | Virgin Islands, British       | 6  |
| Greece                            | 6  | Niue                     | 4  | Virgin Islands, U.S.          | 5  |
| Greenland                         | 4  | Norfolk Island           | 4  | Virgin Islands, U.S.          | 10 |
| Guadeloupe                        | 5  | North Macedonia (Rep.)   | 4  | Wallis and Futuna             | 5  |
| Guam                              | 5  | Northern Mariana Islands | 5  | Western Sahara                | 5  |
| Guam                              | 10 | Northern Mariana Islands | 10 | Zambia                        | 5  |
| Guatemala                         | 5  | Norway                   | 4  | Zimbabwe                      | 5  |
| Guernsey                          | 7  | Oman                     | 3  |                               |    |
| Guinea                            | 3  | Pakistan                 | 5  |                               |    |

#### 5 Is there a standard that a country should follow when it does not adopt a postcode?

No, there is no standard to follow. When a country implements a postcode, it should be kept as simple as possible. This is not always possible, however, as, in their postal operations, countries have to attach several elements to their coding method (ISO prefix, zone, regional distribution centre, delivery office, etc.).

#### 6 Is there a single unified addressing rule for Europe?

There is no single unified addressing rule for Europe. In Europe, there are a variety of addressing systems as well as addressing rules, including usage of the ISO prefix. Therefore, addressing templates for European countries should be created on a case by case basis (for each individual country).

# 7 Some cities have double postcodes, one from the country they belong to and another from a neighbouring country. Which postcode is the right one?

The most common reason for assigning to a city the postcode of a neighbouring country is that the nearest mail dispatch centre is located in the neighbouring country. Consequently, dispatching the mail via the country in which the city is located would generate unnecessary mail traffic.

To avoid unnecessary mail circulation, Deutsche Post recommends that, for the city of Bünsingen, the Swiss postcode (8238) should be used for all mail posted in Switzerland. For mail to Bünsingen posted in Germany or other countries, the German postcode (78266) is recommended.

The same rule also applies for the following Austrian cities, to which both German and Austrian postcodes have been assigned:

| City name  | Country in which city is located | Austrian postcode | German postcode |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Hirschegg  | Austria                          | 6992              | 87568           |
| Jungholz   | Austria                          | 6691              | 87491           |
| Mittelberg | Austria                          | 6993              | 87569           |
| Riezlern   | Austria                          | 6991              | 87567           |

The German postcodes should be used for mail to these cities dispatched in Germany, and the country indicated should be "GERMANY", while the Austrian postcodes should be used for mail to these cities dispatched from Austria and other countries, and the country indicated should be "AUSTRIA".

#### 8 What are ISO country codes?

See ISO website at:

http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/country\_codes.htm

ISO 3166 is the international standard for country codes. The purpose of ISO 3166 is to establish codes for the representation of names of countries, territories or areas of geographical interest, and their subdivisions.

There are three related documents, which, taken together, make up ISO 3166:

- ISO 3166–1: this is the country code. It contains a two-letter or a three-letter code and a numeric-3 code.
- ISO 3166–2: this is the country subdivision code. This code is based on the two-letter element from ISO 3166–1, followed by a separator and a further string of up to three alphanumeric characters.



– ISO 3166–3: this is the official country name. It contains four alphabetical characters.

ISO 3166–1 is currently the most widely used system of abbreviation for country names. We also use it in our *POST\*CODE*<sup>®</sup> DataBase to abbreviate country names. The short country names from ISO 3166–1 and the alpha-2 codes are made available by ISO at no charge for internal use and non-commercial purposes and can be downloaded at:

http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/country\_codes/iso-3166-1\_decoding\_table.htm

More detailed information is available on the ISO website at:

www.iso.org

#### 9 Should ISO codes be applied in the mail address?

In most cases, and for the sake of simplicity, the common name of a country (and not the ISO one) should be used in addresses on envelopes. In most cases, common names are better recognized or simply easier to fit on the envelope than the official country name.

Examples:

- Venezuela (the common name) and not Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the ISO name);
- Bolivia (the common name) and not Plurinational State of Bolivia (the ISO name).

# 10 Is any information available as to which postcodes are numeric only and which postcodes are alphanumeric? Are there any rules such as "anything over 5 is alphanumeric"?

No, there is no rule governing which postcodes are numeric and which are alphanumeric. The decision is purely conventional and up to the country concerned.

The list below contains information about postcode type per country. If a country has a single postcode, that postcode has been entered as a postcode type. There are some countries that have a numeric postcode but with a special character (or whitespace or dash "–"), such as Brazil or Czech Rep. those countries have been classified as Numeric (\*).

| Universal DataBase (Nov. 202 |                 |            |                           |                 |             |  |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| Postcode type per c          | ountry:         |            |                           |                 | · · · · · · |  |  |
| Country/territory<br>name    | PCODE<br>format | PCODE type | Country/territory<br>name | PCODE<br>format | PCODE type  |  |  |
| A-Le                         |                 |            | Li-Z                      |                 |             |  |  |
| Afghanistan                  | 9999            | N          | Maldives                  | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Äland                        | AX-99999        | A/N        | Malta                     | AAA             | A           |  |  |
| Albania                      | 9999            | N          | Malta                     | AA 99           | A/N         |  |  |
| Algeria                      | 99999           | N          | Malta                     | AAA 9999        | A/N         |  |  |
| American Samoa               | 99999           | N          | Marshall Islands          | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| American Samoa               | 99999-9999      | N*         | Marshall Islands          | 99999-9999      | N*          |  |  |
| Andorra                      | AD999           | A/N        | Martinique                | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Anguilla                     | AA-9999         | A/N        | Mauritius                 | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Argentina                    | A9999AAA        | A/N        | Mayotte                   | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Armenia                      | 9999            | N          | Mexico                    | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Ascension                    | AAAA 9AA        | A/N        | Moldova                   | MD-9999         | A/N         |  |  |
| Australia                    | 9999            | N          | Monaco                    | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Australia                    | XXX9999         | A/N        | Mongolia                  | 99999           | N           |  |  |
| Austria                      | 9999            | N          | Mongolia                  | 99999-9999      | A/N         |  |  |

| Azerbaijan                              | AZ9999    | A/N | Montenegro  | 99999      | Ν   |
|---|-----------|-----|---|------------|-----|
| Bahrain                                 | 999       | Ν   | Montserrat  | MSR9999    | A/N |
| Bahrain                                 | 9999      | Ν   | Morocco   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Bangladesh                              | 9999      | Ν   | Mozambique  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Barbados                                | BB99999   | A/N | Myanmar   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Belarus                                 | 999999    | Ν   | Myanmar   | 9999999    | Ν   |
| Belgium                                 | 9999      | Ν   | Namibia   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Bermuda                                 | AA99      | A/N | Nauru   | AAA99      | A/N |
| Bhutan                                  | 99999     | Ν   | Nepal   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina               | 99999     | Ν   | Netherlands                                       | 9999       | Ν   |
| Brazil                                  | 99999-999 | A/N | Netherlands                                       | 9999 AA    | A/N |
| British Antarctic<br>Territory          | AAAA 9AA  | A/N | New Caledonia                                     | 99999      | Ν   |
| British Indian Ocean<br>Territory (IOT) | AAAA 9AA  | A/N | New Zealand                                       | 9999       | Ν   |
| Brunei Darussalam                       | AA9999    | A/N | Nicaragua   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Bulgaria                                | 9999      | Ν   | Niger   | 9999       | Ν   |
| Cabo Verde                              | 9999      | Ν   | Nigeria   | 999999     | Ν   |
| Cambodia                                | 999999    | N   | Niue  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Canada                                  | A9A 9A9   | A/N | Norfolk Island                                    | 9999       | Ν   |
| Cayman Islands                          | KY9-9999  | A/N | North Macedonia<br>(Republic of)                  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Chile                                   | 9999999   | Ν   | Northern Mariana<br>Islands                       | 99999      | Ν   |
| China                                   | 999999    | Ν   | Northern Mariana<br>Islands                       | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| Christmas Island                        | 9999      | N   | Norway  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Clipperton Island                       | 99999     | N   | Oman  | 999        | N   |
| Cocos (Keeling)<br>Island               | 9999      | Ν   | Pakistan  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Colombia                                | 999999    | N   | Palau   | 99999      | N   |
| Congo (Dem. Rep.)                       | 9999999   | N   | Palau   | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| Costa Rica                              | 99999     | N   | Palestine   | P9999999   | A/N |
| Croatia                                 | HR-99999  | A/N | Palestine   | P999       | A/N |
| Cuba                                    | 99999     | N   | Panama  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Cyprus                                  | CY-9999   | A/N | Papua New Guinea                                  | 999        | Ν   |
| Czech Republic                          | 999 99    | N*  | Paraguay  | 999999     | Ν   |
| Denmark                                 | 9999      | N   | Peru  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Diego Garcia (IOT)                      | AAAA 9AA  | A/N | Philippines                                       | 9999       | Ν   |
| Djibouti                                | 99999     | Ν   | Pitcairn, Henderson,<br>Ducie and Oeno<br>Islands | ΑΑΑΑ 9ΑΑ   | A/N |
| Dominican Republic                      | 99999     | N   | Poland  | 99-999     | N*  |
| Ecuador                                 | 999999    | N   | Portugal  | 9999-999   | N*  |
| Egypt                                   | 99999     | N   | Puerto Rico                                       | 99999      | N   |
| Egypt                                   | 9999999   | Ν   | Puerto Rico                                       | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| El Salvador                             | 9999      | Ν   | Réunion   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Estonia                                 | 99999     | N   | Rhode Island                                      | 99999      | N   |
| Eswatini                                | A999      | A/N | Rhode Island                                      | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| Ethiopia                                | 9999      | N   | Romania   | 999999     | N   |
| Falkland Island<br>(Malvinas)           | A9AA 9AA  | A/N | Russian Federation                                | 999999     | N   |
| Faröe Islands                           | FO-999    | A/N | Saint Barthélemy                                  | 99999      | N   |
| Federated States of<br>Micronesia       | 99999     | Ν   | Saint Helena                                      | ΑΑΑΑ 9ΑΑ   | A/N |

| Federated States of<br>Micronesia    | 99999-9999  | N*  | Saint Kitts and Nevis                          | KN9999     | A/N |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----|--|------------|-----|
| Finland                              | 99999       | A/N | Saint Lucia                                    | LC999-999  | A/N |
| France                               | 99999       | Ν   | Saint Martin (FRA)                             | 99999      | Ν   |
| French Guiana                        | 99999       | Ν   | Saint Pierre and<br>Miquelon                   | 99999      | Ν   |
| French Southern<br>Territories       | 99999       | Ν   | Saint Vincent and<br>Grenadines                | VC9999     | A/N |
| Gabon                                | 99          | Ν   | Samoa  | WS9999     | A/N |
| Georgia                              | 9999        | N   | San Marino                                     | §          | Ν   |
| Germany                              | 99999       | Ν   | Saudi Arabia                                   | AAA9999    | A/N |
| Ghana                                | AA-999-9999 | A/N | Saudi Arabia                                   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Ghana                                | AA-999      | A/N | Saudi Arabia                                   | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| Gibraltar                            | AA99 9AA    | A/N | Senegal  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Greece                               | 999 99      | N*  | Serbia   | 999999     | Ν   |
| Greenland                            | 9999        | Ν   | Serbia   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Guadeloupe                           | 99999       | Ν   | Singapore                                      | 999999     | Ν   |
| Guam                                 | 99999       | N   | Slovakia                                       | 999 99     | N*  |
| Guam                                 | 99999-9999  | N*  | Slovenia                                       | 9999       | N   |
| Guatemala                            | 99999       | Ν   | South Africa                                   | 9999       | Ν   |
| Guernsey                             | AAA 9AA     | A/N | South Georgia and<br>South Sandwich<br>Islands | AAA 9AA    | A/N |
| Guinea                               | 999         | Ν   | Spain  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Guinea-Bissau                        | 9999        | Ν   | Sri Lanka                                      | 99999      | Ν   |
| Haiti                                | HT9999      | A/N | Sudan  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Hawaii                               | 99999       | Ν   | Svalbard and Jan<br>Mayen                      | 9999       | Ν   |
| Hawaii                               | 99999-9999  | N*  | Sweden   | 999 99     | Ν   |
| Heard Island and<br>McDonald Islands | 9999        | Ν   | Switzerland                                    | 9999       | N   |
| Honduras                             | 99999       | Ν   | Taiwan   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Hong Kong                            | 999999      | Ν   | Taiwan   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Hungary                              | 9999        | Ν   | Tajikistan                                     | 999999     | Ν   |
| Iceland                              | 999         | Ν   | Tanzania                                       | 99999      | Ν   |
| India                                | 999999      | Ν   | Thailand                                       | 99999      | Ν   |
| Indonesia                            | 99999       | Ν   | Timor-Leste                                    | TL99999    | A/N |
| Iran                                 | 999999      | Ν   | Trinidad and Tobago                            | 999999     | Ν   |
| Iran                                 | 9999999999  | Ν   | Tristan da Cunha                               | AAAA 9AA   | A/N |
| Iraq                                 | 99999       | Ν   | Tunisia  | 9999       | Ν   |
| Ireland                              | XXX XXXX    | A/N | Türkiye  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Isle of Man                          | AAA 9AA     | A/N | Turkmenistan                                   | 999999     | Ν   |
| Israel                               | 9999999     | Ν   | Turks and Caicos<br>Islands                    | AAAA 9AA   | A/N |
| Italy                                | 99999       | N   | Uganda   | 99999      | Ν   |
| Japan                                | 999-9999    | N*  | Ukraine  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Jersey                               | AAA 9AA     | A/N | United Kingdom                                 | A9 9AA     | A/N |
| Jordan                               | 99999       | Ν   | United Kingdom                                 | A99 9AA    | A/N |
| Kazakhstan                           | 999999      | Ν   | United Kingdom                                 | A9A 9AA    | A/N |
| Kazakhstan                           | A99A9A9     | A/N | United Kingdom                                 | AA9A 9AA   | A/N |
| Kenya                                | 99999       | N   | United Kingdom                                 | AA99 9AA   | A/N |
| Kiribati                             | AA9999      | A/N | United Kingdom                                 | AA9A 9AA   | A/N |
| Korea (Rep.)                         | 99999       | N   | Uruguay  | 99999      | N   |
| Kosovo (UNMIK)                       | 99999       | N   | USA  | 99999      | N   |
| Kuwait                               | 99999       | N   | USA  | 99999-9999 | N*  |

| alphanumeric :<br>numeric with a<br>special character : | a <sub>N*</sub> |     |                         |            |     |
|---|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|------------|-----|
| numeric :   |                 |     |                         |            |     |
| Malaysia  | 99999           | Ν   |                         |            |     |
| Malawi  | 999999          | N   |                         |            |     |
| Madagascar  | 999             | N   | Zimbabwe                | 99999      | Ν   |
| Масао   | 999999          | N   | Zambia                  | 99999      | Ν   |
| Luxembourg  | L-9999          | A/N | Western Sahara          | 99999      | Ν   |
| Lithuania   | LT-99999        | A/N | Wallis and Futuna       | 99999      | Ν   |
| Liechtenstein   | 9999            | N   | Virgin Islands, U.S.    | 99999-9999 | N*  |
| Liberia   | 9999            | N   | Virgin Islands, U.S.    | 99999      | Ν   |
| Lesotho   | 999             | N   | Virgin Islands, British | VG9999     | A/N |
| Lebanon   | 99 999 999      | N*  | Viet Nam                | 99999      | Ν   |
| Lebanon   | 9999            | N   | Venezuela               | 9999-A     | A/N |
| Latvia  | LV-9999         | A/N | Venezuela               | 9999       | Ν   |
| Laos  | 99999           | N   | Vatican City            | 99999      | Ν   |
| Kyrgyzstan  | 999999          | N   | Uzbekistan              | 999999     | N   |