

**UNECE**

# **United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations**

## ***Recommendation No. 16***

Revision 4 - 2020 Edition



**United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation  
and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)**



**UNITED NATIONS**



**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

# **Recommendation No.16 United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations**



**United Nations  
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## Foreword

International trade relies heavily upon the clear identification of key data such as the traders involved, the goods being exchanged, and the locations related to the movement of the goods. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) maintains and develops an unambiguous coding method to identify locations linked to international trade called the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE).

The UN/LOCODE has been an integral part of trade since the 1980s and is widely used by all stakeholders along the informational data exchange, notably by customs administrations, statistics departments, the transport industry and the manufacturing industry. It covers around 250 countries and territories across the globe with over 100,000 locations. It is maintained notably by a network of national focal points and industry experts with thousands of submissions per year. As one of the flagship standards of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN/LOCODE database on the UNECE website has nearly two million page views per year, reflecting its relevance and importance.

The current revision of our Recommendation 16 on UN/LOCODE has included the participation of major stakeholders and government representatives. The revision aims to provide further clarity on the base concepts linked to UN/LOCODE, to modernize the maintenance process and to officialize the notion of child-codes based on UN/LOCODE which are developed by other organizations and which can provide more granular details on exact point locations.

Using such a clear, semantic standard for data exchange is key for the facilitation of trade. I would encourage all member States to participate actively in the maintenance of the UN/LOCODE standard by setting up a national focal point if this has not already been done. I would further encourage the business community to continue its support of this standard and actively participate in the maintenance work.



Olga Algayerova

Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## Note

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### **The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)**

#### **Simple, Transparent and Effective Processes for Global Commerce**

UN/CEFACT's mission is to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contribute to the growth of global commerce.

Participation in UN/CEFACT is open to experts from United Nations Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Through this participation of government and business representatives from around the world, UN/CEFACT has developed a range of trade facilitation and e-business standards, recommendations and tools that are approved within a broad intergovernmental process and implemented globally.

UN/CEFACT is committed to ensuring that the gender dimension is reflected in norms, roles, procedures, and access to resources. Government and trade are encouraged to promote equal opportunities for women and men within the scope of Trade Facilitation activities. UN/CEFACT specifically encourages the collection, analysis, and monitoring of gender disaggregated data in order to better understand and support women's engagement in international trade and transport facilitation.

This Recommendation encourages governments, business communities, development partners, international organizations, and other policymakers to follow UN/CEFACT's commitment to ensure inclusiveness for women.

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