

Hierarchical Location Codes 2026

an hierarchical structure of continents, regions, subregions and countries (+historic and parts of them)

notation scheme: a = alpha (A–Z) - n = numeric (0–9) - x,y,z = alphanumeric (A–Z,0–9) - '.' = exact phrase

Alternatives marked with a vertical line | , redirects marked with > and codes from outside the sheet with !.
Duplicate entries (marked with an asterik *) represent legitimate alternative hierarchies, not data redundancy.
For this entries the most attributes are only at the original entry (w/o *).

the columns UNO, TERO, AKVO , M04 to M10 and OTHERS includes 'Inline Attribute Tags' (IATs) to keep the document readable and editable. The current known 'Inline Attribute Tags' are described in the orange cells.

[A]	HLC tree (HL)	HLC hierarchical structure including code
[B]	HLC-M	HLC MAIN 3-gram/4-gram codes. ranges extends are marked by !- . Optional extends within brackets.
[C]	##	type: e.g. G=global - R=region - S=subregion - H=historical - C=country - W=water / see ## types special sheet
[D]	HLC-2	ISO 3166-1 2-gram country codes (aa)
	## in C,D,H	ISO 3166-2 5-gram code (aa-'aa) for subdivision of an country (seperated from country code with hyphen)
	## in C,D,H	ISO 3166-3 4-gram code (aaaa) for former countries (2 letters old code + 2 letters new code or status)
	## in R,S	HLC 2-gram codes (an) for pseudo (sub-)regions
##	not in C,D,H,V	HLC 2-gram codes (aa) for pseudo "area/region/country"
[E]	HLC-3	HLC 3-gram code (aaa) additions - depends on ## type field and content of HLC-2
(a)	## not C	us.gov 3-gram ('X'aa) geopolitical entities, names and codes (genc)
(o)	## not C	HLC 2-gram codes (aan) for subregions
U	UN:	M49: UNO 3-gram code (nnn) for country or region (old/invalid/inherit) - (us.gov) extensions > 900
N	LO:	ILO: International Labour Organization - index of countries, territories and areas
O	OA:	ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization - airport prefix code (1 or 2 letters) - see also ?? OTHERS
[G]	HLC-X HLC-S	HLC-X: technical 3-gram to 5-gram codes - sometimes identical to HLC-S codes from CODEHW
[H]	!!	Country, Area or period (including temperature zones Information from ESSD+ and biogeographic realms)
T	CW:	COW-G&W: Correlates of War - Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Michael D. Ward (2022)
E	PD:	WGS-RPD: World Geographical Scheme for Recording Plant Distributions 2.0 (2001) + 3.0 proposals
R	BW:	BEOW (oneearth.org) Biological Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
O	TW:	TEOW (worldwildlife.org) Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
A	FA:	HLC-F: HLC FAO style area codes - original FAO codes in brackets (2022)
K	WN:	CWWN (nga.mil) codes (naa) for World Waterbody Names + HLC extensions & changes
V	FW:	FEOW (worldwildlife.org) Freshwater Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
O	OW:	GOODS: Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS,Watling et al./2013) incl. MEOW, PPOW, PAME &, LMES
M	TI:	US TIC (Treasury International Capital) Forms (mainly 5 digits) - geographical classification (2022)
04	ID:	WID: World Inequality DB (2 letters) - historical evolution world distribution of income & wealth (2022)
M	R*:	ITU: International Telecommunication Union - *= region - country A1/3 - country dial-in codes (digits)
05	ED:	ESSD: Earth System Science Data (2 digits) - geographical group (2019)
M	NT:	NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization - country codes (9th Edition)
06	EU:	EUSS (European Statistic System) - Geonomenclature (2020+) - partly other ISO2 Codes
M	AU:	SACC: ABS 1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (2019+) - exceptions from ISO see ?? OTHERS
07	NZ:	NZSCC: New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries -only differences to SACC are mentioned
[Q]	DE:	(statis) Statistisches Bundesamt - Staats- und Gebietssystematik (2024) - only digits
M	IT:	ISTAT (and MIN) codes for states and regions (2022)
08	UK:	UK defined regions codes - exceptions from ISO see ??
[P]	AR:	(indec) Instituto Nacional de Estadística Censos - Denominaciones y códigos de países (2015)
M	ZA:	(stats sa) department of statistics of south africa - country code list (2022)
09	JP:	TSJP: Trade Statistics of Japan - Country code list (2018) - with HLC added region codes
[Q]	CH:	BFS: Schweizer Bundesamt für Statistik - Staaten und Gebiete (2024) - - exceptions from ISO see ?? OTHERS
M	FR:	INSEE: Institut .. statistique .. économiques - codification des pays et territoires étrangers ..
10	NO:	SSB-3: statistisk sentralbyrå - Classification of country codes (2023) - old codes in brackets
[R]	??	information / alternative name or codes (CC: ISO-2,ISO-3,M.49[....])
-	CA:	SCCAI: Canadian Standard Classification of Countries and Areas of Interest - ISO & region codes exceptions
O	DR:	CLDR: The Unicode Common Locale Data Repository - exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
T	HI:	historical Information from various sources (fips,iso,genc etc.pp)
H	OA:	ICAO: some codes by the International Civil Aviation Organization
E	OD:	OPD: opendata.com "dead" countries exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
R	RU:	OKSM: Russian Classification of Countries of the World - exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
S	WG:	WGS84: World Geodetic System 1984 simple centroids notation (degrees & minutes) - only for orientation
-	WI:	WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization - exception codes (H2)

HLC-M	HLC MAIN alpha-numerical code (3-4 characters), starts with an digit	
note:	a = alpha (A-Z) - n = numeric (0-9) - x ,y,z= alphanumeric (A-Z,0-9) - '.' = exact phrase	
value - range	OWNER	description of usage and / or content
'0'-'9'anx	HW	Ecoregions & Ecosystems (leafs level codes derived from other schemes)
'0'-'9'aax	HW	Ecoregions & Ecosystems (branch level codes)
'0'-'9'aa	HY	Waters & Oceans & Seas & etc. (CWWN+ codes - incl. HLC extensions)
'0'-'9' an	Ext . Source	Use this range to include 3-gram to 8-gram <u>numerical</u> codes form external sources (e.g. GeoNames). You should exchange the penultimate number '0'-'9' with an character 'P'-'Y', to keep the value areas separate and clearly distinguish.
'0'nn	HL	Special & Organizational Units & Historical & Islands (World)
'1'nn(x)	HL	Countries etc. (Asia)
'2'nn(x)	HL	Countries etc. (Africa)
'3'nn(x)	HL	Countries etc. (Europe)
'4'nn(n)	HL	Countries & Mainland Waters etc. (Northern America)
'50'-'52'n(x)	--	currently reserved
'53'-'55'n(x)	HL	Countries etc. (Southern America)
'56'-'59'nn	HW	Terrestrial & Biographics Sub-Ecoregions & Sub-Realms (branch level)
'60'nn	HY	Mainland Waters (w/o Northern America)
'610'-'688'(x)	HL	Countries etc. (Australasia & Oceania & Antarctica)
'689'-'699'n	HW	Realms & Ecosystems & Ecoregions & Zones (branch level)
'70'-'79'n(n)	HY	Waters & Oceans & Seas & etc.
'70'-'79'aa	HY	Waters & Oceans & Seas & etc. (derived from CWWN+ codes)
'800'-'810'(x)	HW	Realms & Ecosystems & Ecoregions & Zones (tree level)
'811'-'819'(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Asia)
'82'n(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Africa)
'83'n(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Europe)
'84'n(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Northern America)
'85'n(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Southern America)
'86'n(x)	HL	Sub-Structures (Australasia & Oceania & Antarctica)
'87'-'88'n(x)	HL	World Organizations
890'-'896'(x)	HL	Regional Organizations - Unions - Cross Continent
897'-'899'(x)	HL	Marine Ecosystems & Ecoregions (tree level)
'90'n(x)	HL	Waters & Oceans (World - secondary range for sorting)
'91'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Asia)
'92'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Africa)
'93'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Europe)
'94'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Northern America)
'95'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Southern America)
'96'n(x)	HL	Main Structures & Epochs (Australasia & Oceania)
'970'-'976(x)	HL	Main Structures (Antarctica & adjacent territories)
'977'-'978(x)	HL	Tectonic Plates (major,middle,minor)
'979'(x)	HL	Outlying Oceania
'98'n(x)	HL	Continental Spanning Structures
'99'n(x)	HL	Historical World Epochs

	(N) NUL Entry	(X) Unspecified Entry	(L) Logical Entry	
Code	EHC-Water	HLC-Earth		Entry Types
08		(T) Tectonical		
10	(W) Waters 900	(E) Earth 980		
20	(O) Ocean	(G) Global		Level 0
21	Ocean-O	Global-G		Single Ocean / Continent
22	Ocean-M	Global-M		Multiple Oceans / Continents
30	(R) Area	(R) Region		Level 1
31	Area-R	Region-R		Single Area / Region
32	Area-M	Region-M		Multiple Areas / Regions (incl. continents spanning)
33	Area-G	Region-G		Geographical Area / Region (incl. climate zones)
35		Region-E		Economic Region
34		Region-H		Historical Region
36		Region-B		Botanical Region
40	(S) Subarea	(S) Subregion		Level 2
41	Subarea-S	Subregion-S		Single Subarea / Subregion
42	Subarea-M	Subregion-M		Multiple Subareas / Subregions (incl. continents/regions/areas spanning)
43	Subarea-G	Subregion-G		Geographical Subarea / Subregion (incl. climate zones)
45	Subarea-E	Subregion-E		Economic Subregion
44		Subregion-H		Historical Subregion
46		Subregion-B		Botanical Subregion
50		(M) Multiples		Intermediate Level
51		Multiples-M		(Political) Area of Multiples States / Countries
53		Multiples-G		Geographical Area of Multiples States / Countries
55		Multiples-E		Economic Area of Multiples States / Countries
54		Multiples-H		Historical Area of Multiples States / Countries
56		Multiples-B		Botanical Area of Multiple States / Countries
57		Multiples-A		Administrative Area of Multiple States / Countries
60	(I) Division	(C) Country		Level 3
61	Division-I	Country-C		Single Division / Country / State
64		Country-H		Historical Country / State
70	(V) Subdivision	(D) Division	(P) Province	Level 4
71	Subdivision-V	Division-D	Province-P	Single (Administrative) (Sub-)Division / Region / Subregion / Province
72	Subdivision-M	Division-M	Province-M	Multiple (Sub-)Divisions / Regions / Subregions / Provinces
73	Subdivision-G	Division-G	Province-G	Geographical (Sub-)Division / Region / Subregion / Province
74		Division-H	Province-H	Historical (Administrative) Division / Region / Subregion / Province
75		Division-E		Economic Division / Region / Subregion / Free Zone
76		Division-B		Botanical Division / Region / Subregion / Area
80		(U) Unit		Level 5
81		Unit-U		Single City / Village / Unit
82		Unit-M		Multiple Cities / Villages / Units
83		Unit-H		Historical City / Village
88		Unit-D		City / Village District
89		Unit-C		Community
90		(H) Historical		

HLC Tree (HL)	HLC-M	# type	HLC-2	HLC-3	UNO M01	HLC-X S	! Description # VER 7.7.1	TERO M02	AKVO M03	M04	M05	M06	M07	M08	M09	M10	?? OTHERS WGS84 (DMs) / information / alternative name or codes	
998-9986	9986	H	(#)	GPT	(#)	(#)	Gupta Empire (240-550 CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-	999	X	XX	XOX	(#)	XOX	not on earth's surface	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-9995	9995	X	IA	AIR	(#)	X85	In the air	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	{UK-XZ,XZ,992}
998-9997	9997	X	FX	FXP	(#)	X87	fictional location	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-9999	9999	X	NX	NEX	(#)	X89	outer space - nexus	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(incl. Earth orbits: Moon & other celestial bodies & their orbits) (US-E1_XAZ,909)

XW - Waters (900) & World (980) Classification

V 7.7.1 - 05.06.2026

XK 901 ⁷⁰¹ Arctic Ocean (AKO)			
702 WAK	706 EAK	707 RSK	708 EUK

XN 940 North America (AMN)			
VH 793 Waters of North America (NIW)			
942 NNA		943 NEN	
948 CAM		949 CAR	
946 SWN	947 LAC	950 SAM	

XU 930 Europe (EUR)		
VF 792 Waters of Europe (UIW)		
931 NWE	932 NEU	933 NEE
938 WEU	939 CEU	934 EEU
937 SWU	936 SEU	935 SEE

XA 910 Asia (ASA)		
VB 790 Waters of Asia (AIW)		
911 WCM	912 NAS	913 SCA
918 WSA	919 CAS	914 EAS
917 SWA	916 SAS	915 SEA

XL 904 ⁷³² Atlantic (ALO)			
734 NWL	733 NLO	741 NEL	747 BCS
752 WCL		751 CLO	756 ECL
754 CBS	760 SWL	759 SLO	762 SEL

XD 906 ⁷⁶⁴ MED iterranean Region		
766 WMD	768 CMD	775 BMD
	769 ADR	772 EMD
	770 IOD	
	771 SCD	

XP 903 ⁷¹⁰ Pacific (PAO)			
721 SCX	712 NWP	711 NPO	716 NEP
722 SCS	719 WCP	718 CPO	726 ECP
723 EIA	728 SWP	727 SPO	729 SEP

XS 950 South America (SAM)		
VJ 795 Waters of South America (SIW)		
951 NWS	952 NSA	953 NES
958 WSA	959 CSA	954 ESA
957 SWS	956 SAS	955 SES

XF 920 Africa (AFR)		
VD 791 Waters of Africa (FIW)		
921 NWF	922 NAF	923 NEF
VS 941 Sahel Region (SHL)		
928 WAF	929 AFC	924 EAF
927 SWF	926 SAF	925 SEF

XO 907 ⁷⁷⁶ Indian Ocean (INO)		
777 WIO	781 EIO	783 AAM

XC 960 Oceania (OCE)		
VK 796 Waters of Oceania (CIW)		
964 WOC	962 MIC	963 POY
970 ATQ	965 MEL	966 ZLA
968 AU &*	969 NZ &*	

OO 979 ⁷⁹⁸	XZ 966
Outlying Oceania	Zealandia

XT 908 ⁷⁸⁴ Antarctic Ocean (ATX)		
785 WAT	786 CAT	787 EAT

XQ 970 Antarctica (ATQ)		
VL 797 Waters of Antarctica (QIW)		
974 WAQ	975 TMA	976 EAQ

RL 902 Indo-Pacific Ocean (IPO=PAO+INO) · XM 945 The Americas (AMS=AMN+SAM) · YX 947 Latin America & Caribbean (LAC=CAM+CAR+SAM)