

<b>To:</b>	TC68 Chair – M.A. Zalewski
<b>From:</b>	Cathy Wissink, INCITS-L2 Chair Mark Davis, President of the Unicode Consortium
<b>Subject:</b>	ISO 4217 Currency Code Issues
<b>Date:</b>	2005-03-07

We would be grateful if the document below is reviewed and considered at the next meeting of ISO TC68. It identifies issues related to the stability and usage of ISO 4217 as part of a set of standards used in internationalization technology on various development platforms. We would be willing to work with your organization directly to resolve these issues. We are also contacting other standard development organizations to urge them and their and national body members to support this, so that the ISO 4217 currency lists can be effectively used.

Please let us know when this contribution will be considered by your committee and what your meeting schedule is for TC 68.

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We are gratified to see that the ISO currency codes are now publicly available on <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/popstds/currencycodeslist.html>, as promised in <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/archives/2003/Ref871.html>.

*"ISO issues the following statement in response to recently publicized misunderstandings of its current practice and intentions regarding its widely used country, currency and language codes:*

- ISO is to continue with its established practice of allowing free-of-charge use of its country, currency and language codes from, respectively, the ISO 3166, ISO 4217 and ISO 639 standards, in commercial and other applications.

... where the [currency](#) and [language](#) codes are, respectively, publicly available...."

However, at the time of this writing, we see the following problems in the ISO 4217 currency list.

**1. Stability.** The public ISO currency list needs to follow the same practices as ISO 3166 and ISO 639 have recently put into place to guarantee stability. Stability is fundamental to a use of codes like these, since data in existing databases referring to currencies must maintain the same semantics, even if a code goes out of modern use. This includes the following items:

- A. A public policy that the three-letter currency codes are never reused.

- B. Public availability of the "Minor Units" field from Table A.1
- C. The public availability of all obsoleted codes on the web site (either marked as such or in a different list than the main list on <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/popstds/currencycodeslist.html>). That is, all codes that have ever been defined in ISO 4217 Tables A.1, A.2, or A.3 need to be included in a definitive list, and should also include the Minor Units. See Table 2. [Unavailable Codes](#) for a list of these.

**2. Complete Country Names.** The list of countries should be precisely the same as the ISO 3166 list. There are three ISO 3166 codes missing:

SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS (GS)  
 PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, OCCUPIED (PS)  
 ÅLAND ISLANDS (AX)

Note: other territories are listed with no currency, such as the following:

ANTARCTICA No universal currency

**3. Exact Country Names.** To prevent mismatches, country names must be *precisely* as in the ISO 3166 list on

<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/02iso-3166-code-lists/list-en1.html>.

The problem cases are:

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF	CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH
VIRGIN ISLANDS (US)	VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.

**4. Machine-Readable List.** In addition, it is strongly recommended that there be a downloadable, semicolon delimited list, such as the ISO 3166 list on <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/02iso-3166-code-lists/list-en1-semic.txt>. In such a list, the two-letter ISO 3166 country codes should be used instead of country names, to prevent any mismatches as in the last item above.

**5. Minor items.**

- "Entitiy" is misspelled.

- The "INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (I.M.F)" is listed in the main body of the table, although it does not have a country code. It should be at the end with the other non-country entities.
- For parseability, the currency names for USS and USN should be changed from "(Same day)" and "(Next day)", respectively, to "US Dollar (Same day)" and "US Dollar (Next day)", respectively.

## 6. Questions.

In ISO 4217:2001(E/F) Sixth edition, 2001-08-15, the English table lists ZRZ as both the Zaire and New Zaire, but the French table lists ZRN and ZRZ as those two currencies. We presume that the French is correct, but need confirmation.

The online ISO-4217 list appears to be wrong: <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/popstds/currencycodeslist.html>

The currency for Togo is XOF, and not TOP. TOP is the currency of Tonga, but the currency display name and numeric codes are correct for Togo and Tonga. The ISO-4217:2001 list is correct, and the online ISO-4217:2004 should change the alphabetic currency code of Togo to XOF.

**7. Ambiguous Currency Names.** Table 1 below list cases of ambiguous currency names

**8. Obsolete Currency Codes.** The following are obsolete, but that is not reflected in the ISO tables.

GWP; Guinea-Bissau Peso; GW; GUINEA-BISSAU  
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/1999/pr9943.htm>

currency; MGF; Malagasy Franc; MG; MADAGASCAR  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4142581.stm>

While not yet obsolete, the following is being phased out; it would be useful to indicate this in the ISO tables.

currency; TRL; old Turkish Lira; TR; TURKEY  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4137469.stm>

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## Table 1 Ambiguous Currency Names

Format: <currency code>; <currency name>; <country code>; <country name>

The following are cases where the same currency name is given to two different codes in two different countries. These should be qualified so that names are unique, as is the case for other currencies (eg, Algerian Dinar, Bahraini Dinar, etc.).

XOF; CFA Franc BCEAO; SN; SENEGAL  
TOP; CFA Franc BCEAO; TG; TOGO

XAF; CFP Franc; PF; FRENCH POLYNESIA  
XPF; CFP Franc; NC; NEW CALEDONIA

BEC; Convertible Franc; BE; BELGIUM  
LUC; Convertible Franc; LU; LUXEMBOURG

BEL; Financial Franc; BE; BELGIUM  
LUL; Financial Franc; LU; LUXEMBOURG

MWK; Kwacha; MW; MALAWI  
ZMK; Kwacha; ZM; ZAMBIA

ARY; Peso; AR; ARGENTINA  
BOP; Peso; BO; BOLIVIA

BAD; Dinar; BA; BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
HRD; Dinar; HR; CROATIA

In addition, the following currency names are ambiguous *within* the same country. These should be treated like other cases in ISO 4217, with one of them qualified, such as "Old Dong".

AFA; Afghani; AF; AFGHANISTAN  
AFN; Afghani; AF; AFGHANISTAN

BRB; Cruzeiro; BR; BRAZIL  
BRE; Cruzeiro; BR; BRAZIL

EQE; Ekwele; GQ; EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
GQE; Ekwele; GQ; EQUATORIAL GUINEA

AOA; Kwanza; AO; ANGOLA  
AOK; Kwanza; AO; ANGOLA

MAF; Mali Franc; ML; MALI  
MLF; Mali Franc; ML; MALI

MXN; Mexican Peso; MX; MEXICO  
MXP; Mexican Peso; MX; MEXICO

RUB; Russian Ruble; RU; RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
RUR; Russian Ruble; RU; RUSSIAN FEDERATION

PEH; Sol; PE; PERU  
PES; Sol; PE; PERU

GNE; Syli; GN; GUINEA  
GNS; Syli; GN; GUINEA

UGS; Uganda Shilling; UG; UGANDA  
UGX; Uganda Shilling; UG; UGANDA

YUM; Yugoslavian Dinar; YU; YUGOSLAVIA  
YUN; Yugoslavian Dinar; YU; YUGOSLAVIA

PLN; Zloty; PL; POLAND  
PLZ; Zloty; PL; POLAND

The following case should also be resolved to eliminate the ambiguity.

RHD; Rhodesian Dollar; RH; SOUTHERN RHODESIA  
ZWC; Rhodesian Dollar; ZW; ZIMBABWE

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## Table 2    Unavailable Codes

The following are codes not contained in the public list. The format is the same as the above, with an additional <status> field at the end. The status is "I" for those introduced, then obsoleted, between the issuance of ISO 4217:2001(E/F) and the availability of the public list on <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/popstds/currencycodeslist.html>. The status is "O" for those obsolete as of ISO 4217:2001(E/F), and "X" for those listed in table A.3, but as "Non-ISO codes". This list is sorted first by status, then by country name.

Format: <currency code>; <currency name>; <country code>; <country name>; <status>

BYB; Belarus Ruble; BY; BELARUS; I  
ECS; Sucre; EC; ECUADOR; I  
MAF; Mali Franc; ML; MALI; I  
TJR; Tajik Ruble; TJ; TAJIKISTAN; I  
AFA; Afghani; AF; AFGHANISTAN; O  
ADP; Andorran Peseta; AD; ANDORRA; O  
AOK; Kwanza; AO; ANGOLA; O  
AON; New Kwanza; AO; ANGOLA; O  
AOR; Kwanza Reajustado; AO; ANGOLA; O  
ARA; Austral; AR; ARGENTINA; O  
ARP; Peso Argentino; AR; ARGENTINA; O  
ATS; Schilling; AT; AUSTRIA; O  
BEC; Convertible Franc; BE; BELGIUM; O  
BEF; Belgian Franc; BE; BELGIUM; O  
BEL; Financial Franc; BE; BELGIUM; O  
BOP; Peso; BO; BOLIVIA; O  
BAD; Dinar; BA; BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; O  
BRB; Cruzeiro; BR; BRAZIL; O  
BRC; Cruzado; BR; BRAZIL; O  
BRE; Cruzeiro; BR; BRAZIL; O  
BRN; New Cruzado; BR; BRAZIL; O  
BRR; Cruzeiro Real; BR; BRAZIL; O  
BGL; Lev; BG; BULGARIA; O  
BUK; N.A.; BU; BURMA; O

HRD; Dinar; HR; CROATIA; O  
CSK; Koruna; CSHH; CZECHOSLOVAKIA; O  
TPE; Timor Escudo; TP; EAST TIMOR; O  
ECV; Ecuadoran Constant Value Unit; EC; ECUADOR; O  
EQE; Ekwele; GQ; EQUATORIAL GUINEA; O  
GQE; Ekwele; GQ; EQUATORIAL GUINEA; O  
XEU; European Currency Unit (E.C.U); --; EUROPEAN MONETARY  
CO-OPERATION FUND (EMCF); O  
FIM; Markka; FI; FINLAND; O  
FRF; French Franc; FR; FRANCE; O  
GEK; Georgian Coupon; GE; GEORGIA; O  
DDM; Mark der DDR; DD; GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC; O  
DEM; Deutsche Mark; DE; GERMANY; O  
GRD; Drachma; GR; GREECE; O  
GNS; Syli; GN; GUINEA; O  
GWE; Guinea Escudo; GW; GUINEA-BISSAU; O  
IEP; Irish Pound; IE; IRELAND; O  
ILP; Pound; IL; ISRAEL; O  
ITL; Italian Lira; IT; ITALY; O  
LVR; Latvian Ruble; LV; LATVIA; O  
LSM; Maloti; LS; LESOTHO; O  
LTT; Talonas; LT; LITHUANIA; O  
LUC; Convertible Franc; LU; LUXEMBOURG; O  
LUF; Luxembourg Franc; LU; LUXEMBOURG; O  
LUL; Financial Franc; LU; LUXEMBOURG; O  
MLF; Mali Franc; ML; MALI; O  
MTP; Maltese Pound; MT; MALTA; O  
MXP; Mexican Peso; MX; MEXICO; O  
MZE; Mozambique Escudo; MZ; MOZAMBIQUE; O  
NLG; Netherlands Guilder; NL; NETHERLANDS; O  
NIC; Cordoba; NI; NICARAGUA; O  
PEI; Inti; PE; PERU; O  
PES; Sol; PE; PERU; O  
PLZ; Zloty; PL; POLAND; O  
PTE; Portuguese Escudo; PT; PORTUGAL; O  
RUR; Russian Ruble; RU; RUSSIAN FEDERATION; O  
ZAL; Financial Rand; ZA; SOUTH AFRICA; O  
RHD; Rhodesian Dollar; RH; SOUTHERN RHODESIA; O  
ESA; Spanish Peseta ("A" Account); ES; SPAIN; O  
ESB; Spanish Peseta (convertible Peseta Accounts); ES;  
SPAIN; O  
ESP; Spanish Peseta; ES; SPAIN; O  
SDP; Sudanese Pound; SD; SUDAN; O  
SRG; Suriname Guilder; SR; SURINAME; O  
UGS; Uganda Shilling; UG; UGANDA; O  
UAK; Karbovanet; UA; UKRAINE; O  
SUR; Rouble; SU; UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS; O  
UYP; Uruguayan Peso; UY; URUGUAY; O  
YDD; Yemeni Dinar; YE; YEMEN, DEMOCRATIC; O  
YUD; New Yugoslavian Dinar; YU; YUGOSLAVIA; O  
YUM; Yugoslavian Dinar; YU; YUGOSLAVIA; O  
YUN; Yugoslavian Dinar; YU; YUGOSLAVIA; O  
ZRN; New Zaïre; ZR; ZAIRE; O  
ZRZ; Zaïre; ZR; ZAIRE; O  
ZWC; Rhodesian Dollar; ZW; ZIMBABWE; O  
XRE; RINET Funds Code; --; (no country); O  
ALK; Old Lek; AL; ALBANIA; X

ARY; Peso; AR; ARGENTINA; X  
BGJ; Lev A/52; BG; BULGARIA; X  
BGK; Lev A/62; BG; BULGARIA; X  
CNX; Peoples Bank Dollar; CN; CHINA; X  
CSJ; Krona A/53; CSHH; CZECHOSLOVAKIA; X  
GNE; Syli; GN; GUINEA; X  
ISJ; Old Krona; IS; ICELAND; X  
ILR; Old Shekel; IL; ISRAEL; X  
LAJ; Kip Pot Pol; LA; LAO; X  
MVQ; Maldive Rupee; MV; MALDIVES; X  
MAF; Mali Franc; ML; MALI; X  
PEH; Sol; PE; PERU; X  
ROK; Leu A/52; RO; ROMANIA; X  
UGW; Old Shilling; UG; UGANDA; X  
UYN; Old Urugay Peso; UY; URUGUAY; X  
VNC; Old Dong; VN; VIETNAM; X