

Subject: Region / Subdivision validity for flags
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Working Draft: <https://goo.gl/f6XLqn>

The UTC needs clear region/subdivision validity criteria for use with the regional indicators and PRI 299. Independently, the CLDR TC has been working on adding subdivisions and also clarifying the validity criteria for Unicode language identifiers (and their components, such as the region subtags). On that basis, we can make the following proposal.

Disclaimer: This document represents a preliminary proposal which is subject to UTC review.

Proposal

1. The valid regional indicator sequences must correspond to a two-letter region code that has idStatus=regular, *or* is the macroregion code “EU”, *or* is the exceptionally reserved ISO code “UN”.
 - The two-letter region codes that are deprecated may be interpreted, but should never be generated.
 - The two-letter region codes are invalid that have idStatus= unknown, macroregion (except for EU), private_use, or no idStatus (except for UN).
2. The valid subdivision TAG sequences correspond to subdivision codes that have idStatus=regular.
 - The subdivision codes that are deprecated may be interpreted, but should never be generated.
 - Note that the region codes used in #2 may consist of 3 digits. None yet exist, but they are allowed in BCP47 in case ISO destabilizes codes.
 - As described elsewhere, it is anticipated that only certain stable, well-known subdivisions would be supported by major vendors.

Background

The draft data associated with the subdivisions and the validity data are in the following files.

- <http://www.unicode.org/repos/cldr/trunk/common/validity/region.xml>
- <http://www.unicode.org/repos/cldr/trunk/common/validity/subdivision.xml>

The draft version of LDML 28 that specifies the data is in <http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr35/proposed.html>.