

Hierarchical Location Codes 2026

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

all cell content explanations w/o brackets or dots, multiples entries separated by pipe sign

	[A]	HLC tree: HLC hierarchical structure including code
	[B]	HLC-M: HLC MAIN alpha-numerical code (3-4 characters), starts with an digit
	[C]	## type: e.g. G=global - R=region - S=subregion - H=historical - C=country - W=water / see types sheet
	[D]	C,D,H HLC-2: (alpha-2) Code - two-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1
		C,D,H ISO 3166-2 principal subdivision of an country (seperated from country code with hypen)
		C,D,H ISO 3166-3 (alpha-4) Code for former countries (2 letters old code + 2 letters new code or status)
	not	C,D,H,V HLC (alpha-2) Code - HLC pseudo "area/region/country" codes (2 letters)
		R,S HLC (alpha-2) Code - HLC pseudo (sub-)region codes (1 letter + 1 digit)
	[E]	HLC-3: (alpha-3) Code additions - depends on type field ## and content of HLC-2
	(a)	not C (us.gov) geopolitical entities, names and codes (X + 2 letters)
	(o)	not C (alpha-3) subregion codes (2 letters + 1 digit)
U N O	[F]	UN: M49: UNO numerical code for country or region (old/invalid/inherit) - (us.gov) extensions > 900
	[F]	LO: ILO: International Labour Organization - index of countries, territories and areas
	[F]	OA: ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization - airport prefix code (1 or 2 letters) - see also ??
	[G]	HX: HLC-X: technical codes (alpha-3) - (X + 1 letter + 1 digit) or (1 letter + 2 digits) or (1 letter + 1 digit + #)
	[H]	!! Country, Area or period (including temperature zones Information from ESSD+ and biogeographic realms)
T E R O	[I]	CW: COW-G&W: Correlates of War - Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Michael D. Ward (2022)
	[I]	PD: WGS-RPD: World Geographical Scheme for Recording Plant Distributions 2.0 (2001) + 3.0 proposals
	[I]	BW: BEOW (oneearth.org) Biological Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
	[I]	TW: TEOW (worldwildlife.org) Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
A K V O	[J]	FA: HLC-F: HLC FAO style area codes - original FAO codes in brackets (2022)
	[J]	WN: CWWN (nga.mil) Codes for World Waterbody Names + HCL extensions & changes (1 digit + 2 letters)
	[J]	MW: MEOW (worldwildlife.org) Marine Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
	[J]	FW: FEOW (worldwildlife.org) Freshwater Ecoregions of the World - HLC scheme adaption
	[K]	TI: US TIC (Treasury International Capital) Forms (mainly 5 digits) - geographical classification (2022)
	[K]	ID: WID: World Inequality DB (2 letters) - historical evolution world distribution of income & wealth (2022)
	[L]	R*: ITU: International Telecommunication Union - *=Region - Country A1/3 - country dial-in codes (digits)
	[L]	ED: ESSD: Earth System Science Data (2 digits) - geographical group (2019)
	[M]	NT: NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization - country codes (9th Edition)
	[M]	EU: EUSS (European Statistic System) - Geonomenclature (2020+) - partly other ISO2 Codes
	[N]	AU: (SACC) ABS 1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (2019+) - exceptions from ISO see ??
	(a)	NZ: (NZSCC) New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries - differences to SACC in brackets
	[O]	DE: (statis) Statistisches Bundesamt - Staats- und Gebietssystematik (2024) - only digits
	[O]	IT: ISTAT (and MIN) codes for states and regions (2022)
	[O]	UK: UK defined regions codes - exceptions from ISO see ??
	[P]	AR: (indec) Instituto Nacional de Estadística Censos - Denominaciones y códigos de países (2015)
	[P]	ZA: (stats sa) department of statistics of south africa - country code list (2022)
	[P]	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 ??
	[Q]	FR: INSEE: Institut .. statistique .. économiques - codification des pays et territoires étrangers ..
	[Q]	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[.....])
O T H E R S		CA: SCCAI: Canadian Standard Classification of Countries and Areas of Interest - exceptions from ISO & region codes
		DR: CLDR: The Unicode Common Locale Data Repository - exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
		HI: historical Information from various sources (fips,iso,genc etc.pp)
		OA: ICAO: some codes by the International Civil Aviation Organization
		OD: OPD: opendata.com "dead" countries exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
		RU: OKSM: Russian Classification of Countries of the World - exception codes (H2,H3,UN)
		WG: WGS84: World Geodetic System 1984 simplified centroids notation with degrees & minutes
		WI: WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization - exception codes (H2)

(N) NUL Entry		(X) Unspecified Entry	(L) Logical Entry	
Code	EHC-Water	HLC-Earth	Entry Types	
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		

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

V 7.2.0 - 17.02.2026

XK 901 ⁷⁰¹ Arctic Ocean (AKO)			
702 WAK	707 EAK	7075 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		
768 CMD	775 BMD	
766 WMD	769 ADR	
	770 IOD	772 EMD
	771 SCD	

XP 902 ⁷⁰⁹ Pacific (PAO)			
721 SCX	711 NWP	710 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

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

OO 979 ⁷⁹⁸
Outlying Oceania

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

ZL XZ 966
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

XM 945 The Americas (AMS=AMN+SAM) · YX 947 Latin America & Caribbean (LAC=CAM+CAR+SAM)

HLC Tree (HL)	HLC-M	#	HLC-2 (ALT)	HLC-3 (ALT)	UNO	HX: Description # VER 7.2.0	TERO	AKVO	TL: ID:	R*: ED:	NT: EU:	AU NZ	DE: IT: UK:	AR: ZA: JP:	CH: FR: NO:	OTHERS WGS84 (DMs) / information / alternative name or codes
997-9974-9976	9976	H	(#)	RMR	(#)	(#) Roman Republic (509-27 BC)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
997-9974-9977	9977	H	(#)	RME	(#)	(#) Roman Empire (27-395 BC/CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
997-9974-9978	9978	H	(#)	RMW	(#)	(#) Western Roman Empire (395-476/80 CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
997-9979	9979	H	(#)	LBC	(#)	(#) Lombard Kingdom (568-774 CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(IT:Neustria,Austria,Tuscia,Spoletto,Benevento)
998-	998	H	XV	AMV	(#)	(HX:XDV) Ancient & Medieval India (600-550 BC/CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9981	9981	H	(#)	MHI	(#)	(#) Mahajanapadas (600-345 BC)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9982	9982	H	(#)	MAV	(#)	(#) Maurya Empire (321-184 BC)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9983	9983	H	(#)	SVH	(#)	(#) Satavahana Empire (228-224 BC/CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9984	9984	H	(#)	KND	(#)	(#) Kuninda Kingdom (150-250 BC/CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9985	9985	H	(#)	SGA	(#)	(#) Shunga Empire (185-73 BC)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
998-9986	9986	H	(#)	GPT	(#)	(#) Gupta Empire (240-550 CE)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-	999	X	XK	XDX	(#)	(HX:XDX) not on earth's surface	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-9995	9995	X	IA	AIR	(#)	(HX:X85) In the air	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(UK:XZ,XZ1,992)
998-9997	9997	X	FX	FXP	(#)	(HX:X87) fictional location	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	
999-9999	9999	X	NX	NEX	(#)	(HX:X89) outer space - nexus	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(incl. Earth orbits:Moon & other celestial bodies & their orbits) (USE:1,XAZ,909)