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Country Name Abbreviations

Q. *Does USDA allow for the use of abbreviations for country names when declaring the country of origin and marking products for retail sale?*

A. In general, abbreviations are not acceptable. Only those abbreviations approved for use under CBP rules, regulations, and policies are acceptable. CBP does allow for some abbreviations or variant spellings for marking purposes.

In determining the sufficiency of the abbreviation, CBP applies 19 CFR §134.45(b), which provides for "Approved Markings of Country Names." Significantly, an abbreviation must "unmistakably indicate the name of the country." ISO codes are used for statistical purposes. Most ISO codes do not unmistakably indicate the name of the country of origin. Therefore, they are not acceptable under 19 CFR §134.45(b). CBP does not have an official list of acceptable abbreviations. However, below is a compilation of some of the cases that CBP has handled on the subject in recent years.

I. ACCEPTABLE ABBREVIATIONS

China, Peoples Republic of

The abbreviations "P.R. China," and "China" are acceptable for country of origin marking purposes for goods manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

SOURCE: HRL 730578, dated July 10, 1987. See also, HRL 560693, dated March 6, 1998.

Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of

The markings "FYR Macedonia" and "F.Y.R.O.M. (Macedonia)" are acceptable. It is of no significance whether the abbreviations come before or after the word "Macedonia" provided that the abbreviations "FYR" or "F.Y.R.O.M." are adjacent to the word Macedonia and the words are in a comparable size.

SOURCE: HRL 735526, dated April 28, 1994.

Micronesia, Federated States of

Any of the following may be used to designate the country of origin of merchandise manufactured in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia:

- 1) YAP, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
- 2) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
- 3) MICRONESIA

SOURCE: HRL 734856, dated December 23, 1992.

Netherlands, The

"Netherlands" or "Holland" are acceptable abbreviations for The Netherlands.

SOURCE: HRL 785083, dated August 5, 1993.

Northern Ireland

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The marking "Made in the U.K." is acceptable for goods made in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

SOURCE: HRL 732101, dated April 5, 1990.

Philippines, Republic of the

The word PHILIPPINES may be hyphenated and placed on two lines, or written as "PHILIPNES."

SOURCE: HRL 727843, dated July 3, 1985.

Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of

The abbreviation "Saudi" is an acceptable abbreviation for country of origin marking purposes because it unmistakably identifies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the country of origin of the article.

SOURCE: 561026, dated July 24, 1998.

United Kingdom

"U.K." is an acceptable country of origin marking for the United Kingdom.

SOURCE: HRL 735379, dated June 15, 1994 (citing T.D. 74-103(1), April 17, 1974)).

The marking "Made in the U.K." is acceptable for goods made in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

SOURCE: HRL 732101, dated April 5, 1990.

II. REJECTED ABBREVIATIONS

Argentina

"Arg" or "Argtin" are not acceptable abbreviations for the Argentine Republic.

SOURCE: HRL 733104, dated March 15, 1990.

Canada

"CDA" is not an acceptable abbreviation for Canada.

SOURCE: HRL 724336, dated January 16, 1984.

"CAN" is not an acceptable abbreviation for Canada.

SOURCE: HRL 722566, dated September 14, 1983.

China, People's Republic of

"PRC" is not an acceptable abbreviation for articles imported from the People's Republic of China.

SOURCE: HRL 727372, dated March 18, 1985. See also, HRL 730578, dated July 10, 1987; HRL 560693, dated March 6, 1998.

Czech Republic

In T.D. 93-17 (March 3, 1993), Customs notified the public that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR or Czechoslovakia) ceased to exist and was

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succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Customs received informal advice from The U.S. Board of Geographic Names [sic] that there is still no short form name for the "Czech Republic", and that it would not support the designation "Czech" to indicate the country of origin of a product of the Czech Republic. Therefore, products of the Czech Republic imported on or after January 1, 1994, must be marked "Czech Republic," or "Czech Rep." The variant spelling "Republik" is also acceptable. SOURCE: HRL 735099, dated September 20, 1993.

The abbreviations "CZ" and "CR" are not acceptable for purposes of 19 CFR 134.45(b) for goods made in the Czech Republic.

SOURCE: HRL 560978, dated July 24, 1998.

Dominican Republic

The abbreviation "DOM REP." does not unmistakably indicate the name of the country of origin to an ultimate purchaser without any guesswork and is neither the recognized short form name or long form name for this country according to the U.S. Department of State. Therefore, this abbreviation is unacceptable for purposes of 19 CFR 1304.

SOURCE: HRL 561028, dated September 21, 1998.

European Community/ European Union

The European Community is a organization of sovereign states, operating largely as a customs union not a nation state. Until such time as the EC might achieve full political union, and its member countries divest themselves of independent status as states, the names "EC" and "European Community" cannot be used as country names for marking purposes.

SOURCE: HRL 734667, June 16, 1993.

"EU" is not acceptable for country of origin marking purposes.

SOURCE: 734820, dated April 21, 1994.

Germany, Federal Republic of

Because "West Germany" is no longer recognized as a country, this marking is unacceptable. Likewise, the markings "Made in FRG" and "Made in GDR" would not be allowed. Instead, the word "Germany" must be used, without distinction as to east or west, or "Federal Republic of Germany"

SOURCE: O.C.O.D. 90-221 Customs Bulletin 45/46, November 14, 1990.

The abbreviations "D," "G" and "Ger" are not acceptable abbreviations under 19 CFR 134.45(b) for goods manufactured in the Federal Republic of Germany.

SOURCE: HRL 560978, dated July 24, 1998.

Hong Kong

"H.K." is not an acceptable abbreviation for Hong Kong.

SOURCE: 735281, dated February 24, 1994.

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Hungary, Republic of

"Hun" or "Hung" are not acceptable abbreviations for Hungary.

SOURCE: HRL 733104, dated March 15, 1990.

Indonesia, Republic of

"IN" is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Republic of Indonesia.

SOURCE: HRL 734443, dated June 3, 1992.

The abbreviation "INDO" does not unmistakably indicate the name of the country of origin to an ultimate purchaser without any guesswork and is neither the recognized short form name or long form name for this country according to the U.S. Department of State. Therefore, this abbreviation is unacceptable for purposes of 19 CFR 1304.

SOURCE: HRL 561028, dated September 21, 1998.

Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of

The Department of State has also advised that the conventional long form name as approved by the United States Board of Geographic Names is The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and that there is presently no acceptable short-form name. They have also specifically declared that the name "Macedonia" by itself should not be used and that "Republic of Macedonia" is also not an appropriate alternative. The name is provisional and subject to future review. However, Customs believes that most consumers will not recognize "F.Y.R.O.M." as an abbreviation for The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SOURCE: HRL 735526, dated April 28, 1994.

Mexico

The abbreviation "Mex" does not unmistakably identify Mexico as the country of origin of the product and is not an acceptable country of origin marking for purposes of 19 U.S.C. 1304.

Source: HRL 561442, dated July 19, 1999.

Micronesia, Federated States of

Yap, which is both the name of an island grouping and an island in the Federated States of Micronesia, is neither an independent state with which the U.S. maintains diplomatic relations nor a colony, possession or protectorate outside the boundaries of the mother country. Therefore, neither "YAP" by itself nor "YAP, F.S.M." constitute acceptable markings.

SOURCE: HRL 734856, dated December 23, 1992.

Netherlands, The

"NL" is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Netherlands.

SOURCE: HRL 785083, dated August 5, 1993.

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Philippines, Republic of the

“Phil” is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Republic of the Philippines.
SOURCE: HRL 727843, dated July 3, 1985.

Russian Federation

“RF” is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Russian Federation.
SOURCE: HRL 559931, dated July 11, 1996.

Singapore

“SINGPR” is an unacceptable abbreviation which does not unmistakably indicate the country of origin in compliance with the requirements of 19 U.S.C. 1304.
SOURCE: HRL 561306, dated April 15, 1999.

Scotland

Goods manufactured in Scotland must be marked to indicate the country of origin by the following choice of words: "Scotland", "United Kingdom", or "Great Britain."

SOURCE: HRL 734937, dated March 17, 1993.

The abbreviations "U.K." or "Gt. Britain" are acceptable.

SOURCE: T.D. 74-130(1) (April 17, 1974).

United Arab Emirates

The abbreviation “UAE” does not unmistakably indicate the country of origin, United Arab Emirates, to the ultimate purchaser and is not in compliance with 19 U.S.C. 1304.

SOURCE: HRL 561083, dated November 5, 1998.

Venezuela, Republic of

"VZLA" or "VENZLA" are not acceptable abbreviations for the Republic of Venezuela.

SOURCE: HRL 731799, dated May 15, 1989.

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