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# International vehicle registration code

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The country in which a **motor vehicle's vehicle registration plate** was issued may be indicated by an **international licence plate country code**, formerly known as an **International Registration Letter**<sup>[1]</sup> or **International Circulation Mark**.<sup>[2]</sup> It is referred to as the **Distinguishing sign of the State of registration** in the [Geneva Convention on Road Traffic](#) of 1949 and the [Vienna Convention on Road Traffic](#) of 1968.

The allocation of codes is maintained by the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#) as the *Distinguishing Signs Used on Vehicles in International Traffic*<sup>[3]</sup> (sometimes abbreviated to DSIT), authorised by the UN's Geneva Convention on Road Traffic<sup>[4]</sup> and the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic.<sup>[5]</sup> Many vehicle codes created since the adoption of [ISO 3166](#) coincide with ISO two- or three-letter codes. The 2004 *South-East Asian Agreement ... for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People* uses a mixture of ISO and DSIT codes: Myanmar uses MYA, China CHN, and Cambodia KH (ISO codes), Thailand uses T (DSIT code), Laos LAO, and Vietnam VN (coincident ISO and DSIT codes).<sup>[6]</sup>

The Geneva Convention on Road Traffic entered into force on 26 March 1952. One of the main benefits of the convention for motorists is the obligation on signatory countries to recognize the legality of vehicles from other signatory countries. When driving in other signatory countries, the distinguishing sign of the country of registration must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. This sign must be placed separately from the registration plate and may **not** be incorporated into the vehicle registration plate.



Example of a white oval plate or sticker; this one represents [Switzerland](#)



Example of a yellow oval diplomatic and consular corps plate or sticker



A 1960 [Borgward Isabella](#) showing the international vehicle code [NL](#) ([Netherlands](#))



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[Estonian](#) registration plate in EU ↗  
 standard format with international code  
 EST



[Indian](#) vehicle registration plate in ↗  
 Indian standard format with  
 international code IND

## Location [ [edit](#) ]









Since the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic entered into force on 21 May 1977, in signatory countries it replaces previous road traffic conventions, including the [Geneva Convention on Road Traffic](#), in accordance with its Article 48. According to the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, the distinguishing sign of the country of registration must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. The sign may either be placed separately from the registration plate as a white oval plate or sticker, or be incorporated in the [vehicle registration plate](#). When the distinguishing sign is incorporated in the registration plate, it must also appear on the front registration plate of the vehicle.

The requirement to display a separate distinguishing sign is not necessary within the [European Economic Area](#), for vehicles with license plates in [the common EU format](#), which satisfy the requirements of the Vienna Convention, and so are also valid in non-EU countries signatory to that convention.<sup>[7]</sup> Separate signs are also not needed for Canada, Mexico and the United States, where the province, state or district of registration is usually embossed or surface-printed on the vehicle registration plate.









## Current codes [ [edit](#) ]


















| Code <span style="float: right;">↕</span> | Country <span style="float: right;">↕</span>                        | From <span style="float: right;">↕</span> | Previous code(s) <span style="float: right;">↕</span> | Notes <span style="float: right;">↕</span>                                      |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A   | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Austria</a>     | 1911                                      |   | <i>Austria</i> (Latin, English, ...) vs. <i>Österreich</i> (German); 1939–1945? |
| AFG                                       | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Afghanistan</a> | 1971                                      |   |   |
| AL  | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Albania</a>     | 1934                                      |   |   |
| AM  | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Armenia</a>     | 1992                                      | SU  | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>                               |
| AND                                       | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Andorra</a>     | 1957                                      |   |   |
| AUS                                       | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Australia</a>   | 1954                                      |   |   |
| AZ  | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Azerbaijan</a>  | 1993                                      | SU  | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>                               |
| B   | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Belgium</a>     | 1910                                      |   |   |
| BD  | <span><span><span></span></span></span> <a href="#">Bangladesh</a>  | 1978                                      | PAK   | Formerly <a href="#">East Pakistan</a>  |

| Code                           | Country  | From                              | Previous code(s) | Notes  |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| BDS                            |  Barbados                 | 1956                              |                  |  |
| BF                             |  Burkina Faso             | 1990                              | RHV / HV         | Until August 2003, 1984; ( <i>République de</i> ) <i>Haute Volta</i> ( <i>Upper Volta</i> )  |
| BG                             |  Bulgaria                 | 1910                              |                  |  |
| BH                             |  Belize                   | 1938                              |                  | Formerly <i>British Honduras</i> . Still officially registered as BH as of 2007. New driving licenses appear to have 'BZ' instead of 'BH' as Belize's code. <sup>[8]</sup> |
| BIH                            |  Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 1992                              | YU               | <i>Bosna i Hercegovina</i> . Formerly part of Yugoslavia.  |
| BOL                            |  Bolivia                  | 1967                              |                  |  |
| BR                             |  Brazil                   | 1930                              |                  |  |
| BRN                            |  Bahrain                  | 1954                              |                  |  |
| BRU                            |  Brunei                   | 1956                              |                  |  |
| BS                             |  Bahamas                 | 1950                              |                  |  |
| BUR                            |  Myanmar                | 1956                              | BA, MYA          | Also known as Burma.   |
| BVI                            |  British Virgin Islands | 1910                              |                  |  |
| BW <sup>[9]</sup>              |  Botswana               | 2003                              | BP               | Officially used by Botswana since 2003. Formerly RB (Republic of Botswana) until 2004. Formerly <i>Bechuanaland Protectorate</i>   |
| BY                             |  Belarus                | 1992 (2004)                       | SU               | Byelorussia; formerly part of the <i>Soviet Union</i> . The UN was officially notified of the change from SU to BY only in 2004. <sup>[10]</sup>                           |
| C <sup>[citation needed]</sup> |  Cuba                   | 1930 <sup>[citation needed]</sup> |                  |  |
| CAM                            |  Cameroon               | 1952                              | F & WAN          | Formerly a territory of <i>France</i> , plus a strip of territory from eastern Nigeria (WAN). Unofficially using CMR on their plates.                                      |
| CDN                            |  Canada                 | 1956                              | CA               | CDN for "Canada Dominion" <sup>[citation needed]</sup>   |
| CGO                            |  Democratic Republic of | 1997                              | CB, RCL, ZRE     | <i>French: Congo Belge, République de Congo Léopoldville</i> , Congo ( <i>Kinshasa</i> ), <i>Zaire</i> ,   |

| Code | Country  | From | Previous code(s)  | Notes  |
|------|--|------|---|--|
|      | the Congo  |      |   | <i>République Démocratique du Congo</i> (French)   |
| CH   |  Switzerland                          | 1911 |   | <i>Confoederatio Helvetica</i> (Latin)   |
| CI   |  Ivory Coast ( <i>Côte d'Ivoire</i> ) | 1961 | F   | Formerly a territory of France   |
| CL   |  Sri Lanka                            | 1961 |   | Formerly Ceylon. However, "SL" is being used on current driver licenses.   |
| CO   |  Colombia                             | 1952 |   |  |
| CR   |  Costa Rica                           | 1956 |   |  |
| CY   |  Cyprus                               | 1932 |   |  |
| CZ   |  Czech Republic                       | 1993 | CS  | Formerly <i>Československo</i> (Czechoslovakia)  |
| D    |  Germany                             | 1910 |   | <i>Deutschland</i> (German); also used until 1974 by  East Germany, which then used DDR until German reunification in 1990 |
| DK   |  Denmark                            | 1914 |   |  |
| DOM  |  Dominican Republic                 | 1952 |   |  |
| DY   |  Benin                              | 1910 | Part of AOF ( <i>Afrique occidentale française</i> ) – 1960 | <i>Dahomey</i> (name until 1975). Uses RB unofficially ( <i>République du Bénin</i> )  |
| DZ   |  Algeria                            | 1962 | F – 1911  | <i>Djazayer</i> (Algerian Arabic: جزائر); Formerly part of France  |
| E    |  Spain                              | 1910 |   | <i>España</i> (Spanish)  |
| EAK  |  Kenya                              | 1938 |   | East Africa Kenya  |
| EAT  |  Tanzania                           | 1938 | EAT & EAZ   | East Africa Tanzania; formerly East Africa <i>Tanganyika</i> and East Africa Zanzibar  |
| EAU  |  Uganda                             | 1938 |   | East Africa Uganda   |
| EAZ  |  Zanzibar                           | 1964 |   | East Africa Zanzibar   |
| EC   |  Ecuador                            | 1962 | EQ  |  |

| Code | Country   | From | Previous code(s)                         | Notes  |
|------|---|------|--|--|
| ER   |  Eritrea         | 1993 | AOI                                      | <i>Africa Orientale Italiana</i> (Italian)   |
| ES   |  El Salvador     | 1978 |  |  |
| EST  |  Estonia         | 1993 | EW 1919–1940 & 1991–1993<br>SU 1940–1991 | <i>Eesti Vabariik</i> (Estonian; old style <i>Eesti Wabariik</i> )   |
| ET   |  Egypt           | 1927 |  |  |
| ETH  |  Ethiopia        | 1964 | AOI – 1941                               | <i>Africa Orientale Italiana</i> (Italian)   |
| F    |  France          | 1910 |  |  |
| FIN  |  Finland         | 1993 | SF                                       | <i>Suomi / Finland</i> (Finnish/Swedish)   |
| FJI  |  Fiji            | 1971 |  |  |
| FL   |  Liechtenstein   | 1923 |  | <i>Fürstentum Liechtenstein</i> (German, Principality of Liechtenstein)  |
| FO   |  Faroe Islands | 1996 |  | <i>Føroyar</i>   |
| G    |  Gabon         | 1974 | ALEF – 1960                              | <i>Afrique Équatoriale Française</i> . Unofficially using RG on their license plates.  |
| GBA  |  Alderney      | 1924 |  | (United Kingdom of) <b>Great Britain &amp; Northern Ireland – Alderney</b>   |
| GBG  |  Guernsey      | 1924 |  | (United Kingdom of) <b>Great Britain &amp; Northern Ireland – Guernsey</b>   |
| GBJ  |  Jersey        | 1924 |  | (United Kingdom of) <b>Great Britain &amp; Northern Ireland – Jersey</b>   |
| GBM  |  Isle of Man   | 1932 |  | (United Kingdom of) <b>Great Britain &amp; Northern Ireland – Isle of Man</b>  |
| GBZ  |  Gibraltar     | 1924 |  | (United Kingdom of) <b>Great Britain &amp; Northern Ireland – Gibraltar</b> (Z was assigned because G was already used for Guernsey) |
| GCA  |  Guatemala     | 1956 | G  | Guatemala, Central America   |





| Code | Country   | From                       | Previous code(s)                                  | Notes   |
|------|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| GE   |  Georgia   | 1992                       | SU  | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a> . Older licence plates use "GEO" instead of "GE". Also used illegally by Equatorial-Guinea ( <a href="#">Spanish</a> : <i>Guinea Ecuatorial</i> ).  |
| GH   |  Ghana     | 1959                       | WAC – 1957  | West Africa <a href="#">Gold Coast</a> – 1957   |
| GR   |  Greece    | 1913                       |   |   |
| GUY  |  Guyana    | 1972                       | BRG   | Formerly <a href="#">British Guiana</a> – 1966  |
| H    |  Hungary   | 1910                       |   |   |
| HKJ  |  Jordan    | 1966                       | JOR   | Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan   |
| HN   |  Honduras  | ⚠ <i>[citation needed]</i> |   | Unofficial: no other code found for Honduras  |
| HR   |  Croatia | 1992                       | SHS 1919–29<br>Y 1929–53<br>YU 1953–92            | <i>Hrvatska</i> ( <a href="#">Croatian</a> ). Formerly part of <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a> . Immediately after Croatia's declaration of independence in 1991, it was common to see unofficial oval stickers with the letters "CRO". Despite the initial anticipation that Croatia's international vehicle registration code would be "CRO", Croatia opted for "HR" ( <i>Hrvatska</i> ) instead.<br><br>SHS was for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes ( <i>Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca</i> ). |
| I    |  Italy   | 1910                       |   |   |
| IL   |  Israel  | 1952                       |   | "Israel" is written on the plate also in Hebrew (ישראל) and Arabic (إسرائيل)  |
| IND  |  India   | 1947                       | BI  |   |
| IR   |  Iran    | 1936                       | PR  |   |
| IRL  |  Ireland | 1992                       | GB – 1910<br>SE – 1924<br>EIR – 1938<br>EIR/IRL – | Formerly a part of the United Kingdom, <i>Saorstát Éireann, Éire</i> .  |

| Code  | Country  | From | Previous code(s)             | Notes   |
|---|--|------|------------------------------|---|
|   |  |      | 1962                         |   |
| IRQ   |  Iraq           | 1930 |                              |   |
| IS  |  Iceland        | 1936 |                              | <i>Ísland</i> (Icelandic)   |
| J   |  Japan          | 1964 |                              |   |
| JA  |  Jamaica        | 1932 |                              |   |
| K <span><sup>[</sup><i>citation needed</i><sup>]</sup></span> |  Cambodia       | 1956 |                              | Known as <b>Kampuchea</b> 1976–89. Formerly a territory of <b>France</b> .  |
| KG  |  Kyrgyzstan     | 1992 | SU – 1991                    | Formerly part of the <b>Soviet Union</b> . The Kyrgyz government notified the change from "KS" to "KG", which featured on the new <b>car registration plates</b> from March 2016, in August that year to the UN Secretary-General. <sup>[11]</sup> Additionally, most vehicles use "KGZ" oval stickers instead of "KS". |
| KSA   |  Saudi Arabia | 1973 | SA                           | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia   |
| KWT   |  Kuwait       | 1954 |                              |   |
| KZ  |  Kazakhstan   | 1992 | SU – 1991                    | Formerly part of the <b>Soviet Union</b>  |
| L   |  Luxembourg   | 1911 |                              |   |
| LAO   |  Laos         | 1959 | F – 1949                     | Formerly a territory of <b>France</b> ( <b>French Indochina</b> )   |
| LAR   |  Libya        | 1972 | I – 1949, LT                 | Libyan Arab Republic  |
| LB  |  Liberia      | 1967 |                              |   |
| LS  |  Lesotho      | 1967 | BL                           | Basutoland – 1966   |
| LT  |  Lithuania    | 1992 | SU 1940–1991                 |   |
| LV  |  Latvia       | 1992 | LR 1927–1940<br>SU 1940–1991 | <i>Latvijas Republika</i> (Latvian)   |
| M   |  Malta        | 1966 | GBY 1924–66                  |   |
| MA  |  Morocco      | 1924 |                              | <i>Maroc</i> (French)   |

| Code | Country   | From | Previous code(s)  | Notes  |
|------|---|------|---|--|
| MAL  |  Malaysia      | 1967 | PRK – 1957<br>FM 1954–57<br>PTM 1957–67                                   | Formerly <a href="#">Perak</a> , then <a href="#">Federated Malay States</a> , then <a href="#">Persekutuan Tanah Melayu (Malay)</a>   |
| MC   |  Monaco        | 1910 |   |  |
| MD   |  Moldova       | 1992 | SU – 1991   | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>  |
| MEX  |  Mexico        | 1952 |   |  |
| MNE  |  Montenegro    | 2006 | MN 1913–1919<br>SHS 1919–29<br>Y 1929–53<br>YU 1953–2003<br>SCG 2003–2006 | <a href="#">Independent nation</a> until 1918. After that, part of the <a href="#">Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca – Serbo-Croatian)</a> , then part of <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a> and then <a href="#">Serbia and Montenegro (Srbija i Crna Gora – Serbian)</a> . Independence restored in 2006. |
| MGL  |  Mongolia    | 2002 |   | MNG displayed on current plates. Nevertheless, the new format will include MGL once again. <sup>[12]</sup>   |
| MOC  |  Mozambique  | 1975 | MOC:<br>1932–56<br>P: 1957–75   | Formerly part of <a href="#">Portugal. Moçambique (Portuguese)</a>   |
| MS   |  Mauritius   | 1938 |   |  |
| MW   |  Malawi      | 1965 | EA 1932–38<br>NP – 1938–70<br>RNY option 1960–65                          | Formerly the <a href="#">Nyasaland Protectorate</a>  |
| N    |  Norway      | 1922 |   |  |
| NAM  |  Namibia     | 1990 | SWA   | Formerly <a href="#">South West Africa</a>   |
| NAU  |  Nauru       | 1968 |   |  |
| NEP  |  Nepal       | 1970 |   |  |
| NIC  |  Nicaragua   | 1952 |   |  |
| NL   |  Netherlands | 1910 |   |  |
|      |   |      |   | Formerly part of   |





| Code | Country  | From                       | Previous code(s)          | Notes  |
|------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| NMK  |  North Macedonia              | 2019                       | YU – 1992<br>MK 1992–2019 | <i>Yugoslavia</i> . Known as <i>Republic of Macedonia</i> until 2019. Mix of English <i>North</i> and <i>Macedonian Makedonija</i> |
| NZ   |  New Zealand                  | 1958                       |                           |  |
| OM   |  Oman                         | ? <i>[citation needed]</i> |                           |  |
| P    |  Portugal                     | 1910                       |                           | Unofficially and illegally used by Palestine as well <sup>[13]</sup>   |
| PA   |  Panama                       | 1952                       |                           |  |
| PE   |  Peru                         | 1937                       |                           |  |
| PK   |  Pakistan                     | 1947                       |                           |  |
| PL   |  Poland                       | 1921                       |                           |  |
| PNG  |  Papua New Guinea             | 1978                       |                           |  |
| PY   |  Paraguay                     | 1952                       |                           |  |
| Q    |  Qatar                      | 1972                       |                           |  |
| RA   |  Argentina                  | 1927                       |                           | <i>República Argentina</i> ( <i>Spanish</i> )  |
| RC   |  Republic of China (Taiwan) | 1932                       |                           | The Republic of Congo also uses RC illegally on their license plates ( <i>République du Congo</i> ).                               |
| RCA  |  Central African Republic   | 1962                       |                           | <i>République Centrafricaine</i> ( <i>French</i> )   |
| RCB  |  Republic of the Congo      | 1962                       |                           | <i>République du Congo Brazzaville</i> ( <i>French</i> ). Unofficially and illegally using RC on their plates.                     |
| RCH  |  Chile                      | 1930                       |                           | <i>República de Chile</i> ( <i>Spanish</i> )   |
| RG   |  Guinea                     | 1972                       |                           | <i>République de Guinée</i> ( <i>French</i> ). Also used illegally by Gabon.   |
| RH   |  Haiti                      | 1952                       |                           | <i>République d'Haïti</i> ( <i>French</i> )  |
| RI   |  Indonesia                  | 1955                       |                           | <i>Republik Indonesia</i> ( <i>Indonesian</i> )  |
| RIM  |  Mauritania                 | 1964                       |                           | <i>République islamique de Mauritanie</i> ( <i>French</i> )  |

| Code | Country   | From  | Previous code(s)   | Notes   |
|------|---|-------|--|---|
| RKS  |  Kosovo        | 2010  | SHS 1919–29<br>Y 1929–53<br>YU 1953–92<br>SCG 2003–2006<br>SRB 2006–2010 | Republic of <a href="#">Kosovo</a>  |
| RL   |  Lebanon       | 1952  |  | <i>République Libanaise</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> )  |
| RM   |  Madagascar    | 1962  |  | <i>République de Madagascar</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> )  |
| RMM  |  Mali          | 1962  | AOF – 1960   | <i>République du Mali</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> ). Formerly part of French West Africa ( <i>Afrique Occidentale Française</i> )  |
| RN   |  Niger       | 1977  | AOF – 1960   | <i>République du Niger</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> ). Formerly part of French West Africa ( <i>Afrique Occidentale Française</i> ) |
| RO   |  Romania     | 1981  | R - 1981   |   |
| ROK  |  South Korea | 1971  |  | Republic of Korea   |
| RP   |  Philippines | 1975  |  | <i>Republika ng Pilipinas</i> (Republic of the Philippines)   |
| RSM  |  San Marino  | 1932  |  | <i>Repubblica di San Marino</i> ( <a href="#">Italian</a> )   |
| RU   |  Burundi     | 1962? |  | Belgian territory of <a href="#">Ruanda-Urundi</a> . Unofficially using BU on their plates.   |
| RUS  |  Russia      | 1992  | SU   | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>   |
| RWA  |  Rwanda      | 1964  | RU – 1962  | Formerly part of <a href="#">Ruanda-Urundi</a> – 1962   |
| S    |  Sweden      | 1911  |  |   |
| SD   |  Eswatini    | 1935  |  | Formerly Swaziland  |
| SGP  |  Singapore   | 1952  |  |   |
| SK   |  Slovakia    | 1993  | CS 1919–39, 1945–92<br>SQ 1939–  | Formerly <a href="#">Československo</a> ( <a href="#">Czechoslovakia</a> )  |

| Code                | Country   | From | Previous code(s)   | Notes  |
|---------------------|---|------|--|--|
|                     |   |      | 45   |  |
| SLO <sup>[14]</sup> |  Slovenia              | 1992 | SHS 1919–29<br>Y 1929–53<br>YU 1953–92                                 | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes</a> <i>Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca</i> ( <a href="#">Serbo-Croatian</a> ), then part of <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a>  |
| SME                 |  Suriname              | 1936 |  |  |
| SN                  |  Senegal               | 1962 |  |  |
| SO                  |  Somalia               | 1974 |  |  |
| SRB                 |  Serbia                | 2006 | SB – 1919<br>SHS 1919–29<br>Y 1929–53<br>YU 1953–2003<br>SCG 2003–2006 | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Kingdom of Serbia</a> .<br>Then part of <a href="#">Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes</a> ( <i>Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca</i> – <a href="#">Serbo-Croatian</a> ).<br>Then part of <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a> .<br>Then <a href="#">Serbia and Montenegro</a> ( <i>Srbija i Crna Gora</i> – <a href="#">Serbian</a> ) |
| SUD                 |  Sudan               | 1963 |  |  |
| SY                  |  Seychelles          | 1938 |  |  |
| SYR                 |  Syria               | 1952 |  |  |
| T                   |  Thailand            | 1955 | SM   |  |
| THC                 |  Chad                | 1973 |  | <i>Tchad</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> )  |
| TG                  |  Togo                | 1973 |  |  |
| TJ                  |  Tajikistan          | 1992 | SU – 1991  | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a> , used code "PT" for Республика Таджикистан on plates from 1993 to 2003  |
| TM                  |  Turkmenistan        | 1992 | SU – 1991  | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>  |
| TN                  |  Tunisia             | 1957 | F – 1956   | Formerly a territory of <a href="#">France</a>   |
| TO                  |  Tonga               | 1995 |  |  |
| TR                  |  Turkey              | 1923 |  |  |
| TT                  |  Trinidad and Tobago | 1964 |  |  |

| Code                                   | Country  | From | Previous code(s) | Notes   |
|--|--|------|------------------|---|
| UA                                     |  Ukraine              | 1992 | SU               | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>   |
| UAE                                    |  United Arab Emirates | 1971 |                  |   |
| UK                                     |  United Kingdom       | 2021 | GB (1910–2021)   | Before 1922, <a href="#">United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland</a> . Until 2021, "GB" was used, but from 28 September 2021 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland changed its international vehicle registration code from "GB" to "UK". (This does not affect territories for which the United Kingdom controls international relations outside Great Britain and Northern Ireland.) <sup>[15][16]</sup> "UK" was and is the country code on British driving licences, even prior to 2021. |
| USA                                    |  United States      | 1952 | US               |   |
| UY <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup> |  Uruguay            | 2012 | ROU              |   |
| UZ                                     |  Uzbekistan         | 1992 | SU               | Formerly part of the <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>   |
| V                                      |  Vatican City       | 1931 |                  | CV ( <i>Italian: Città del Vaticano</i> ) is used as a prefix on the licence plate number itself.   |
| VN                                     |  Vietnam            | 1953 |                  |   |
| WAG                                    |  Gambia             | 1932 |                  | West Africa Gambia  |
| WAL                                    |  Sierra Leone       | 1937 |                  | West Africa Sierra Leone; on local licence plates SLE is used   |
| WAN                                    |  Nigeria            | 1937 |                  | West Africa Nigeria   |
| WD                                     |  Dominica           | 1954 |                  | Windward Islands Dominica   |
| WG                                     |  Grenada            | 1932 |                  | Windward Islands Grenada  |
| WL                                     |  Saint Lucia        | 1932 |                  | Windward Islands Saint Lucia  |
| WS                                     |  Samoa              | 1962 |                  | Formerly Western Samoa  |

| Code | Country  | From                                     | Previous code(s) | Notes  |
|------|--|--|------------------|--|
| WV   |  Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1932                                     |                  | Windward Islands Saint Vincent   |
| YAR  |  Yemen                            | 1960                                     |                  | North Yemen formerly known as the <a href="#">Yemen Arab Republic</a>  |
| YV   |  Venezuela                        | 1955                                     |                  |  |
| Z    |  Zambia                           | 1964 <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup> | RNR              | Formerly <a href="#">Northern Rhodesia</a> . However, "ZM" is used on current driving licences.                          |
| ZA   |  South Africa                     | 1936                                     |                  | <i>Zuid-Afrika</i> (from <a href="#">Dutch</a> ; in <a href="#">Afrikaans</a> it is <i>Suid-Afrika</i> <sup>[17]</sup> ) |
| ZW   |  Zimbabwe                         | 1980                                     | SR, RSR          | Formerly <a href="#">Southern Rhodesia</a> until 1965, <a href="#">Rhodesia</a> unrecognised until 1980                  |

## Codes no longer in use [[edit](#)]

| Code | Country  | Used until | Replaced by                      | Notes   |
|------|--|------------|----------------------------------|---|
| ADN  |  Aden                       | 1980       | Y                                | From 1938, also known as South Yemen, <a href="#">People's Democratic Republic of Yemen</a> (1967)                |
| BA   |  Burma                      | 1956       | BUR                              | From 1937   |
| BP   |  Bechuanaland Protectorate  | 1966       |                                  | Now <a href="#">Botswana</a>  |
| CA   |  Canada                     | 1956       | CDN                              |   |
| CS   |  Czechoslovakia             | 1992       | CZ / SK                          | Split into <a href="#">Czech Republic</a> and <a href="#">Slovakia</a> .  |
| DA   |  Danzig, Free City of       | 1939       | D (1939–1945)<br>PL (since 1945) | Danzig ( <a href="#">German</a> for <a href="#">Gdańsk</a> )  |
| DDR  |  German Democratic Republic | 1990       | D                                | From 1974 (used D until 1974), Deutsche Demokratische Republik  |
| EIR  |  Éire                       | 1992       | IRL                              | Now  <a href="#">Ireland</a> |
| EW   |  Estonia                    | 1993       | EST                              | Eesti Vabariik ( <a href="#">Estonian</a> )   |

| Code ↕ | Country ↕   | Used until ↕ | Replaced by ↕ | Notes ↕   |
|--------|---|--------------|---------------|---|
| FR     |  <a href="#">Faroe Islands</a>   | 1996         | FO            | Føroyar ( <a href="#">Faroese</a> )   |
| GB     |  <a href="#">United Kingdom</a>  | 2021         | UK            | Changed to UK to be inclusive of Northern Ireland (which is not part of Great Britain), though the previous GB did also apply to Northern Ireland |
| GBY    |  <a href="#">Malta</a>   | 1966         | M             | Changed after independence from UK  |
| GRO    |  <a href="#">Greenland</a>   | 1910         | KN            | Grønland ( <a href="#">Danish language</a> ) / Kalaallit Nunaat ( <a href="#">Greenlandic language</a> ). Unofficial. The official code is DK.    |
| HV     |  <a href="#">Upper Volta</a> (French: <i>Haute-Volta</i> ), now <a href="#">Burkina Faso</a> | 1984         | BF            | Upper Volta   |
| LR     |  <a href="#">Latvia</a>  | 1927–1940    | SU, LV        | Latvijas Republika ( <a href="#">Latvian</a> )  |
| MK     |  <a href="#">Republic of Macedonia</a>  | 1992–2019    | NMK           | Became <a href="#">North Macedonia</a> in 2019  |
| NA     |  <a href="#">Netherlands Antilles</a>  | 1957         |               | The Netherlands Antilles were dissolved in 2010.  |
| PANG   |  <a href="#">Angola</a>  | 1956         | P (1957-1975) | From 1932. Formerly part of <a href="#">Portugal</a>  |
| R      |  <a href="#">Romania</a>   | 1981         | RO            |   |
| RB     |  <a href="#">Botswana</a>  | 2003         | BP            | Republic of Botswana. Formerly <a href="#">Bechuanaland Protectorate</a>  |
| RNY    |  <a href="#">Rhodesia-Nyasaland Fed.</a>   | 1953–1963    | NP, NR, SR    | Now <a href="#">Malawi</a> , <a href="#">Zambia</a> and <a href="#">Zimbabwe</a>  |
| ROU    |  <a href="#">Uruguay</a>   | 1979–2012    | UY            | República Oriental del Uruguay ( <a href="#">Spanish</a> )  |
| RSR    |  <a href="#">Southern Rhodesia</a>   | 1965–1979    | SR            | Now <a href="#">Zimbabwe</a>  |
| RT     |  <a href="#">Togo</a>  | 1973         | TG            | République togolaise ( <a href="#">French</a> ). Formerly <a href="#">French Togoland</a> – 1960  |
| SA     |  <a href="#">Saar Territory</a> (League of Nations mandate)                                | 1926–1935    | D             | SA is again Germany's <a href="#">Saarland</a>  |
| SA     |  <a href="#">Saar Protectorate</a>   | 1947–1956    | D             | SA is again Germany's <a href="#">Saarland</a>  |
| SB     |  <a href="#">Serbia</a>  | 1919         | SHS           | Serbia became part of <a href="#">Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes</a>   |

| Code ↕ | Country ↕  | Used until ↕ | Replaced by ↕  | Notes ↕   |
|--------|--|--------------|--|---|
| SCG    |  Serbia and Montenegro  | 2006         | MNE, SRB   | From Serbian name "Srbija i Crna Gora". Now Montenegro, Serbia  |
| SE     |  Saorstát Éireann   | 1938         | EIR (IRL from 1962)  | Under GB until 1924. Name changed to <b>Éire</b> , now  <b>Ireland</b>                   |
| SF     |  Finland  | 1993         | FIN  | SF from "Suomi – Finland" (the names of the country in its official languages, Finnish and Swedish)   |
| SHS    |  Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes  | 1929         | Y  | Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca – <b>Serbo-Croatian</b> . Kingdom changed its name to Yugoslavia  |
| SU     |  Soviet Union   | 1991         | EST, LT, LV, BY, MD, UA, TJ, TM, GE, KZ, UZ, KS, AZ, AM, RUS |   |
| SWA    |  South West Africa   | 1990         |  | Now <b>Namibia</b>  |
| TS     |  Free Territory of Trieste  | 1947–1954    |  | Territory Zone A (controlled by the United Kingdom and United States from 1947 to 1954 before given to Italy). Now in <b>Italy</b> , <b>Croatia</b> and <b>Slovenia</b> . |
| Y      |  Yugoslavia   | 1953         | YU   | Yemen started using <b>Y</b> afterwards   |
| YU     |  /  Yugoslavia | 1992         | BIH, HR, NMK, MNE, RKS, SRB, SLO                             | Now Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, and Slovenia. MK for Macedonia was in use from 1993 until 2019                              |

## See also [ edit ]

- [Aircraft registration](#)
- [International Driving Permit](#)
- [ISO 3166](#)
- [Vienna Convention on Road Traffic](#)
- [Vehicle identification number](#)

## Unofficial codes [ edit ]

There are unofficial codes in common use, such as "AS", "A" or "AST" for **Asturias**, "CAT" for **Catalonia**, "SCO" for **Scotland**, "CYM" for **Wales**, "BZH" for



Brittany, "VL" for **Flanders**, "V" for **Vojvodina/Vajdaság**, "TS" for **Transylvania**, "PR" for **Puerto Rico**, "CSB" for **Kashubia** and "SIC" for **Székely Land** (from Latin *Terra Siculorum*). Some of these, such as "VL" which is used by **Flemish separatists**, are illegal under their countries' laws.

In addition, in some areas, vehicle-style stickers have been used to denote and promote other entities, such as towns, islands, businesses, and even associations. These irregular stickers almost always bear an explanation of the code in small print near the edge of the sticker, as the codes used may be unfamiliar.



The unofficial code for Brittany, Bzh

## Notes [ edit ]

The political status of Kosovo is disputed. Having unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008, it **is formally recognised** as an independent state by 97 UN member states (with another 15 recognising it at some point but then withdrawing recognition), while Serbia continues to claim it as part of its own sovereign territory.

## Diplomatic licence plate codes [ edit ]

A separate system is used for vehicles belonging to the diplomats of foreign countries with license plate from the host country. That system is host country-specific and varies largely from country to country. For example, **TR** on a diplomatic car in the USA indicates Italian, not Turkish. Such markings in Norway are indicated with numbers only, again different from international standards (e.g. **90** means Slovakian).

## References [ edit ]

- ^ See Georganò, G. N. and Andersen, Thorkil Ry; *The New encyclopedia of motorcars, 1885 to the present*; p. 18 ISBN 0525932542
- ^ See Harding, Anthony and Bird, Anthony; *Guinness Book of Car Facts and Feats: A Record of Everyday Motoring and Automotive Achievements*; p. 243. ISBN 0851122078
- ^ United Nations, *Distinguishing Signs Used on Vehicles in International Traffic*  , 15 February 2007
- ^ "Convention of Road Traffic signed at Geneva September, 19 1949 - Annex 4. Distinguishing Sign of Vehicles in International Traffic". *Auto Driver Club*. NYS ZONE INC. Retrieved 2016-11-24.
- ^ "Convention on Road Traffic on 8 November 1968 - Index Page". *Auto Driver Club*. NYS ZONE INC. Retrieved 2016-11-24.
- ^ "Annex 2: Registration of Vehicles in International Traffic"   (PDF). *Agreement between and among the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People*. 2004. Archived from the original   (PDF) on March 4, 2012.
- ^ "Council Regulation (EC) No 2411/98". Council of the European Union. 3 November 1998.
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- ^ "Distinguishing Signs used on Vehicles in International Traffic". *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*. Archived from the original on 2017-02-26.
- ^ "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 2017-08-21. Retrieved 2010-03-12.<sup>[*dead link*]</sup>



- <sup>^</sup>  "Convention sur la circulation routière, signée à Vienne, le 8 novembre 1968 - Notification en vertu du paragraphe 4 de l'article 45 par le Kirghizistan. - Legilux". *legilux.public.lu*. Retrieved 2021-10-28.
- <sup>^</sup>  "Discussions of Mongolian license plates / Дискуссии по монгольским номерам".
- <sup>^</sup>  "License Plates of Palestine".
- <sup>^</sup>  "Car: International car registration letters Word Lists | Collins English Word Lists".
- <sup>^</sup> Griffiths, Hugo (5 July 2021). "GB stickers no longer valid for driving abroad". *autoexpress.co.uk*. Retrieved 5 July 2021.
- <sup>^</sup>  "Convention on Road Traffic Vienna, 8 November 1968: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Notification under Article 45 (4)"  (PDF).
- <sup>^</sup>  See article *.za*

## Further reading [ edit ]

- "RPW": Neil Parker and John Weeks, *Registration Plates of the World*, Europlate; 4th edition (2004)

## External links [ edit ]

- UN Economic Commission for Europe, Working Party on Road Transport (WP.11)
- Miscellaneous Proposals of Amendments to the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Identification of Approval Country in Marking* , UN/SCETDG/33/INF.5 (table compares ISO 3166 and DSIT codes)
- Association Francoplaque: Collectionneurs de Plaques d'Immatriculation* (data mostly from RPW, above)
- European Registration Plate Association: Registration Plates of the World Online* (registration required; data mostly from RPW, above)



Categories: [Lists of country codes](#) | [Lists of abbreviations](#) | [Vehicle registration plates](#)

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