**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.  

**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.  

**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  

**Netherlands, The**

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

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

Philippines, Republic of the
The word PHILIPPINES may be hyphenated and placed on two lines, or written as “PHILIPNES.”

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.

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

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

II. REJECTED ABBREVIATIONS

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

Canada
“CDA” is not an acceptable abbreviation for Canada.

"CAN" is not an acceptable abbreviation for Canada.

China, People’s Republic of
“PRC” is not an acceptable abbreviation for articles imported from the People’s Republic of China.

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
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.


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


**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.


**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.


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


**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"


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.


**Hong Kong**

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

Hungary, Republic of

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

Indonesia, Republic of

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Netherlands, The

"NL" is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Netherlands.
Philippines, Republic of the

“Phil” is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Republic of the Philippines.

Russian Federation

“RF” is not an acceptable abbreviation for the Russian Federation.

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.

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."

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

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.

Venezuela, Republic of

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