

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/11/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 7, 2009

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

E

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Eleventh Session
Geneva, October 26 to 30, 2009

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.3 (TASK No. 33/3)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Current procedure for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3

1. It is noted that WIPO Standard ST.3 is aligned with International Standard ISO 3166-1, namely, the “Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries and their Subdivisions – Part 1: Country Codes”, including the announcements published in ISO 3166–1 Newsletters. It is further noted that the list of country names in International Standard ISO 3166-1 is based on the list in the “Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use” established by the United Nations Statistics Division.

2. The names in the United Nations Statistics Division list are based on the *Terminology Bulletin No. 347/Rev.1: Country Names*, which is prepared by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat. The corresponding WIPO Standard ST.3 is available on the WIPO website at:
<http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/pdf/03-03-01.pdf>

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Plurinational State of Bolivia

3. The ISO 3166/MA published ISO 3166-1 Newsletters VI-5 and VI-6, dated March 3 and May 8, 2009, respectively. Newsletter VI-5 announced the replacement of the short

country name “Venezuela” with “Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of”, keeping the same alpha-2 code “VE” to represent the name of the country. Newsletter VI-6 announced the replacement of the short country name “Bolivia” with “Bolivia, Plurinational State of”, keeping the same alpha-2 code “BO” to represent the name of the country. The said announcements are available at:

http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes/check_what_s_new.htm

4. In view of the above, the following changes to WIPO Standard ST.3 are proposed by the IB for consideration and adoption by the SDWG:

(a) The current entry for Venezuela (English, French and Spanish) should be changed to:

- Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of (English);
- Venezuela, République bolivarienne du (French); and
- Venezuela, República Bolivariana de (Spanish).

The two-letter code “VE” would remain unchanged.

(b) The current entry for Bolivia (English and Spanish) and Bolivie (French) should be changed to:

- Bolivia, Plurinational State of (English);
- Bolivie, État plurinational de (French); and
- Bolivia, Estado Plurinacional de (Spanish).

The two-letter code “BO” would remain unchanged.

5. At present, the procedure for the adoption of revisions of WIPO Standard ST.3 is based on the following two-track approach:

(a) In order to establish a more efficient procedure for the approval of changes to country names and two-letter codes approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the IB was entrusted to request the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) members to approve such changes by correspondence. In cases where no consensus could be reached in this manner, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) for its consideration. (See paragraph 11 of document SCIT/SDWG/2/14, and paragraph 14 of PCIPI/EXEC/XII/10.)

(b) Other proposals for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 which were *not* included within the scope of changes resulting from International Standard ISO 3166-1, but rather were identified or received by the Secretariat, e.g., modifications or inclusions of names of intergovernmental organization or of their two-letter codes, should be presented for consideration by the SDWG.

New procedure for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3

6. In order to further streamline the procedure for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 referred to above, and since the decisions of the SDWG have not essentially deviated in the past from the United Nations practice or the proposals concerning the names and two-letter codes of intergovernmental organizations, the IB proposes for consideration by the SDWG the adoption of a new procedure that is given below.

7. The IB would revise WIPO Standard ST.3 and notify member states of the revision as follows:

(a) The IB would revise WIPO Standard ST.3 by incorporating changes regarding country names and/or two-letter codes as adopted by the United Nations Secretariat and/or the Maintenance Agency for International Standard ISO 3166 (ISO 3166/MA). Other proposals for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 concerning changes regarding names and/or two-letter codes of intergovernmental organizations identified or received by the IB, will also be directly incorporated in the Standard.

(b) The IB then publishes the revised WIPO Standard ST.3 on WIPO's website as usual followed by issuing an e-mail informing SDWG members of the publication of a revised version of WIPO Standard ST.3.

8. This procedure will ensure that WIPO Standard ST.3 is kept updated and revised in a more timely manner and will continue to follow the practices of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat aligned with International Standard ISO 3166-1, thus, SDWG members will not need to be consulted with regard to revisions of WIPO Standard ST.3 concerning names and two-letter codes. The procedure will ensure the complete conformity with the list and code of countries which the respective authority decides and also speed up the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 and reduce the amount of work involved in the revision.

9. In view of the above, paragraph 7 of WIPO Standard ST.3, concerning maintenance should be amended as follows:

“7. WIPO has been granted associate-member status in the Maintenance Agency and is therefore closely associated with its work. The International Bureau updates this Recommended Standard at intervals following the decisions of the Maintenance Agency and the information received from intergovernmental organizations with regard to the inclusion of new two-letter alphabetic codes or the amending of existing two-letter alphabetic codes.”

10. The SDWG is invited to:

(a) note the information provided above;

(b) consider and adopt the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 referred to in paragraph 4(a) and (b), and paragraph 9, above; and

(c) consider and adopt the procedure for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 proposed in paragraph 7, above.

[End of document]