Data Exchange Standard – Country

Office of the Corporate Chief Information Officer, Strategy and Governance Branch

Version: 1.0

Approved by:	Owner:
Corporate Chief Information Officer	IMT Policy Program
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IMT.Policy@gov.ab.ca	Technical Standard

Alberta

Contents

Standard Statement

Data exchange standards are required to ensure the clarity and the accuracy of data exchanged between Government of Alberta (GoA) applications.

The standard below describes the GoA data standard for a country identified in an address, shared between GoA applications. This standard defines the country code and applies to the exchange of the country information. It is also recommended for storage of a country code.

Authority

Internal use only.

Scope

This standard applies to all Ministries within the GoA.

Standard Specification

The GoA country standard follows the Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8) and aligns with the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code. ISO 3166 is the international standard for country codes and codes for their subdivisions.

Country			
Description	The code of the country in an address.		
Format	C2 Examples; • CA = Canada • US = United States • AU = Australia		
	Country Code	**C2**	Two-letter country codes are defined by the international standard ISO 3166-1 alpha-2.

References and Supporting Resources

- ISO 3166 Country Codes

    ISO 3166 is the international standard for country codes and codes for their subdivisions.

    http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/country_codes.htm

- ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code - Country Name and Code

https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search. Select "Country Codes" from the seach bar menu options.

- Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8)

  https://imtpolicy.sp.alberta.ca/standards/Pages/Data-Exchange-Standard-Character-Set.aspx

Appendix A

Types of Standards	Description
Technical Standard	These are detailed, unique standards that have developed in response to government IMT policies. Technical standards are intended to be replicable, transferable, and adaptable across ministries and other government agencies. Examples of these could include address data standards or specifications for a single identifier for transacting with government electronically.
Product Standard	An IMT product or specific technology oriented standard that facilitates the task of planning for enhancements and acquisitions within the government's broad information systems environment. As a definitive list of the numerous technologies either employed or under evaluation by Workplace Technology Services, product standards are critical in establishing conformity, interoperability and interchange-ability. Examples of these could include a government-wide standard for document, record management and database, and the list of core products for government workstations.
Process Standard	An established, mandatory business practice that supports IMT projects and existing systems to improve the outcome, diminish risks, and increase reliability. Examples could include business continuity planning processes, threat risk assessment processes, etc.
Reference Standard	An IMT industry standard (either a national or international formal or de facto standard) that has been adopted for use by the Province of Alberta. A Reference Standard may be adopted either as stand-alone or as a precursor to a customized standard or policy document. Examples could include the 1024 bit RSA standard for public key encryption.