23 January 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

ATTN: THE CHAIR, DoD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Mandating the Use of Country Code Standards within the Department of Defense.

References: (a) DoD Directive 4630.5, Interoperability and Supportability of Information Technology (IT) and National Security Systems (NSS), May 5, 2004
(b) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, DoD Executive Agent for Information Technology (IT) Standards, May 21, 2007

DoD must implement standards for country identities (i.e., country codes) in electronic exchanges between automated information systems. The implementation must be consistent to achieve transparency, interoperability, and data integrity across the DoD and the federal government as well as with international partners.

In September 2008, the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) withdrew support for the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4, *Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and Their Principal Administrative Divisions*. Since this FIPS is no longer being updated, an effort was undertaken to develop new guidance to take the place of this standard. As a result of this effort, the DoD Information Technology (IT) Principals under the Architecture and Standards Review Group (ASRG), acting under the authority of the DoD Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO), have approved the following changes to take effect immediately.

The following three (3) standards are now mandated for use within the DoD:

1. NGA.STND.0033_1.0: Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard, Edition 1.0
2. ISO 3166-1:2006: Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions, Part 1: Country codes, 20 November 2006 [U.S. Government should implement GENC, not ISO 3166]
3. ISO 3166-2:2007: Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions Part 2: Country subdivision code [U.S. Government should implement GENC, not ISO 3166]

In addition, the following standard has been retired:

1. FIPS Pub 10-4 w/CNs 1-14: Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and Their Principal Administrative Divisions, April 1995 as modified by Change Notice 1, 1 Dec 1998, through Change Notice 14, 31 July 2008

The DoD Information Technology (IT) Standards Registry (DISR) baseline is updated every four months to ensure the DoD capabilities for building and buying IT systems are based on a current and effective set of IT and National Security Systems (NSS) standards. These changes will be incorporated into the next DISR baseline release.

Again we extend our appreciation to the members of the DoD ITSC and to the Director National Intelligence – Intelligence Community (DNI-IC) standards leadership as well as the Technical Standards Working Groups for their continued support and contributions to the DoD standards process.

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