

Codes for the Identification of Counties in Minnesota

Date Issued: Approved by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information on April 3, 1997

Introduction:

This standard provides a set of codes that uniquely identify each of the 87 counties within the state of Minnesota for the purpose of information interchange among data processing systems. This standard originates from the International Committee for Information Standards INCITS 31:2009 and is recognized as a formal national standard by ANSI, the American National Standards Institute.

Applicability: Who cares about these standards? This standard is important to all developers of public databases containing information about Minnesota counties

When do they apply? When do they not apply? This standard has been developed to improve the exchange of public data about counties. Use of this standard is mandatory when both of the following conditions exist:

- a state agency is transferring data to an external customer, AND
- no other previously-agreed-to coding scheme for counties has been designated.

Use of this standard is recommended when local governments exchange data, or when any new public databases are being designed that incorporate a coding scheme for counties. Use of this standard by local government, the private sector and the public is strongly encouraged, but voluntary. This standard applies to data that are being transferred, and does not attempt to restrict how those data are internally stored or used.

Purpose of this Standard: The purpose of this standard is to provide a single, common coding scheme to identify all counties in Minnesota. It is intended to be used primarily when data are being transferred between a state agency and external customers. Its use will improve the sharing of data resources by avoiding unnecessary duplication and reducing incompatibilities in collecting, processing and disseminating data.

Standard Requirements: This standard provides a structure for establishing a set of three-digit codes to be used when representing the 87 counties of the state of Minnesota. This standard is equivalent to the Minnesota portion of INCITS 31:2009. County names and identifying data codes are listed below.

COUNTY NAME	CODE
Aitkin	001
Anoka	003
Becker	005
Beltrami	007
Benton	009
Big Stone	011
Blue Earth	013
Brown	015
Carlton	017
Carver	019
Cass	021
Chippewa	023
Chisago	025
Clay	027
Clearwater	029
Cook	031
Cottonwood	033
Crow Wing	035
Dakota	037
Dodge	039
Douglas	041
Faribault	043
Fillmore	045
Freeborn	047
Goodhue	049
Grant	051
Hennepin	053
Houston	055
Hubbard	057
Isanti	059
Itasca	061
Jackson	063
Kanabec	065
Kandiyohi	067
Kittson	069
Koochiching	071
Lac qui Parle	073
Lake of the Woods	077
Lake	075

Le Sueur	079
Lincoln	081
Lyon	083
Mahnomen	087
Marshall	089
Martin	091
McLeod	085
Meeker	093
Mille Lacs	095
Morrison	097
Mower	099
Murray	101
Nicollet	103
Nobles	105
Norman	107
Olmsted	109
Otter Tail	111
Pennington	113
Pine	115
Pipestone	117
Polk	119
Pope	121
Ramsey	123
Red Lake	125
Redwood	127
Renville	129
Rice	131
Rock	133
Roseau	135
Saint Louis	137
Scott	139
Sherburne	141
Sibley	143
Stearns	145
Steele	147
Stevens	149
Swift	151
Todd	153
Traverse	155
Wabasha	157

Wadena	159
Waseca	161
Washington	163
Watsonwan	165
Wilkin	167
Winona	169
Wright	171
Yellow Medicine	173

Compliance: What constitutes compliance? Agencies must be capable of translating their data into a form consistent with this standard for the purpose of exchanging data between organizations. Agencies may continue to store data in alternate formats of their choice, provided the capability exists to readily convert them, if requested by a customer. It is recommended that agencies integrate this standard into their data processing systems whenever possible.

How will compliance be measured? Evidence of compliance will be determined based on reports of satisfactory data transfers from receiving customers.

References and Sources of More Information: The International Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) is a recognized forum for information technology developers, producers and users for the creation and maintenance of formal IT standards. INCITS is accredited by, and operates under rules approved by, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The standard, INCITS 31:2009 is titled, Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of Counties and Equivalent Areas of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Insular Areas. INCITS 31:2009 replaces the Federal Information Processing Standard FIPS 6-4, which was withdrawn from service by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 2002.

Contact

Further information about this standard may be obtained from the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo).

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