Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

County ID Standard

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Approved by the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council on **[Insert date once approved]**.

Table of Contents

About the GAC

The mission of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) is to act as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community. The GAC is authorized by legislation passed in 2009 and reauthorized in 2014 Minnesota Statutes (16E.30, subd. 8). It represents a cross-section of organizations that include city, county, regional, state, federal and tribal governments as well as education, business and nonprofit sectors.

As part of this mission, the GAC works with the Minnesota geospatial community to define and adopt standards needed by the community. GAC standards are developed and proposed by geospatial community subject matter experts. The GAC's Standards Committee administers a process to ensure community-wide public review and input for any proposed standards.

The GAC does not mandate or enforce standards. It offers the standards as a resource to the community. Organizations may choose to adopt the standards and require their use internally.

Introduction

This standard provides a set of codes that uniquely identify each of the 87 counties within the state of Minnesota. These codes originate from the InterNational Committee for Information Standards (INCITS) and are recognized as a formal national standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Purpose of this Standard

This standard has been developed to improve the exchange of data about counties. It provides a single, common coding scheme to identify all counties in Minnesota. It is intended to be used when data are being transferred between organizations. Its use will improve the sharing of data resources by avoiding unnecessary duplication and incompatibilities when collecting, processing and disseminating data.

Applicability

Use of this standard is recommended when organizations exchange data, or when any new databases are being designed that incorporate a coding scheme for counties. Use of this standard 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. Specific organizations within the state may choose to adopt this standard and require compliance with it. For example, it has been adopted as an official state government data standard.

Sources of this Standard

This standard is derived from a standard maintained by the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS). It is titled INCITS 31-2009: Information Technology - Codes for the Identification of Counties and Equivalent Areas of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Insular Areas. It has been adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). 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.

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 ANSI.

Compliance Notes

A dataset that complies with this standard will include identifier codes for counties in accordance with the data specifications defined below in this standard.

Inclusion

Fields listed as optional are not required. Fields listed as conditional are mandatory if a certain condition exists. In this standard, either the 5-digit or 3-digit county code must be used. The 5-digit code is strongly encouraged because it is unique beyond the state boundary. The 3-digit code is only unique within Minnesota and is therefore discouraged.

Standard Requirements

This standard provides a structure for establishing a set of five-digit and three-digit codes to be used when representing the 87 counties of the state of Minnesota. County names and codes are listed below. **Please note that these numeric codes are specifically defined as text fields and includes leading zeros where applicable**.

County Name	5-Digit Code (Unique Across State Boundaries)	3-Digit Code (Unique Only within State)
Aitkin	27001	001
Anoka	27003	003
Becker	27005	005
Beltrami	27007	007
Benton	27009	009
Big Stone	27011	011
Blue Earth	27013	013
Brown	27015	015
Carlton	27017	017
Carver	27019	019
Cass	27021	021
Chippewa	27023	023
Chisago	27025	025
Clay	27027	027
Clearwater	27029	029
Cook	27031	031
Cottonwood	27033	033
Crow Wing	27035	035
Dakota	27037	037
Dodge	27039	039
Douglas	27041	041
Faribault	27043	043
Fillmore	27045	045
Freeborn	27047	047
Goodhue	27049	049
Grant	27051	051
Hennepin	27053	053
Houston	27055	055
Hubbard	27057	057
Isanti	27059	059
Itasca	27061	061
Jackson	27063	063
Kanabec	27065	065
Kandiyohi	27067	067
Kittson	27069	069
Koochiching	27071	071

Lac qui Parle	27073	073
Lake of the Woods	27075	077
Lake	27077	075
Le Sueur	27079	079
Lincoln	27081	081
Lyon	27083	083
Mahnomen	27085	087
Marshall	27087	089
Martin	27089	091
McLeod	27091	085
Meeker	27093	093
Mille Lacs	27095	095
Morrison	27097	097
Mower	27099	099
Murray	27101	101
Nicollet	27103	103
Nobles	27105	105
Norman	27107	107
Olmsted	27109	109
Otter Tail	27111	111
Pennington	27113	113
Pine	27115	115
Pipestone	27117	117
Polk	27119	119
Pope	27121	121
Ramsey	27123	123
Red Lake	27125	125
Redwood	27127	127
Renville	27129	129
Rice	27131	131
Rock	27133	133
Roseau	27135	135
Saint Louis	27137	137
Scott	27139	139
Sherburne	27141	141
Sibley	27143	143
Stearns	27145	145
Steele	27147	147
Stevens	27149	149
Swift	27151	151
Todd	27153	153
Traverse	27155	155
Wabasha	27157	157
Wadena	27159	159
Waseca	27161	161
Washington	27163	163
Watonwan	27165	165
Wilkin	27167	167
Winona	27169	169
Wright	27171	171
Yellow Medicine	27173	173

Data Element Details

1.1 County Code

Database Name	No database name is specified in this standard. CO_CODE is commonly used.		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Conditional
Width	5	**Domain**	CountyCode
Examples	27001, 27059, 19059 (Dickinson County, IA), 27163		
Description	The nationally unique 5-digit county code. This code is required whenever a database will include values in other states or will be related or joined to another table that uses the 5-digit code.		

1.2 County Code – 3-Digit

Database Name	No database name is specified in this standard. CO_CODE_3 is commonly used.		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	3	**Domain**	
Examples	001, 059, 163		
Description	The three-digit county code. This is unique only within the state. Duplicate values will exist in other states. This code is discouraged. It may be used only when a database will not have any values of counties for other states.		

1.3 County Name

Database Name	No database name is specified in this standard. CO_NAME is commonly used.		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width		**Domain**	CountyName
Examples	Aitkin, Isanti, Washington		
Description	The name of the county		