

This is the home page for Part 3 of the ISO 639 family of standards, Codes for the representation of names of languages. ISO 639-3 attempts to provide as complete an enumeration of languages as possible, including living, extinct, ancient, and constructed languages, whether major or minor, written or unwritten.

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## Announcement: 2008 series change request review period: 15 Sept. to 15 Dec.

**Please comment on the pending changes to the ISO 639-3 Code Set.** All 2008 series change requests are now posted for public review. The formal review period is from September 15 to December 15. You are invited to submit comments on pending change requests via email to [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto:iso639-3@sil.org). Comments may reference discussions occurring in other archived and publicly viewable internet forums such as discussion lists. Please see the pages under "Code Changes" (links on navigation menu at left)

- for [information about the change process](#),
- a list of [pending change requests](#).

Outcomes of requests will be announced in January 2009.

New change requests received after September 1 will be deferred until the 2009 series of change requests.

All past change requests are retained permanently on this website. The index of change requests may be used to view current or past change requests. A past change request may also be found through its change request number, as in [http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/chg\\_detail.asp?id=2006-001](http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/chg_detail.asp?id=2006-001) or through the documentation page of an affected code element, as in <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bvs>

ISO 639-3 is a code that aims to define three-letter identifiers for all known human languages. At the core of ISO 639-3 are the individual languages already accounted for in [ISO 639-2](#). The large number of living languages in the initial inventory of ISO 639-3 beyond those already included in ISO 639-2 was derived primarily from [Ethnologue](#) (15th edition). Additional extinct, ancient, historic, and constructed languages have been obtained from [Linguist List](#).

SIL International has been designated as the ISO 639-3/RA for the purpose of processing requests for alpha-3 language codes comprising the International Standard, *Codes for the representation of names of languages - Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The ISO 639-3/RA receives and reviews applications for requesting new language codes and for the change of existing ones according to criteria indicated in the standard. It maintains an accurate list of information associated with registered language codes which can be [viewed](#) on or [downloaded](#) from this website, and processes [updates](#) of registered language codes. Notification of pending and adopted updates are also distributed on a regular basis to subscribers and other parties.

This is the official site of the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority and thus is the only one authorized by ISO. If you have questions concerning ISO 639-3 please contact us at:

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URL: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>

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