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WORLD STANDARDS IN FLORICULTURE

Implementation of Coding 1.3

General Implementation Guidelines for Coding

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Contents

1. Modification page

Version	Date	Author	Modifications
1.0	26-06-2007	G. Heemskerk	Initial version
1.1	15-08-2007	G. Heemskerk	After CMG review
1.2	05-11-2007	G. Heemskerk	Description of MD-5 control file has been added (it was missing).
1.3	05-02-2014	M. Goedhart	Additions to Section 1.5 in connection with the use of semicolons in fields
1.4	16-08-2016	M. Goedhart	Text adjustments
1.5	26-06-2017	M. Goedhart	Extension file name code list: - File names new data sets after 1 January 2017 - GPC Because of these changes the version/release is increased from 1.2 in 1.3

	Date	Party	Initials
Agreement (author)	26-06-2017	M. Goedhart	
Checked		M. van der Sman (Floricode) L. Zandvliet (Floricode) H. Zwinkels (Floricode)	
Accepted on behalf of Working Group on Standards		B. van Raaij (chairman)	

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this document

This document describes codings that are distributed according to the ‘Linnaeus format’. 'Linnaeus format’ refers to: ‘Code lists that are in accordance with the common aspects’ as described in the VBN Linnaeus Technical Blueprint 2.10. Because more and more code administrators are offering their databases to Floricode for distribution according to the ‘Linnaeus format’, codings can be processed in a standardized manner by the software.

2.2 Intended for...

This document is intended for data purchasers of the code lists distributed by Floricode.

2.3 Principles

This document is based on:

- VBN Linnaeus Technical Blueprint 2.10, Section 3.1 ‘Common aspects of code lists’.

The following principles apply:

- RFC 2007-1

2.4 Abbreviations and terms

CR-LF	Control Line Feed
CSV	Coma Separated Values
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
GPC	Global Product Classification
ISO	International Standards Organisation
LAB	National Supply Bank
RFC	Request for Change
VBN	Dutch Flower Auctions Association
ZIP	One of the types for compressed files.

3. Common aspects of the code lists

Common aspects of code lists, as described in the VBN Linnaeus Technical Blueprint 2.10, are referred to as code lists that are consistent with the 'Linnaeus format'. The main aspects will now be described.

3.1 Code list identification

Code lists are provided in a compressed format. A compressed file (ZIP) consists of one or more code lists (a data set). The code list is named according to agreements made (see section 3.6). Each record in the code list begins with a file code that identifies the code list. This file code is unique within the dataset.

3.2 Update fields

In accordance with the VBN Blueprint Linnaeus, the following fields are included in each record in a code list:

- Entry Date (entry_date)
  - date on which a new item became or will become generally effective within the sector; this may be a date in the future.
- Expiry date (expiry_date)
  - date on which an item will no longer be applicable within the sector for general use or was withdrawn; this may be a future date or empty.
- Change date / time (change_date_time):
  - date and time (change_date_time) when an item was last changed (enhanced, modified, deleted).

3.3 Detection of update

To confirm new, expired or changed items, the application must retain the final processing date and identify items which have been changed since the processing date as follows:

- New:
  - change_date_time is later than the last processing date/time and entry_date is later than or equal to the changed date.
- Expired:
  - change_date_time is later than the last processing date/time and entry_date is later than or equal to the changed date.
- Changed:
  - change_date_time is later than the last processing date/time and entry_date is earlier than the changed date.

For the proper functioning of this procedure, the following will be ensured:

- expired items will remain in the list permanently, with the exception of items that have expired because they were entered wrongly or in error, do not necessarily need to be retained permanently in the code lists and may disappear from the lists after some time.
- new items that are changed shortly after their inclusion may not appear as 'new' to users with low update frequency, but as 'modified'.
- new or expired items will not be performed or expire retroactively, but only on the transaction date or later.
- changes will not be made retroactively or announced in advance, but are implemented on the transaction date itself.
- items that have already expired will not be reused.

3.4 Description of code list

The description consists of:
- the definition of the entity type involved,
- a description of the clients,
- an example of the implementation of the code list,
- any relevant explanation or comments.

For each field in the code list, the following is specified:
- field number: sequence number of the field,
- field name: in English,
- occurence type:
  - M = mandatory (always completed)
  - C = conditional (under certain conditions),
- format:
  - N = numeric
  - AN = alphanumeric characters fixed number n, or variable: ..n,
- key fields:
  - P#: primary key,
  - F#: foreign key,
  - PF#: both primary as foreign key.

3.5 File format code list

The files (code lists) will be provided in CSV format (comma separated values) and compressed as a zip file:
- semicolon as field separator symbol
  - when a semicolon is used in a field, it should appear in double quotes. For example ";".
  - This is the same as the convention that has been described for the comma separated values format, except that in the Netherlands it is usual to use a semicolon instead of a comma. This is because in the Netherlands a comma is used as a decimal separator.
- CR-LF as record separator symbol
  - when CR-LF is used in a field, this must be enclosed in double quotes. For example "CR-LF".
- Quotes as text indicator
  - when quotes are used in the field, these must appear between two extra quotes. For example ""Text"".

3.6 File name code list

The name of the database may be up to 8 characters (including first letter) with the file extension TXT.

1. The current files
   - the file name begins with the letter 'C'
2. The full (current and expired codes) files
   - the file name begins with the letter 'F'

File names in data sets first published before 1 January 2017

Position	Meaning	format
1 to 1	Designation current/full (C/F)	A1
2 to 2	Code list identification letter	A1
3 to 4	Day number (DD)	N2
5 to 6	Month number (MM)	N2
7 to 8	Year Number (YY)	N2

File names in data sets first published from 1 January 2017

Positie	Betekenis	format
1	Designation current/full (C/F)	A1
2 t/m 4	Code list identification number (is Code_list_id)	N3
5	Separator (“_”)	A1
6 t/m 7	Day number (DD)	N2
8 t/m 9	Month number (MM)	N2
10 t/m 11	Year Number (YY)	N2

File names GPC data sets (different)

Positie	Betekenis	format
1	Designation current/full (C/F)	A1
2 t/m 3	Code list identification number (is Code_list_id)	N2
4	Separator (“_”)	A1
5 t/m 8	Year Number (CCYY)	N4
9 t/m 10	Month number (MM)	N2
11 t/m 12	Day number (DD)	N2

3.7 Compression

The code lists are made available as a dataset (set of code lists). The reason for this is so that all the code lists are coherent. The code lists are compressed using the PKZIP compression method.

3.8 Naming the dataset

The name of the data is made up as follows.

Position	Meaning	format
1 to 3	Code owner/administrator	A3
4 to 5	Sequence number of data set (supplied by owner/administrator)	A2
6 to 7	Release number	N2
8 to 9	Version number	N2

Example: VBN020101.ZIP

The Floricode release policy chain software is applicable to the Floricode Codings.

3.9 Control file

The data set is accompanied by a file with a checksum.

3.10 Conventions for naming control file

The same naming convention as applies to the dataset but with extension TXT.

Example: VBN020101.TXT

3.11 Conventions for content of control file

The content of the control file consists of an MD-5 checksum value (there may be a prefix or suffix, such as the version number of the MD-5 routine included).

Example of content of control file:

MD5sums 1.1 freeware for Win9x/ME/NT/2000/XP+
Copyright (C) 2001-2002 Jem Berkes - http://www.pc-tools.net/

569ada27e5d62fdc0243ff20962860d2 VBN020101.zip

3.12 Code owner/administrator

Code	Meaning
CLE	Client Export
EBC	EdiBulb Codes
FEC	Floricode (Florecom)
FHC	FloraHolland Concern
FLC	Floricode
GS1	Global Standards One
ISO	International Standards Organization
LAB	Plantconnect (LAB is the supply bank of Royal FloraHolland)
MPS	MPS Foundation
VBN	Dutch Flower Auctions Association

3.13 Distribution

The code lists are distributed by Floricode as data sets (in the form of ZIP files by data administrator/owner).

The distribution of data sets occurs in the following ways:
- via the Floricode website: http://www.Floricode.com/downloads.asp
- via the FTP Server: codes.Floricode.com, Initial directory: codes, Port: 21
- FTP: upload flag: during uploading, the file appears: aFTPflagNowUploading
- FTP: end flag: after uploading, the file appears: aFinished.

Access Data for the code lists via FTP can be obtained using ‘Application form FTP Code lists access’. Datasets that are still in the testing phase will be available at locations that are yet to be confirmed.