

## **Continuing use of ISO 3166 Code 280 for Germany**

In the past the ISO 3166 Code 280 was used by the German banking industry to identify Germany, eg for cards and terminals. This was despite the fact that the general ISO 3166 Code for Germany is 276. The use of Code 280 for certain standards in the reach of ISO TC 68 was agreed between Germany and international card schemes to guaranty the smooth globally functioning of their systems. The use of Code 280 was described in ISO 3166 as a remark to Code 276.

With ISO 3166-1 Newsletter VI-12 (Date: 2012-02-15) the information on the following change to ISO 3166-1:2006, Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes was published:

‘Clause 9, p. 18, clause 10, p. 28 – DE – GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE - Delete the remarks in Column 7 concerning the use of the code 280 / Supprimer les remarques dans la colonne 7 concernant l'utilisation du codet 280’

The German Banking Industry Committee (GBIC) was not informed about this change and does not agree to it. There are no plans to replace Code 280 as representation for Germany.

The GBIC therefore has asked urgently the responsible ISO 3166 MA to withdraw the deletion of Code 280 and to reinstall the respective remark.

Until the formal decision is taken by the MA and the correction of ISO 3166 is published GBIC confirms the continuing use of Code 280 as additional representation for Germany. All institutions affected are kindly asked to support Code 280 unchanged as before.