

Address—geocode latitude, degrees minutes seconds Xd{d}{mm}{ss}{.ss}

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Geocode latitude sexagismal
Synonymous names:	Latitude
METEOR identifier:	469923
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Standard 10/04/2013 Disability , Standard 13/08/2015
Definition:	The geographic latitude of an address point on the earth, measured in degrees, minutes and seconds north or south of the equator.
Data Element Concept:	Address—geocode latitude
Value Domain:	Latitude degrees minutes seconds Xd{d}{mm}{ss}{.ss}

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Identifier
Data type:	Geospatial
Format:	Xd{d}{mm}{ss}{.ss}
Maximum character length:	9
Unit of measure:	Degree Minute Second

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>The 'X' in the latitude format symbolises the designator symbol "+" or "-" and should be placed prior to the first number. Latitudes north of the equator are positive and shall be designated by use of the plus sign (+), latitudes south of the equator are negative and shall be designated by use of the minus sign (-). The equator shall be designated by use of the plus sign (+).</p> <p>The 'd' should be used to represent the degrees as a one or two digit number. The 'm' should be used to represent minutes as a two digit number (i.e. a place holding zero should be used for minute values under 10 for clarity). The 's' should be used to represent seconds (before the decimal) and decimal seconds (after the decimal), as a two digit number (i.e. a place holding zero should be used for second and decimal second values under 10 for clarity). Zero may also be a valid value, such as where there is no minute value but there is a second value.</p> <p>As a minimum the designator and a one digit representation for degrees must be populated. The remaining brackets are optional, however, if seconds or decimal seconds are to be used the preceeding values must also be populated (i.e. seconds cannot be populated without minutes being populated, and decimal seconds cannot be populated without a seconds value).</p> <p>Usage example: a traditional degrees, minutes & seconds representation for latitude of -40° 09' 09.05" should be represented as a string format -400909.05 (Note: this is not a decimal representation, but a concatenation of the degree, minute, second and decimal second values).</p>
Comments:	The ISO 6709 standard recommends leading zeroes for degree values less than 100, however this has not been implemented in the METeOR standard, in accordance with METeOR business rules.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand 2008. AS/NZS ISO6709:2008— Standard representation of latitude, longitude and altitude for geographic point locations. Sydney/Wellington: Standards Australia/Standards NZ.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Comments: Geographical coordinates (latitudes and longitudes) are the universal system for defining spatial position. A set of geographic coordinates on a datum is complete and unique, worldwide.

Positions of geographic features can be defined in space by a set of coordinates. In order for coordinates to be unique, the coordinate reference system needs to be fully defined.

A coordinate reference system is realised by a reference frame, which comprises a datum and a coordinate system.

Latitude can also be expressed in decimal degrees (e.g. -40.090905), see METeOR for this related item. A conversion to decimal degrees from the degrees, minutes and seconds format can be calculated with the following formula: Decimal Degrees = Degrees + ((Minutes / 60) + (Seconds / 3600)). (REF: <https://www2.landgate.wa.gov.au/slip/portal/home/Graticule.html>)

Example: DMS: -75° 59' 32.483" converts to -75.992356389 decimal degrees (rounded up to 9 decimal places).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand 2008. AS/NZS ISO6709:2008— Standard representation of latitude, longitude and altitude for geographic point locations. Sydney/Wellington: Standards Australia/Standards NZ.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Address—geocode latitude, decimal degrees XN\[N\]\[.N\(9\)\]](#)
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Standard 05/10/2016
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 01/05/2013

See also [Address—geocode longitude, decimal degrees XN\[NN\]\[.N\(9\)\]](#)
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[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 10/04/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Address details data dictionary](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015