

**Electronic Transfer of
Geotechnical
and
Geoenvironmental Data
AGS4
(Edition 4.0)**

Guidance Document

Adding new abbreviation codes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Comment and feedback from the wider geotechnical industry has also been fundamental to the ongoing evolution of the AGS Format, ensuring that the needs of the geotechnical and geoenvironmental industry and its clients continue to be met

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Revision	Description	Date
0	First Issue	1 Mar 2011

1 Introduction

This guidance document describes the rules for the use of abbreviation codes within an AGS file together with the procedure to follow if the term that needs to be abbreviated is not yet on the standard list.

All abbreviations used within the AGS Format data files of a submission must be defined in the ABBR Group (rules 16 and 16a AGS 4.0 document), including the standard abbreviations given in the abbreviation lists defined on the AGS website.

2 Guidance

New abbreviation codes fall into 3 categories; Standard, Geology and Chemical.

2.1 Standard

- User defined abbreviations should not duplicate an item for which a standard abbreviation is already given in the 'pick' lists.
- The abbreviation given in ABBR_CODE must not duplicate a code already given in the 'pick' lists for the same Heading but can be reused in a different Heading. For example in the 'pick' lists "W" is given as an abbreviation for "Wash boring" in LOCA_TYPE and for "Water sample" in SAMP_TYPE. "W" must not be used as a user defined abbreviation in either of these Headings but could be used for other Headings.
- ABBR_CODE should be considered as not case sensitive. Therefore "Cp" and "cp" are the same as the existing code "CP" and should not be used as a user defined abbreviation within LOCA_TYPE where "CP" is already defined in the 'pick' lists.
- ABBR_CODE should be restricted to the letters A to Z and the numbers 0 to 9 and should not contain spaces.
- The abbreviations should be agreed between the data provider and data receiver.
- All abbreviations must be defined in the ABBR Group including the standard abbreviations given in the abbreviation lists on the AGS website, for example:

```
"GROUP","ABBR"  
"HEADING","ABBR_HDNG","ABBR_CODE","ABBR_DESC","ABBR_LIST","FILE_FSET"  
"UNIT","","","",""  
"TYPE","X","X","X","X","X"  
"DATA","GCHM_TTYP","WATER","Water","AGS4",""  
"DATA","GEOL_LEG","101","Topsoil","AGS4",""  
"DATA","GEOL_LEG","204","Gravelly CLAY","AGS4",""  
"DATA","HDPH_TYPE","CP","Cable percussion (shell and auger)","AGS4",""  
"DATA","HDPH_TYPE","IP","Inspection pit","AGS4",""  
"DATA","HDPH_TYPE","TP","Trial pit/trench","AGS4",""
```

All new codes must be proposed on the AGS website using the procedure below before being used within a project

2.1.1 Procedure for adding new codes

1. Browse to the AGS 4 section of the AGS website (<http://www.ags.org.uk/site/user/pickoverviewv4.cfm>) and select the abbreviations menu item on the left hand side. (Please note that you will need to register to access this section of the site. Registration to the AGS website is free of charge)
2. Select the Heading from the list that you are proposing a code for and check the code is not already in the list.
3. If the code does not exist in the list then click the "Propose a new code" link at the bottom of the table.
4. Add the code you wish to add together with its description into the form displayed and click the **Propose** button.

The procedure for suggesting new pick list codes is as follows:-

- 1) Your proposed code will be emailed to the data management working group for assessment
- 2) Your proposed code will be displayed immediately on this website with you as the proposer and today's date.
- 3) Two members of the working group must agree your proposal for it to be accepted
- 4) The committee aim to accept or decline each code within 5 working days
- 5) You will be emailed as soon as a decision is made.

Field Name: CMPG_MOLD

Code:

Description:

5. As soon as you submit the code it will be assigned a "Proposed" status and added to the AGS website. This code can be used immediately within your AGS file but it is not advised that you publish AGS data with non approved codes.
6. Once you have submitted your proposed code the members of the AGS committee are emailed and a review process is carried out within 5 working days. You will receive an email informing you whether the code has been rejected or accepted as soon as the decision is made. Accepted codes are immediately available for download using the ABBR download option on the Abbreviation front page of the website

Abbreviations	
Heading	Number Pick List items
ARTW_TYPE - Type of test	2
BKFL_LEG - Backfill legend abbreviation	6
CBRG_COND - Sample condition	2
CMPG_MOLD - Compaction mould type	2

2.2 Geology Codes

The Stratum Description groups incorporate several abbreviated data fields. These fields are treated in the normal way as per the procedure provided in this guidance document. Guidance document XXXXXXXX covers the Stratum Description groups in detail and the reader is advised to refer to this document for further guidance on the use of Geology codes.

2.3 Chemical Codes

The chemical abbreviation list is the largest abbreviation set in the AGS and is expected to grow the fastest as the format matures. For this reason the AGS have put in place specific rules on the naming conventions to use when requesting new chemical codes.

1. Where the chemical has a CAS code assigned to it then the CAS Code must be used as the AGS code.
2. Where a chemical does not have an assigned CAS code it is given a prefix "P" followed by a sequential number. (i.e. the 234th chemical added to the list will be called P234). This code is assigned automatically by the AGS website and therefore uniqueness of codes is guaranteed across providers.

2.3.1 Procedure for adding new chemical codes

1. Browse to the AGS 4 section of the AGS website (<http://www.ags.org.uk/site/user/pickoverviewv4.cfm>) and select the abbreviations menu item on the left hand side.
2. Select the Chemical code (ERES_CODE) item from the list and check that the code you want to add is not in the list. It is important that you check for all the chemical's common names as codes proposed for a chemical that already exist in the list under a different common name will be rejected.
3. If the chemical does not exist in the list then click the **Propose a new code** link at the bottom of the table and follow the steps below.
4. If the chemical has a CAS code assigned to it then you should enter it on the front screen (as shown below left) and click the **Propose** button. The system will then check the CAS code does not exist in the list and will either add it to the proposed list or report back that the code is already in use and reject it. Once the CAS code check has been completed the chemical name can be entered in Step 2 (as shown below right)

Step 1:

CAS numbers should be used if they exist for your proposed chemical.
CAS codes can be found for chemicals by typing "CAS nr" following by the chemical name into google.

If your proposed chemical has a CAS code enter it below. For Chemicals without CAS codes please press the button below.

Code:

Step 2:

New code please enter chemical name below

Code: 123.456.785

Chemical Name:

5. If the chemical does not have a CAS code assigned to it then click on the **Step 2** button, add the chemical name into the step 2 screen and click the **Propose** button. As soon as you have submitted your request the chemical name it will be assigned a "P" code as described in the rules above. This P code will only ever be assigned to the

proposed chemical and will not be reused if the code should be rejected. This code can be used immediately within your AGS file but care should be taken publishing AGS data with non approved codes.

Step 2:

Code: Next P Code

Chemical Name:

- Once you have submitted your proposed code the members of the AGS committee are emailed and a review process is carried out within 5 working days. You will receive an email informing you whether the code has been rejected or accepted as soon as the decision is made. Accepted codes are immediately available for download using the ABBR download option on the Abbreviation front page of the website

Abbreviations	
Heading	Number Pick List items
ARTW_TYPE - Type of test	2
BKFL_LEG - Backfill legend abbreviation	6
CBRG_COND - Sample condition	2
CMPG_MOLD - Compaction mould type	2

[Download Full ABBR](#) [RSS](#)

3 Notes for software developers

When each new abbreviation is approved the standard abbreviation file is updated and an RSS feed item with a link to the new file is added to the RSS feed. Each new file contains all the additions from previous files so you only need to check the latest RSS feed item and download the file referenced in the feed.

The downloaded file is a complete AGS file with all ABBR, CODE, TYPE and UNIT codes defined. If possible it is advised that you use this RSS service to allow your users to easily update AGS 4 abbreviation codes.