

Address Verification Best Practices for Japan Addresses

Abstract

This document provides an overview of Japan address verification in Informatica Address Verification. This document also contains information about best practices that you can implement to optimize Japan address verification.

Supported Versions

- Informatica Address Verification (On-Premises) 5.8.0 and later
- Informatica Address Verification 2.0 and 3.0

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Language and Script

Informatica Address Verification can verify Japan addresses in the Kanji, Katakana, and Latin-7 scripts.

Japan reference address databases store the addresses in the Kanji script. Japan Post specifies Kanji as the default script and Katakana as an alternative script. Address Verification uses the Latin-7 script for transliteration. Address Verification also returns the address in the Latin-7 and ASCII scripts based upon the value of the `PreferredScript` parameter.

Address Format

The format of a Japan address is based on the script in which the address is written.

An address in the Kanji script lists all address elements on a single line. The address begins with the postal code, and the address elements continue from the largest geographical element to the smallest element.

A Kanji address contains address elements in the following order:

```
POSTALCODE PROVINCE LOCALITY_1 LOCALITY_2 LOCALITY_3 STREET_1 STREET_2 NUMBER BUILDING  
SUBBUILDING
```

The following table lists the address elements and examples for the address elements in the Kanji script:

Address Elements	Example
POSTALCODE	〒 105-6226
PROVINCE	東京都
LOCALITY 1	港区
LOCALITY 2	-
LOCALITY 3	愛宕
STREET 1	2 丁目
STREET 2	5 番
NUMBER	1 号
BUILDING	愛宕グリーンヒルズ MORI タワー
SUBBUILDING	26 階
Example Address	〒 105-6226 東京都港区愛宕 2 丁目 5 番 1 号愛宕グリーンヒルズ MORI タワー 26 階

Note: Address Verification has the same fields as Address Verification (On-Premises). However, Number is called HouseNumber in Address Verification.

An address in the Latin-7 script lists the address elements on multiple lines. The address reverses the order of the elements in the corresponding Kanji address.

The following sample address demonstrates the Latin-7 address format:

Level 26, Atago Green Hills MORI Tower,
2-5-1 Atago,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6226,
Japan

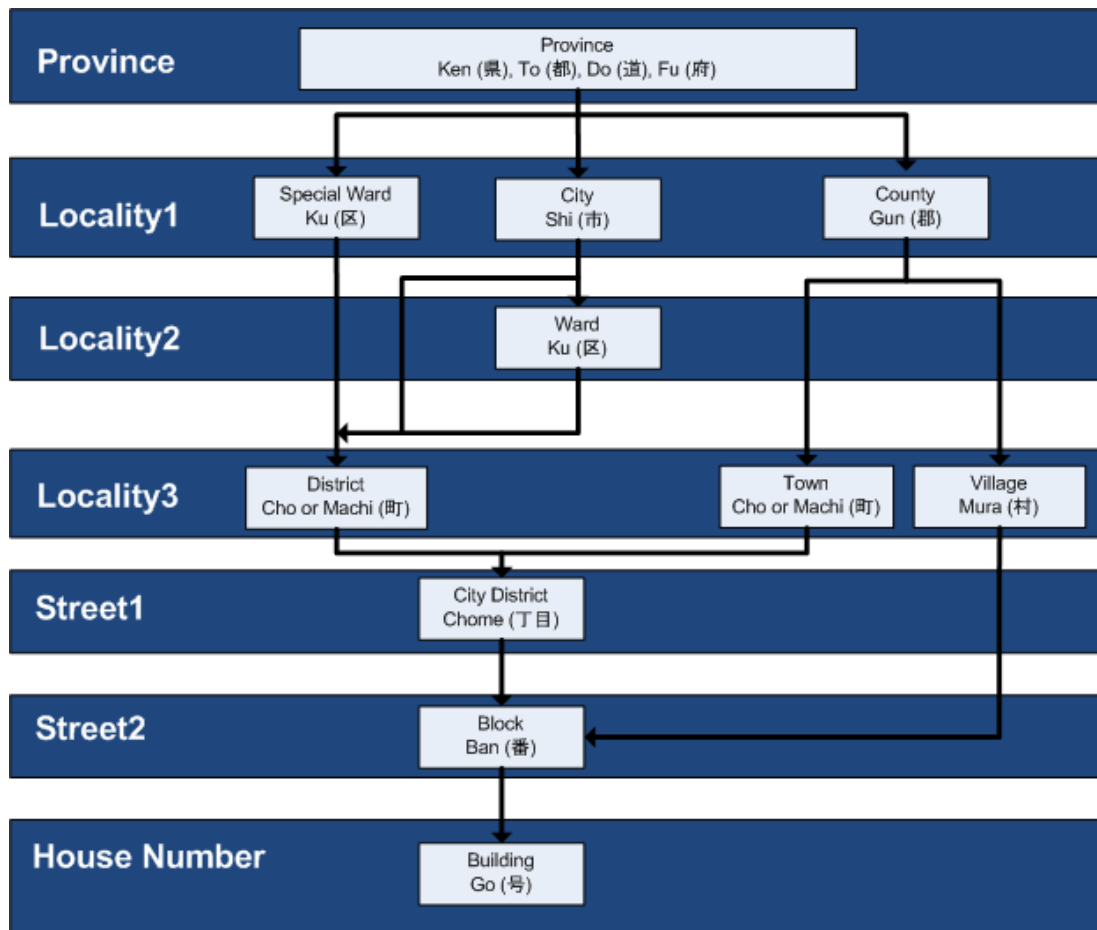
The following sample address demonstrates the corresponding Kanji address:

〒 105-6226 東京都港区愛宕 2 丁目 5 番 1 号愛宕グリーンヒルズ MORI タワー 26 階

Japan Address Elements

Japanese address system is complex as the address begins with the largest division of the country followed by smaller divisions. Japan has a block-based address structure. Blocks are separated by streets. Streets in Japan do not have names.

The following image shows the address elements of a Japanese address and how the elements are parsed to the Address Verification fields:



Note: In some county (Gun) addresses, the Cho part of the address is parsed to Locality 2 and the Machi part to Locality 3.

A Japanese address contains the following address elements:

- Province. Provinces are called Ken and denoted by 県. Japan has three other special provinces. The following are the types of special provinces in Japan:
 - To. Tokyo, denoted by 都.
 - Do. Hokkaido, denoted by 道.
 - Fu. Urban prefectures of Osaka and Kyoto, denoted by 府.
- Municipality. For large municipalities, the address includes the city called Shi, denoted by 市. Tokyo has special wards called Ku, denoted by 区. For smaller municipalities, the address includes the county called Gun, denoted by 郡.

Note: Cities can be subdivided into wards called Ku, denoted by 区.
- Locality. Special wards, cities, or wards can be subdivided into districts called Cho or Machi, denoted by 町. Counties are subdivided into towns or villages. Towns are called Cho or Machi, denoted by 町. Villages are called Mura, denoted by 村. Wards
- City District. City districts are called Chome, denoted by 丁目. Chome are numbered subdivisions of Cho.

Note: Villages do not have city districts.
- Block. Blocks are called Ban, denoted by 番.

Note: Land number called Banchi, denoted by 番地, follows Ban. The land number designates a piece of land registered in the land registry.

- Building. Buildings are called Go, denoted by 号.

In addition to the address, all locations in Japan have a postal code. The Japanese postal codes contain seven digits, and a postal mark, 〒, might precede the code to indicate that the number following is a postal code.

Process Modes

You can process the Japan addresses in the following process modes:

- ADDRESS CODE LOOKUP
- BATCH
- FAST COMPLETION
- INTERACTIVE

Enrichments for Japan Addresses

You can configure Informatica Address Verification to include the following enrichments for validated Japan addresses:

Enrichments	Database	Notes
CAMEO	JPN5CA.MD	Retrieve the CAMEO profiles from the Callcredit Information Group as enrichment to valid Japan addresses. CAMEO profiles provide consumer classification systems that indicate the socio-economic and geo-demographic profiles of neighborhoods across the world.
Country-specific Enrichments	JPN5E1.MD	Retrieve the following country-specific enrichments for valid Japan addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHOUMEI_AZA_CODE - NEW_CHOUMEI_AZA_CODE - CURRENT_CHOUMEI_AZA_CODE - GAIKU_CODE Note: The Choumei Aza code is an 11-digit code that defines a unique delivery point for Japan addresses. The Gaiku code is a four-digit code that identifies a city block in Japan.
Standard Geocoding	JPN5GC.MD	Retrieve the standard, interpolated geocoordinates for valid Japan addresses. When a valid address contains information to the Ban level, Address Verification returns Ban-level geocoordinates. When a valid address contains information to the Chome level, Address Verification returns Chome-level geocoordinates. If an address does not contain Ban or Chome information, Address Verification returns locality-level geocoordinates. Address Verification returns the following geocoding status values to indicate the geocode level for an address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EGC8. The geocoordinates represent the Ban. - EGC7. The geocoordinates represent the Chome. - EGC6. The geocoordinates represent the locality.

Address Verification Tips and Best Practices

Note the following points when you verify Japan addresses:

- Address Verification does not support building (Banchi and Go) and subbuilding (Goshitsu) level of verification.
- Japan addresses do not have street names as the Japanese streets do not have names.

- Address Verification supports the verification of Japan addresses in full-width Katakana and not half-width Katakana.

The Kanji script is used to write most of the Japanese names and place names. The Katakana script is used to write non-Japanese words and names.

- For best results, use Kanji to enter addresses while verifying addresses in the native script,
- Address Verification transliterates only postal address delivery elements from Kanji to Latin-7 as the Japan reference databases do not have information about names, such as person, company, or building names. For more information about transliteration and the limitations of transliteration, see the topic *Transliteration in the Informatica Address Verification Developer Guide (On-Premises)* available at the Informatica network.

- If you set the value of the `PreferredLanguage` attribute to `ENGLISH`, Address Verification returns the Latin-7 address without the suffixes, such as `-KU`, `-TO`, and `-KEN`.

For example, set the value of the `PreferredLanguage` attribute to `ENGLISH` and verify the following Latin-7 address:

```
Chikuho Bank Ltd.
7-3-1 TSUKIJI
CHUO-KU TOKYO-TO 104-8444
JAPAN
```

Address Verification returns the following address without the `-KU` and `-TO` suffixes:

```
Chikuho Bank Ltd.
7-3-1 TSUKIJI
CHUO TOKYO 104-8444
JAPAN
```

- A Japan address might have a current version and one or more older versions. Use the Choumei Aza codes to get the current version.

The Japan archive and enrichment databases can contain multiple versions of an address. When you verify an older Japan address, Address Verification returns the next version of the address and the next version of the Choumei Aza code in the database. However, if Japan Post updated the address more than once, the address and the new Choumei Aza code that Address Verification returns might not reflect the current address data. Enter the new Choumei Aza code that Address Verification returns in address code lookup to retrieve any later version of the address and the corresponding Choumei Aza code. The output address from Address Verification is the current address when the Choumei Aza code input value and the new Choumei Aza code output value are identical.

To get the current address information, set the `MatchingExtendedArchive` and `EnrichmentSupplementaryJP` attributes of the `Process` element to `ON`.

The following table shows a Japan address with two older versions and the Choumei Aza codes for each version:

Address Version	Address	Choumei Aza Code	New Choumei Aza Code
Oldest	〒 587-0002 大阪府南河内郡美原町黒山	27385006000	27201334000
Intermediate	〒 5870002 大阪府堺市美原町黒山	27201334000	27147007000
Current	〒 587-0002 大阪府堺市美原区黒山	27147007000	27147007000

The address is the current address when the Choumei Aza codes match.

For more information about updating the newer versions of Japan address from the older versions, see the Informatica Address Verification documentation available on the Informatica Network.

- The following table lists the Address Verification (On-Premises) fields in Latin-7 and Kanji:

Latin-7	Kanji
Country	国
Province	都道府県
Locality1	市区町村 1
Locality2	市区町村 2
Locality3	市区町村 3
Street1	町名 1
Street2	町名 2
Number	番地
Building1	建物 1
Building2	建物 2
Subbuilding1	棟 1
Subbuilding2	棟 2

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Informatica Address Verification verify house numbers in Japan addresses?

No. Address Verification does not have reference data for house numbers on all streets in Japan. However, Go and Banchi constitute house number information in Japan addresses.

Does Address Verification verify Ooaza (大字) and Aza (字)?

Yes. Address Verification parses Ooaza as Locality 3 and Aza as Street 1.

Do the users need to separate each field in the input address data with a comma?

No.

Which address element will Address Verification verify first if there is a mismatch between the postal code and the address?

Postal code. Address Verification verifies the postal code first. You can enter a postal code and receive a list of addresses that belong to that postal code.

How can the users know the verification status of the address elements?

Use the `ElementResultStatus` (要素の結果ステータス) to get the verification status of each elements. Address Verification sets the Element Result Status (ERS) value after verification to indicate whether the element was "appended", "changed", "copied", or "verified."

For more information about Element Result Status (ERS) and the ERS values, see the *Informatica Address Verification Developer Guide (On-Premises)* available at the Informatica network.

Is province information available for Japan addresses?

Yes, province information is available for Japan addresses. Address Verification returns only the province part, an alphanumeric string of up to three characters, of the ISO 3166-2 code.

What is the maximum number of AddressLines in a Japan address?

According to the Universal Postal Union specifications, the maximum number of address lines, including country information, in a Japan address is ten.

Does Address Verification support single-line address verification for Japan addresses in the Fast Completion mode?

Yes. Effective in version 5.9.0, you can configure Address Verification to return valid suggestions for a Japan address that you enter in a single line in the Fast Completion mode. You can retrieve suggestions for an address that you enter in the Kanji or Kana script. To enter an address in a single line, use the `AddressComplete` element.

When you enter a partial address, Address Verification returns one or more address suggestions for the address that you enter. When you enter a complete valid address, Address Verification returns the valid version of the address from the reference database.

How can users update the newer versions of Japan address from the older versions?

You can use Address Verification to get the current version of an older version. To update an older Japan address, first validate the address in batch or interactive mode. Address Verification returns a Choumei Aza code for the address. Enter the Choumei Aza code in address code lookup to retrieve the newer address.

For more information about updating the newer versions of Japan address from the older versions, see the Informatica Address Verification documentation available on the Informatica Network.

How does Address Verification return cho and jo (locality) information?

Address Verification returns cho and jo information in Formatted Address Lines. Address Verification also returns cho and jo information in the Locality 2 and Locality 3 fields respectively.

Consider the following points about cho and jo information:

- If you configure an address verification job for Japan in the Data Quality Center, your field assignments determine the address output that Address Verification returns. Verify that you select the columns in your input data file that contain the cho and jo data.
- Address Verification does not return cho and jo information in Delivery Address Lines. The Delivery Address Lines on their own do not represent the complete output address. If you select Delivery Address Lines to define the output address, you must select Locality 2 or 3 for cho and jo information.

When does Address Verification return chome (street) information?

If a Japan address contains larger locality information, Address Verification returns chome information in the Delivery Address Line and Formatted Address Line output.

If a Japan address contains smaller locality information, Address Verification does not return chome information in the Delivery Address Line and Formatted Address Line output.

Reference Address Databases

Informatica updates the Japan reference address databases monthly. You can download the latest database packages from the Informatica Database Download portal. For news about reference address databases and software updates for Address Verification, subscribe to the UpData newsletter from Informatica.

Informatica Address Verification supports the following Japan reference address databases:

- `JPN5AC.MD`. For address code lookup mode.

- JPN5BI.MD. For batch and interactive mode.
- JPN5CA.MD. For CAMEO.
- JPN5E1.MD. For country-specific enrichment.
- JPN5FC.MD. For fast completion mode.
- JPN5GC.MD. For standard geocoding.

Note: You must download databases only for Informatica Address Verification (On-Premises).

Additional Documentation Resources

For more information about Informatica Address Verification, see the Address Verification documentation at the following link:

<https://network.informatica.com>

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