

4) III) CHANGING ORTHOGRAPHY - H) APPLICATION OF NEW SPELLING RULES

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Application of new spelling rules can make it necessary for toponymic databases to change hundreds or even thousands of names in order to comply with the new orthographic rules. Examples of recent orthographic changes are those in Germany regarding:

ß and ss: In reformed orthography the grapheme ß is considered a separate letter that is to appear only after long vowels and diphthongs. Otherwise it should be written **ss**.

Triple consonants preceding a vowel are no longer reduced (but hyphenation is often used in these instances anyway):

- *Flußschiffahrt* → *Flussschiffahrt*, *Mißstand* → *Misstand*

Several **loan words** now allow spellings that are closer to the German norm. In particular, the affixes *-phon*, *-phot*, and *-graph* can be spelled with **f** for **ph**.

Although the new spelling rules do not apply to geographical names and personal names, they do apply to derived geographical names, for instance when used as adjectives. Application of all the ensuing changes may severely tax the toponymic authorities, and call for some planning measures.

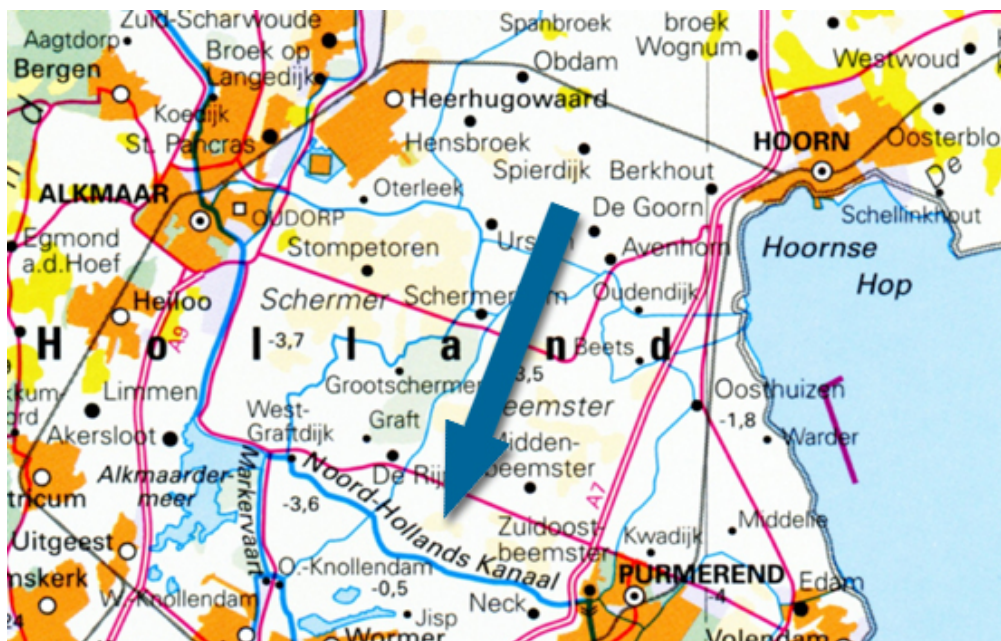
Example: The 1995 amendment to the Dutch spelling law of 1947 called for separating name parts that indicated cardinal directions from the geographical name parts by way of a hyphen, for instance Noordhollands was to be spelled Noord-Hollands forthwith (see images below). That meant that, on the map, the geographical name Noordhollands Kanaal was to be spelled Noord-Hollands Kanaal. In total, for the Bos school atlas in the Netherlands with a names register of some 30 000 names, this entailed changing some 600 geographical names both on the maps and in the register.

Below the Dutch examples (Noordhollands>Noord-Hollands and Zuidchinesezee>Zuid-Chinese Zee) from Bos van Balen Atlas 1960 and Noordhoff Bosatlas 2006.

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(1960)







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