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Information and documentation — International Standard Recording Code (ISRC)

*Information et documentation — Code international normalisé des
enregistrements (ISRC)*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3901:2001), which has been technically revised.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) is a standard identifying code that can be used to identify sound recordings and music video recordings so that each such recording can be referred to uniquely and unambiguously.

An ISRC identifies a recording through its entire life and is assigned by the producer of the recording or an authorized representative. Once assigned, the ISRC is used by (among others) the producer of the recording as well as by other producers, contributors to the recording, users and licensees of it, collective management organizations representing the owners of the different rights in the recording, broadcasting organizations, media libraries and archives, musicologists, teachers, and application-software developers.

The use of ISRC instead of relying on text matching enables more efficient and accurate identification when information about recordings needs to be stored and retrieved, or exchanged between parties. This is especially true when recordings have similar names but are different, or when variations in spelling, language, or character set make text matching unreliable.

This document sets out the format of ISRC, the mechanisms to ensure uniqueness of codes, and the ways in which ISRC is to be assigned to recordings.