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representing the  
recording industry  
worldwide

Welcome to the first edition of the US ISRC Registrant Newsletter. Our goal is to keep you informed of news and events that are of interest to US record labels and independent artists. Please send us your feedback at [isrc@riaa.com](mailto:isrc@riaa.com) so we can address your interests in future newsletters.

### ISRC FAQ (our top requests)

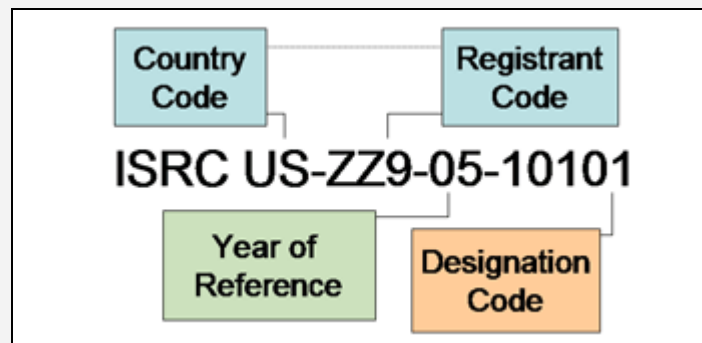
The US ISRC Agency receives many queries on ISRC. We thought we would share the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions from new Registrants.

Q: How do I create ISRCs?

A: There are four parts to the twelve-character ISRC. The parts are Country Code, Registrant Code, Year of Reference, and Designation Code in that order. The three character Registrant Code you received from the RIAA must always be preceded with the country code, "US," in the ISRCs that you create for your recordings.

Year of Reference is the last two digits of the year in which you assign the ISRC. Most Registrants treat the 5-digit Designation Code as a sequential number and assign the first new ISRC of the new year with a Designation Code of "00001." Other approaches are fine as long as you can ensure that your ISRCs are unique.

For visual presentation the four parts are separated by dashes and the acronym, "ISRC," precedes the code as in the following example:



Q: Can I figure out who owns a recording or when it was released by examining the ISRC sub-codes?

A: No, the ISRC does not convey information such as who the owner is, when it was released or any other facts related to the



now one disc has it all

recording itself. It is simply a unique identifier for audio and audiovisual recordings.

Q: What if I license my recordings to another label for use in another territory. Should they assign new ISRCs?

A: No, each ISRC should be maintained as the unique identifier for a recording regardless of changes in ownership, licensing, territory or method of distribution. Note that rights may vary between territories while the ISRC always remains the same.

Q: Why do I need ISRCs?

A: The ISRC is an identifier for sound recordings used in physical products, digital distribution and streaming audio (webcasting, satellite radio, etc.). It is used to disambiguate the identity of recordings that are subject to distribution royalties (both physical and online) and royalties from digital performances. ISRCs are especially useful in cases where an artist has made more than one recording of a particular song or musical work.

Q: I assigned ISRCs for all my tracks and encoded them into my CD, but when I put the CD in my computer the song names do not show up. Why?

A: Applications that play music CDs use one of several disc databases to retrieve information based on the table of contents of the music CD (not the ISRC). Please review the help text for your player software to learn more about disc databases and how to update their information.

Q: What is metadata?

A: Metadata is simply "data about data." Sound recording metadata includes information such as the ISRC, the name of the track, duration, owner, year of release and the name of the featured artist. You should maintain a detailed record of your metadata, so you can provide the information to your business partners.

Q: I know I should continue to use any previously assigned ISRCs. How can I tell if ISRCs were encoded in my CD or assigned for my online tracks?

A: A list of software programs that can read ISRCs from a CD is available upon request. If your tracks are currently available at some of the download stores or online subscription services, then they may already have ISRCs. Check with your distributor or encoding service provider to see if they have assigned ISRCs on your behalf. Note that this should only have been done with your exclusive permission and only for recordings that did not already have assigned ISRCs.

A larger FAQ is available at:

[http://www.riaa.com/issues/audio/isrc\\_faq.asp](http://www.riaa.com/issues/audio/isrc_faq.asp)

## **RIAA Launches DualDisc™ Logo Licensing Program**

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) recently announced a newly-created program through which any record label can obtain a license for use of the DualDisc™ logo – an innovative new product that combines music and optional video content on a single, two-sided disc.

The CD side contains a full-length music album while the DVD side contains the same audio of equal or greater quality. The DVD side audio can be enhanced LPCM stereo or surround sound. The DVD side can also include bonus tracks, images, video clips, lyrics and DVD-ROM files.

Use of the DualDisc™ logo is available to record labels in any territory for a nominal fee. Trial licenses are available for those labels that desire to explore market interest in DualDiscs for their artists.

In order to use the logo, licensees must use a replicator that has been designated by the RIAA as a Certified DualDisc™ manufacturer. Certification is based on the testing of production samples by an approved, independent test facility. Manufacturer certification ensures uniformity in production for labels that are licensed to use the DualDisc™ logo.

The DualDisc™ Logo Licensing web site is:  
<http://DualDiscLicensing.org/>

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### **About this E-Mail**

This is the first installment of the US ISRC Registrant Newsletter – brought to you by the Technology Department of the Recording Industry Association of America. You are receiving this because you provided this email address when you applied for a US ISRC Registrant Code.

For more information call +1 202-775-0101 or send us an email at [isrc@riaa.com](mailto:isrc@riaa.com).

On the web at: <http://riaa.com/>

*The Recording Industry Association of America is the trade group that represents the U.S. recording industry. Its mission is to foster a business and legal climate that supports and promotes our members' creative and financial vitality. Its members are the record companies that comprise the most vibrant national music industry in the world. RIAA® members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90% of all legitimate sound recordings produced and sold in the United States. In support of this mission, the RIAA works to protect intellectual property rights worldwide and the First Amendment rights of artists; conduct consumer industry and technical research; and monitor and review - - state and federal laws, regulations and policies. The RIAA® also certifies Gold®, Platinum®, Multi-Platinum™, and Diamond sales awards, Los Premios De Oro y Platino™, an award celebrating Latin music sales.*