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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## 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.



# Information and documentation — International Standard Recording Code (ISRC)

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) for the unique identification of recordings.

The ISRC is applicable to the identification of audio recordings and music video recordings whether they are in analogue or digital form.

The ISRC is not applicable to the numbering of audio or audiovisual products or carriers. Neither is it applicable to the numbering of packages of audio recordings or music video recordings with other media items.

The ISRC is applicable to music video recordings even if they have been assigned an International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) in accordance with ISO 15706 (all parts), or a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) in accordance with ISO 26324, but it is not applicable to other forms of audiovisual recording.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **audio recording**

fixation of sounds

### 3.2

#### **music video recording**

fixation of sounds synchronized with pictures or moving pictures where (a) the fixed sounds are wholly or substantially a musical performance or (b) the *recording* (3.3) is intended for viewing in association with a recording of a musical performance

Note 1 to entry: This definition includes music videos and concert recordings, together with music-related interviews and documentaries, but does not extend to general audiovisual material, even if it includes music.

### 3.3

#### **recording**

*audio recording* (3.1) or *music video recording* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: A recording can be composed of parts that are themselves recordings (see A.1.9).

Note 2 to entry: A recording is distinct from the carrier in which it is embodied for release, even if no other recordings are included.