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Information and documentation — International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC)

*Information et documentation — Code international normalisé des œuvres
musicales (ISWC)*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 15707 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Presentation, identification and description of documents*, in collaboration with the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

Annex A forms a normative part of this International Standard. Annexes B and C are for information only.

Introduction

The International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC) system was developed by the member societies of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC). CISAC's purpose in creating an ISWC for musical works is to enable more efficient administration of rights to those works on a worldwide basis. The ISWC provides an efficient means of identifying musical works in computer databases and related documentation and for the exchange of information between rights societies, publishers, record companies and other interested parties on an international level.

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Information and documentation — International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a means of uniquely identifying a musical work. It standardizes and promotes internationally the use of a standard identification code so that musical works can be uniquely distinguished from one another within computer databases and related documentation and for the purposes of collecting societies involved in the administration of rights to such works.

The International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC) identifies musical works as intangible creations. It is not used to identify manifestations of or objects related to a musical work. Such manifestations and objects are the subject of separate identification systems, such as the International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) for sound recordings, the International Standard Music Number (ISMN) for printed music, and the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) for audiovisual works.

Guidelines for the use of ISWC are given in normative annex A.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

check digit

added digit which may be used to verify the accuracy of a standard number through a mathematical relationship to the digits contained in that number

NOTE Adapted from ISO 7064:1983.

2.2

musical work

work composed of a combination of sounds, with or without accompanying text

2.3

work

distinct, abstract creation of the mind whose existence is revealed through one or more expressions (e.g. a performance) or manifestations (e.g. an object)

3 Construction of an ISWC

3.1 Basic construction

An ISWC consists of a prefix element followed by nine digits and a check digit, as follows:

- prefix element (1 character);
- work identifier (9 digits);
- check digit (1 digit).