International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2010/02

Country Code for ISRC in the United States

6 December 2010

The International ISRC Agency today announces new arrangements that will apply to registrant codes in the United States of America.

ISRC includes in its structure the country code of the country where the registrant code was allocated. The country code is normally the alpha-2 code taken from ISO 3166 Part 1 and is "US" for the United States of America. However, demand for ISRC within the US has caused the supply of available registrant codes to become exhausted.

The International ISRC Agency has been preparing for this and has chosen a solution where a different country code is used with new registrant code allocations. ISO 3166 contains a number of codes that are guaranteed never to be allocated to a country. These are known as "user assigned code elements". The International ISRC Agency already uses the "ZZ" user assigned code element for some registrant codes that it allocates directly.

Once the current supply of US registrant codes is exhausted, new allocations of registrant codes by the US National ISRC Agency will use the user assigned code element "QM" as the country code.

The following points should be noted carefully:

-   ISRCs that have already been assigned must not be changed,

-   Users who have already been allocated a registrant code should continue to use it with the "US" country code as they do now,

-   New users who are notified that their registrant code is to be used with the "QM" country code should be careful never to use it with the "US" country code because this will result in ISRCs being generated that collide with previously assigned codes.

The International ISRC Agency recommends that ISRCs should be validated before being accepted (see International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2009/01 - Validating an ISRC). This validation should be extended to accept ISRCs with "QM" in the country code field.

In International ISRC Agency is not aware of any software issues that will arise as a consequence of this announcement but would welcome feedback to isrc@ifpi.org.