Assigning ISRCs to Your Sound Recordings
A Quick Guide for New Registrants in the US
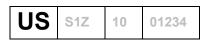
The International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) is a 12 character alphanumeric code that comprises four elements:

Example:

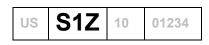| Country Code	Registrant Code	Year of Reference	Designation Code
US	S1Z	10	01234

An ISRC is constructed using these four elements. The first two are allocated to you by the US National ISRC Agency:

1: Country Code

US	S1Z	10	01234

The first two-character element represents the country of the ISRC National Agency to which you apply. In the United States until late 2010 this was "US" but after this date, it became "QM" for new registrant code allocations. You will have been informed about the country code you should use when you were allocated a registrant code. You must be careful to use the correct one. The country code does not change when recordings are sold or licensed to other countries.
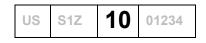
2: Registrant Code

US	S1Z	10	01234

These three characters are allocated to you by the National ISRC Agency. In the US, the Registrant Code will have been allocated in conjunction with the appropriate Country Code and these must always be used together. The Registrant Code may contain letters, digits or both. Your Registrant Code can be found on your account page when you login at www.usisrc.org. The dummy Registrant Code "S1Z" is used in this document but you should use your own code.
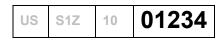
The following two elements are determined by you to create ISRCs for each individual recording, e.g. a track on a CD.

3: Year of Reference

US	S1Z	10	01234

These two characters represent the year in which you create the ISRC, regardless of when the recording was made, released or when the Registrant Code was allocated. For ISRCs assigned in 2010, you will use '10' and for 2011 you will use '11' ...and so on. Only the digits 0 to 9 are acceptable in this element.

4: Designation Code

| US | S1Z | 10 | **01234** |

The final five digit element is used to create a unique code for each recording or track. You should take care to ensure that duplicates are never issued and that you do not issue more than one ISRC to the same track. Only the digits 0 to 9 are acceptable in this element.

We recommend beginning with a Designation Code of 00001 for the first ISRC created each calendar year and moving up sequentially from there. For the first release the following year, the Year of Reference will change and you should restart the sequence of Designation Codes at 00001.

Example

A sample set of ISRCs might look like:

Album 1

Track 1 US-S1Z-10-00001
Track 2 US-S1Z-10-00002
Track 3 US-S1Z-10-00003
Track 4 US-S1Z-10-00004
Track 5 US-S1Z-10-00005

Album 2

Track 1 US-S1Z-10-00006
Track 2 US-S1Z-10-00007
Track 3 US-S1Z-10-00008
Track 4 US-S1Z-10-00009
Track 5 US-S1Z-10-00010
Track 6 US-S1Z-10-00011

Remember:

Each master recording (track) should have one and only one ISRC. It should be used to uniquely identify that recording forever, regardless of changes in ownership or territory of exploitation.

When you reuse previously released tracks in compilations, you should continue to identify these tracks using the same unique ISRC that was originally assigned.

Please see the ISRC Handbook (below) for more details on assigning new ISRCs in the case of remixes or substantial changes in duration.

Each ISRC must contain exactly 12 characters, exactly as above. The hyphens are not part of the ISRC.

You do not need to submit your assigned ISRCs to the RIAA at this time. However you must keep an accurate record to ensure you never assign the same ISRC twice. In practice you need to maintain a database of the ISRC codes assigned and the other metadata associated with the track (title, artist etc). You should provide all this information to business partners such as online retailers. They should be encouraged to use the ISRCs in reporting to you.

There is more US information at: www.usisrc.org.

International ISRC information is at www.ifpi.org/isrc. In particular the ISRC Handbook is available at this site.