



International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2012/01

Use of New Country Codes (CP, DG) by the International ISRC Agency

11 September 2012

The International ISRC Agency today announces that, following consultation with the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency, two unallocated Alpha 2 country codes from ISO 3166-1 will be reserved for use in the ISRC system.

The ISRC specification includes the ISO country code of the country of the registrant as the first two characters of an ISRC. This ensures that codes assigned in different countries are always different without the need for coordination between National ISRC Agencies.

ISRC Bulletin 2007/01 allocated “ZZ” to the International ISRC Agency and is used to allow the international agency to allocate a registrant code to users when the relevant national agency is unable to do so, for example because of natural disaster.

The International ISRC Agency may in future use the country codes “CP” and “DG”. Both these codes are “exceptionally reserved” within the ISO system which means they are not allocated to any country but are held because another international agency uses them and wishes to avoid confusion. These two codes are used by the International Telecommunications Union to identify certain technical installations (on Clipperton Island and Diego Garcia respectively) and no ambiguity can arise.

The International ISRC Agency may use these country codes (or parts of the ranges of registrant codes available under them) in the same way that it uses “ZZ” or it may allocate them (or parts of them) to particular national agencies. This would allow the system to accommodate the exhaustion of a country code or the loss of records by a national agency.

ISRC system users who are validating ISRC codes in accordance with ISRC Bulletin 2009/01 should add “CP” and “DG” to the list of country codes that are valid within an ISRC.

Enquiries about this process can be sent to the International ISRC Agency at isrc@ifpi.org.

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