

International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2012/03

Country Code for ISRC in the United Kingdom

15 November 2012

The International ISRC Agency today announces new arrangements that will apply to registrant codes in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: When the supply of registrant codes for use with the United Kingdom country code of “GB” has been exhausted, new registrant codes will be allocated for use with a new “UK” country code. This is expected to happen in early 2013.

ISRC includes in its structure the country code of the country where the registrant code was allocated. The country code is normally taken from ISO 3166-1 and is “GB” for the United Kingdom. However, demand in the United Kingdom for ISRC has caused registrant codes to become exhausted.

As with a similar situation that arose in the United States of America, the International ISRC Agency has been preparing for this and has chosen a similar solution where a different country code is used with new registrant code allocations. The ISO 3166 Management Agency has designated certain codes as “exceptionally reserved code elements” because they are widely used for other purposes. The “UK” code element is reserved because this code is widely used to designate the United Kingdom even though the relevant ISO 3166 code element is “GB”.

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 “GB” country code as they do now,
- New users who are notified that their registrant code is to be used with the “UK” country code should be careful never to use it with the “GB” country code because this will result in ISRCs being generated that collide with codes assigned by other registrants.

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 “UK” in the country code field.

The International ISRC Agency would welcome feedback in experience with this change to isrc@ifpi.org.

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