



What does ISRC mean?

ISRC stands for **INTERNATIONAL STANDARD RECORDING CODE**. Every song or instrumental track used on a CD or digital release must have its own unique ISRC number.

The ISRC number is a unique code for each actual song/instrumental recording. It is not directly related to, or influenced by, the recording artist or the writer(s)

Do I need to be using ISRC code numbers?

If you are releasing music product yourself either on an existing record label or as your own independent 'label', either as actual 'physical' product (such as CD) or as a digital release, then you really need to.

Note: If you are signed to an existing record label and your music is being released on/by that label, then the label should be generating its own ISRCs for your release. If it can't or doesn't then get them to read this as well!

How do I create ISRC code numbers?

In the UK you have to become a member of PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited), joining them as a 'rights holder' (your own record company/label). When you become a member you will be given a membership number and it's at this point you request your 'ISRC Registrant Code'

The good news is that it's free to join PPL. Please be aware that from applying it can take up to 3 weeks to get all of your membership confirmed, but once done – that's it! Here is the PPL website address where you can join PPL <http://www.ppluk.com>

How is an ISRC code number made up?

Each ISRC code is made up of 12 digits that are made up of the following 4 sections:

Country/Territory Code	Registrant Code	Year of Original Release (2 Digits)	Designation Code
XX	XXX	XX	XXXXX

Country/Territory Code – in the UK, this code is "GB"

Registrant Code – is the code given to you by PPL (see above)

Year of Original Release – the last 2 digits of the year the track recording was originally released

Designation Code – a 5 five digit number that you allocate to the track

Here is an example of an ISRC code number for which we are assuming the Registrant Code is "HIT", the original release date of the song/instrumental is 2014 and it's your first song/instrumental to be designated a number

Country/Territory Code	Registrant Code	Year of Original Release (2 Digits)	Designation Code
GB	HIT	14	00001

How do you encode an ISRC code numbers into a recorded track?

This is done at the time your final audio master is burned. If you give a list of your ISRC numbers to your mastering engineer/company, they will encode them into your final master for you.

If you are producing your own final audio master then you need to ensure that you use a program that when preparing and then writing your master is capable of embedding (writing) ISRCs into the audio master to "red book" standard

In conclusion.

This is only a brief summary of ISRCs but it does contain all the information you need to get started in creating your own ISRC numbers and incorporating them into/onto your projects.

You can manufacture a (physical) CD without ISRC codes being incorporated into them if you so wish but we believe that in this day and age they are essential.

ISRC codes are increasingly being used for things such as logging radio plays which generate royalties etc and you don't want to miss out on those!

If you are looking to release your music digitally then you really do need to start incorporating ISRC code numbers into your masters.

There are lots of other real and positive benefits to using ISRC codes.

For more information we would recommend that you check out the website of IFPI. Here is their website address <http://www.ifpi.org/>

(IFPI is the ISO appointed international registration authority for ISRC)

One final question: Can Doxmedia allocate ISRCs to my masters?

Yes we can. But only onto the files we upload to our contacts. We cannot supply or add ISRC codes to/for your masters for CD manufacture. You'll need to become a PPL member and then supply ISRCs to your mastering studio/engineer for that (or invest in a suitable programme for your tablet, PC or Mac).

The ideal thing, mainly for yourself, is for you to supply Doxmedia with a list of ISRCs with your master, which we will then add to the metadata files we upload to our contacts.

If you do want us to arrange for ISRC codes to be allocated to your tracks when uploading to our contacts, for use by our contacts when placing on their various sites, then we can do this for you.

If you still have further questions please email us at info@doxmedia.co.uk