

International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2015/03 New Country Code for ISRC in the United States

23rd November 2015

The International ISRC Agency today announces that the US National ISRC Agency will be authorised to use the country code “QZ”.

The National ISRC Agency of the United States has previously allocated registrant codes in conjunction with country codes ‘US’ and ‘QM’. Demand for ISRC in the US has caused almost all such registrant codes to have been allocated. The use of the ‘QZ’ country code by the US National ISRC Agency will allow registrant codes to remain available in the US.

The following points should be noted carefully:

- ISRCs that have already been assigned to recordings must not be changed,
- Registrant codes previously allocated in conjunction with the ‘US’ or ‘QM’ country codes remain valid and usable. Existing registrants should continue using the codes that have been allocated to them,
- New users who are notified that their registrant code is to be used with the ‘QZ’ country code should be careful never to use it with ‘US’ or ‘QM’ because this would result in ISRCs being generated that would collide with previously assigned codes.

The International ISRC Agency recommends that ISRCs should be validated before being accepted (see [International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2015/01](#) - Validating ISRC Codes). This validation should be extended to accept ISRCs with ‘QZ’ as the country code element.

The International ISRC Agency is, with the US National ISRC Agency, studying options to avoid further frequent changes of this sort. This is also an objective of the ongoing revision of the ISRC standard. Further information will be published by the International ISRC Agency in due course.

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