

International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2015/01
Validating an International Standard Recording Code
 March 3rd 2015, Updated 23rd November 2015

This ISRC Bulletin replaces 2009/01 and is intended as a reference on checking the validity of codes and aims to help system implementers create automated checks that can verify a correctly formatted International Standard Recording Code (ISRC).

Syntax Rules

An ISRC is correctly formatted when it conforms to the syntax rules. These rules state that the different parts of the overall code must be 12 characters in length and only use the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet (A-Z) and Arabic numerals (0-9).

Element Number	Element Name	Position in ISRC	Permitted Characters
Element 1	Country Code	1, 2	A-Z
Element 2	Registrant Code	3, 4, 5	A-Z, 0-9
Element 3	Year of Reference	6,7	0-9
Element 4	Designation Code	8, 9, 10, 11, 12	0-9

Table A – ISRC Code Elements

The structuring of the code from elements is purely to provide an easy means for constructing unique codes. Code elements do not have any intrinsic ‘meaning’ once the ISRC has been assigned.

Sometimes ISRCs can be found to have lowercase letters a-z. These should be interpreted as uppercase A-Z.

Care should be taken when using the letter O and the numeral 0, and the letter I and the numeral 1.

As an aid to readability, when an ISRC is written, printed or otherwise visually presented, it is preceded by the characters ‘ISRC ’ and the four code elements are separated by hyphens. Preceding characters, spaces or hyphens should never be considered part of the overall 12-characters of the ISRC. Before or during data entry they should be stripped out. If extraneous characters are entered, subsequent software processing may take the first 12-characters which can lead to incorrect results.

Valid Values for Element 1 (Country Code)

The characters of Element 1 of the ISRC have been drawn from the ISO 3166 country code table; however not all country codes have been utilised at present. In some cases, factors including high demand for ISRCs in particular territories have led to the allocation and use of codes that are designated ‘reserved’ in the ISO 3166 table. Character combinations which are valid within ISRC Element 1 are allocated by the International ISRC Agency and are shown in the table in Annex A. These are the only codes that are valid within Element 1.

The list in Annex A, will be updated by the International Agency when new country codes are allocated within the ISRC system. When checks for ISRC validity are carried out, these should be based on the most recent version of this document.

The ISRC Bulletins that are listed in Annex B have previously announced the allocation of various two letter combinations for use as country codes. These allocations have been consolidated into Annex A of this document and remain valid. The Bulletins in Annex B are superseded by this document and are now withdrawn.

Cases of invalid values for ISRC Element 1 should be reported to the National ISRC Agency or the International ISRC Agency for investigation and/or advice.

Examples of When an ISRC Is Always Invalid

ISRCs Set Aside for Specific Purposes

Some ISRC Agencies, such as the US National ISRC Agency and the International ISRC Agency use certain codes for illustrative purposes in documentation and training materials. For example, US-S1Z or JM-K40. These codes will never be allocated to a Registrant and therefore if you receive an ISRC with either of these as Registrant Codes it is invalid.

Same ISRC Assigned to Different Recording

It is a fundamental principle of the ISRC System that two different recordings must have different ISRCs. If it is found that an ISRC has already been allocated to another recording then an error has occurred and the source of the error must be reported to the National ISRC Agency or the International ISRC Agency for investigation and/or advice.

Examples of When an ISRC May Be Invalid

The ISRC Contains Dummy Data

ISRCs may be found that are formed of data that is clearly not valid. Characters may be repeated in forms like GB-000-00-00000, GB-111-11-11111 or 00-000-00-00000. These ISRC-like codes are sometimes used by companies in their internal systems or for testing, and they are not intended to be released commercially.

The ISRC Contains an Improbable Year of Reference

The Year of Reference now indicates when the ISRC was assigned to the recording. In earlier versions of the standard, it represented the year of recording. Some years will clearly warrant further investigation. For example, a recording from genres of the late 20th century or later (such as, rock and roll, dance, techno, etc) is found to have a Year of Reference of 35, meaning 1935 – that is clearly incorrect.

Annex A: List of Valid Country Code Values within ISRC Element 1

The list of Table B below shows relevant countries and the ISRC country codes that have been allocated in particular countries. In some countries, codes are being managed by National ISRC Agencies, as indicated within the table. The codes for other countries, indicated by a '*' character in table B, are being managed by the International ISRC Agency.

<i>English short name (upper/lower case)</i>	<i>ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code</i>	<i>Allocated by Agency</i>	<i>ISRC Usage</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<i>Albania</i>	<i>AL</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AL</i>	
<i>Algeria</i>	<i>DZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>DZ</i>	
<i>Andorra</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AD</i>	
<i>Angola</i>	<i>AO</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AO</i>	
<i>Anguilla</i>	<i>AI</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AI</i>	
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	<i>AG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AG</i>	
<i>Argentina</i>	<i>AR</i>	<i>CAPIF</i>	<i>AR</i>	
<i>Armenia</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AM</i>	
<i>Aruba</i>	<i>AW</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AW</i>	
<i>Australia</i>	<i>AU</i>	<i>ARIA</i>	<i>AU</i>	
<i>Austria</i>	<i>AT</i>	<i>LSG-Wahrnehmung von Leistungsschutzrechten</i>	<i>AT</i>	
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	<i>AZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AZ</i>	
<i>Bahamas</i>	<i>BS</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BS</i>	
<i>Bahrain</i>	<i>BH</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BH</i>	
<i>Bangladesh</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BD</i>	
<i>Barbados</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>COSCAP</i>	<i>BB</i>	
<i>Belarus</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BY</i>	
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>BE</i>	<i>SIMIM</i>	<i>BE</i>	
<i>Belize</i>	<i>BZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BZ</i>	
<i>Bermuda</i>	<i>BM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BM</i>	
<i>Bolivia, Plurinational State of</i>	<i>BO</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BO</i>	
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	<i>BA</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BA</i>	
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>SOCINPRO</i>	<i>BR and BX</i>	
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>BG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BG</i>	
<i>Burkina Faso</i>	<i>BF</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>BF</i>	
<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>CM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CM</i>	
<i>Canada</i>	<i>CA</i>	<i>Connect</i>	<i>CA</i>	
<i>Cayman Islands</i>	<i>KY</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>KY</i>	
<i>Chile</i>	<i>CL</i>	<i>IFPI Chile</i>	<i>CL</i>	
<i>China</i>	<i>CN</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CN</i>	

English short name (upper/lower case)	ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code	Allocated by Agency	ISRC Usage	Comment
<i>Chinese Taipei</i>	<i>TW</i>	<i>National Central Library (ISRC Management Centre)</i>	<i>TW</i>	<i>ISRC Agency for Chinese Taipei</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CO</i>	
<i>Congo, the Democratic Republic of the</i>	<i>CD</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CD</i>	
<i>Cote d'Ivoire !Côte d'Ivoire</i>	<i>CI</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CI</i>	
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>HR</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>HR</i>	
<i>Cuba</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CU</i>	
<i>Curacao !Curaçao</i>	<i>CW</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CW</i>	
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>CY</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>CY</i>	
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>CZ</i>	<i>INTERGRAM</i>	<i>CZ</i>	
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>GRAMEK DK</i>	<i>DK</i>	
<i>Dominica</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>DM</i>	
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	<i>DO</i>	<i>SODINPRO</i>	<i>DO</i>	
<i>Ecuador</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>EC</i>	
<i>Egypt</i>	<i>EG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>EG</i>	
<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>SV</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>SV</i>	
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>EE</i>	<i>EFU</i>	<i>EE</i>	
<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>ET</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>ET</i>	
<i>Fiji</i>	<i>FJ</i>	<i>Managed by the National ISRC Agency for New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ)</i>	<i>FJ</i>	
<i>Finland</i>	<i>FI</i>	<i>IFPI Finland</i>	<i>FI</i>	
<i>France</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>SCPP</i>	<i>FR and FX</i>	
<i>French Polynesia</i>	<i>PF</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>PF</i>	
<i>Gambia</i>	<i>GM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GM</i>	
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GE</i>	
<i>Germany</i>	<i>DE</i>	<i>BVMI</i>	<i>DE</i>	
<i>Ghana</i>	<i>GH</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GH</i>	
<i>Gibraltar</i>	<i>GI</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GI</i>	
<i>Greece</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>IFPI Greece</i>	<i>GR</i>	
<i>Grenada</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GD</i>	
<i>Guatemala</i>	<i>GT</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GT</i>	
<i>Guernsey</i>	<i>GG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GG</i>	
<i>Guyana</i>	<i>GY</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>GY</i>	
<i>Haiti</i>	<i>HT</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>HT</i>	
<i>Honduras</i>	<i>HN</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>HN</i>	

English short name (upper/lower case)	ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code	Allocated by Agency	ISRC Usage	Comment
Hong Kong SAR, China	HK	IFPI Hong Kong	HK	
Hungary	HU	*	HU	
Iceland	IS	SFH	IS	
India	IN	IMI	IN	
Indonesia	ID	ASIRI	ID	
Iran, Islamic Republic of	IR	*	IR	
Iraq	IQ	*	IQ	
Ireland	IE	PPI	IE	
Israel	IL	IFPI Israel	IL	
Italy	IT	FIMI	IT	
Jamaica	JM	JAMMS	JM	
Japan	JP	RIAJ	JP	
Jersey	JE	*	JE	
Jordan	JO	*	JO	
Kazakhstan	KZ	*	KZ	
Kenya	KE	*	KE	
Korea, Republic of	KR	RIAK	KR	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LA	*	LA	
Latvia	LV	LaIPA	LV	
Lebanon	LB	*	LB	
Lesotho	LS	*	LS	
Liechtenstein	LI	Managed by the National ISRC Agency for Switzerland	LI	
Lithuania	LT	AGATA	LT	
Luxembourg	LU	Managed by the National ISRC Agency for Belgium (SIMIM)	LU	
Macao	MO	*	MO	
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	MK	*	MK	
Malawi	MW	*	MW	
Malaysia	MY	RIM	MY	
Maldives	MV	*	MV	
Malta	MT	*	MT	
Mauritius	MU	*	MU	
Mexico	MX	AMPROFON	MX	
Moldova, Republic of	MD	*	MD	
Monaco	MC	*	MC	

<i>English short name (upper/lower case)</i>	<i>ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code</i>	<i>Allocated by Agency</i>	<i>ISRC Usage</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Montenegro	ME	*	ME	
Montserrat	MS	*	MS	
Morocco	MA	*	MA	
Mozambique	MZ	*	MZ	
Namibia	NA	*	NA	
Nepal	NP	*	NP	
Netherlands	NL	SENA	NL	
New Zealand	NZ	Recorded Music NZ	NZ	
Nigeria	NG	*	NG	
Northern Mariana Islands	MP	*	MP	
Norway	NO	Gramo	NO	
Pakistan	PK	*	PK	
Panama	PA	PRODUCE	PA	
Papua New Guinea	PG	*	PG	
Paraguay	PY	SGP	PY	
Peru	PE	UNIMPRO	PE	
Philippines	PH	PARI	PH	
Poland	PL	ZPAV	PL	
Portugal	PT	AFP	PT	
Puerto Rico	PR	*	PR	Historically allocated
Puerto Rico	PR	Managed by the US National Agency	US/QM/ QZ	
Qatar	QA	*	QA	
Romania	RO	UPFR	RO	
Russian Federation	RU	*	RU	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KN	*	KN	
Saint Lucia	LC	*	LC	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VC	*	VC	
San Marino	SM	*	SM	
Saudi Arabia	SA	*	SA	
Senegal	SN	*	SN	
Serbia	RS	*	RS	
Seychelles	SC	*	SC	
Sierra Leone	SL	*	SL	
Singapore	SG	Recording Industry Association (Singapore)	SG	
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	SX	*	SX	
Slovakia	SK	SLOVGRAM	SK	

English short name (upper/lower case)	ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code	Allocated by Agency	ISRC Usage	Comment
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>SI</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>SI</i>	
<i>Solomon Islands</i>	<i>SB</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>SB</i>	
<i>South Africa</i>	<i>ZA</i>	<i>RISA</i>	<i>ZA</i>	
<i>Spain</i>	<i>ES</i>	<i>AGEDI</i>	<i>ES</i>	
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	<i>LK</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>LK</i>	
<i>Swaziland</i>	<i>SZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>SZ</i>	
<i>Sweden</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>IFPI Sweden</i>	<i>SE</i>	
<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>IFPI Switzerland</i>	<i>CH</i>	
<i>Tanzania, United Republic of</i>	<i>TZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>TZ</i>	
<i>Thailand</i>	<i>TH</i>	<i>TECA</i>	<i>TH</i>	
<i>Tonga</i>	<i>TO</i>	<i>Managed by the National ISRC Agency for New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ)</i>	<i>TO</i>	
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>TT</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>TT</i>	
<i>Tunisia</i>	<i>TN</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>TN</i>	
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>TR</i>	<i>MU-YAP</i>	<i>TR</i>	
<i>Turks and Caicos Islands</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>Note: codes allocated under DG</i>
<i>Uganda</i>	<i>UG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>UG</i>	
<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>UA</i>	<i>Ukrainian Music Alliance</i>	<i>UA</i>	
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	<i>AE</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>AE</i>	
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>GB</i>	<i>PPL</i>	<i>GB and UK</i>	
<i>United States</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>RIAA</i>	<i>US, QM and QZ</i>	
<i>Uruguay</i>	<i>UY</i>	<i>Camara Uruguaya Del Disco</i>	<i>UY</i>	
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	<i>UZ</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>UZ</i>	
<i>Vanuatu</i>	<i>VU</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>VU</i>	
<i>Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of</i>	<i>VE</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>VE</i>	
<i>Viet Nam</i>	<i>VN</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>VN</i>	
<i>Virgin Islands, British</i>	<i>VG</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>VG</i>	
<i>Zambia</i>	<i>ZM</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>ZM</i>	
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	<i>ZW</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>ZW</i>	
<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>TuneCore (Digital Services)</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>Allocation due to historical irregularity</i>

<i>English short name (upper/lower case)</i>	<i>ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 Code</i>	<i>Allocated by Agency</i>	<i>ISRC Usage</i>	<i>Comment</i>
-	-	<i>IFPI (International ISRC Agency)</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>International ISRC Agency (reserved for future use)</i>
-	-	<i>IFPI (International ISRC Agency)</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>International ISRC Agency (ranges allocated as required)</i>
-	-	<i>IFPI (International ISRC Agency)</i>	<i>ZZ</i>	<i>Int. ISRC Agency individual allocations where reqd</i>
-	-	<i>Allocated to producers in former Serbia & Montenegro (prior to 2006)</i>	<i>CS</i>	
-	-	<i>Allocated to producers in former Yugoslavia (prior to 2003)</i>	<i>YU</i>	

Table B – Country Codes that have been validly allocated within the ISRC system

The International ISRC Agency manages all ISRC country codes including those for which no codes have yet been allocated to producers. Only the country codes listed above are authorised for use in ISRCs. Where there is no National ISRC Agency codes may only be allocated by the International ISRC Agency. There are no country codes that are available for user-defined usage within the ISRC system. Country codes designated for reserved usage by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency are managed in respect of ISRC by the International ISRC Agency working in collaboration with the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency. Codes that may have been created unofficially including any codes assigned with country codes other than those listed above are not valid ISRCs.

Certain territories or island groups may obtain ISRC registrant codes via the National Agency in an associated territory. For example the territory of Puerto Rico, other US territories and US outlying islands would receive Registrant Codes from the US National ISRC Agency.

A complete listing of National ISRC Agencies and contact details is at <http://isrc.ifpi.org/en/contact/national-agency-contacts>

Annex B – Withdrawn ISRC Bulletins

The following ISRC Bulletins have been withdrawn and replaced by this present Bulletin 2015/01:

- Bulletin 2010/01 (Fiji & Luxembourg)
- Bulletin 2010/02 (USA)
- Bulletin 2011/01 (Liechtenstein)
- Bulletin 2012/01 (CP & DG)
- Bulletin 2012/03 (UK)
- Bulletin 2013/01 (Tonga)
- Bulletin 2013/02 (Tunecore)
- Bulletin 2013/04 (France)
- Bulletin 2014/01 (Brazil)

The code allocations announced in these bulletins remain valid and are incorporated into Annex A above.

‘ISRC Bulletin 2009/01 – Validating an ISRC’ is superseded by this ISRC Bulletin 2015/01.