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International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2014/01 Country Code for ISRC in Brazil

26th February 2014

The International ISRC Agency today announces new arrangements that will apply to registrant codes in Brazil: When the supply of registrant codes for use with the Brazil country code of "BR" has been exhausted, new registrant codes will be allocated for use with a new "BX" country code. This is expected to happen soon after the release of this Bulletin.

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 "BR" for Brazil. However, demand in Brazil for ISRC has caused registrant codes to become exhausted.

As with similar situations that have arisen in other territories, 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 "reserved" because they are widely used for other purposes. The "BX" code element is reserved because it is used in some systems to refer to the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property - a body that deals with trademarks and designs. This will not conflict with its use as a country code within the ISRC system.

The International ISRC Agency is confident that there are sufficient codes available to deal with any further situations that arise before the forthcoming revision of the ISRC International Standard, which is planned to move away from country code based identifiers.

The following points should be noted carefully:

- ISRCs that have already been assigned must not be changed,
- Any ISRC registrant that has already been allocated a registrant code should continue to use it with the "BR" country code as they do now,
- New users who are notified that their registrant code is to be used with the "BX" code element should be careful never to use it with the "BR" country code because this will result in ISRCs being generated that collide with codes that have already been 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 "BX" in the country code field.

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