

ISRC — International Standard Recording Code

General information:

The ISRC is a KEY COMPRISED OF TWELVE CHARACTERS.

It encodes in sequence country name (2 characters) / first holder (3 characters) / year of the recording (2 characters) and the recording itself (5 characters).

The ISRC is alphanumeric using both letters of the Roman alphabet and Arabic numerals!

It is issued and maintained by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN)

The ISRC is arranged in FOUR PARTS and looks as follows:

In the written FORM

ISRC DE-P55-04-00001

For the encoding (written together)

DEP550400001

Explanation of the four parts:

- DE → COUNTRY KEY
Consists of 2 LETTERS - always in written in capital letters and without umlauts. The country key is assigned to each country by the ISO.
- P55 → FIRST HOLDER KEY
Consists of 3 CHARACTERS (alphanumeric - letters always as capitals).
First holder is, as a rule, the manufacturer of the recording - the original holder of the rights.
- 04 → YEAR KEY
The code consists of the LAST TWO DIGITS of the year of recording (e.g. 2004) and is assigned directly by the first holder.
In exceptional cases - if the year of the recording is not known - the year of allocation by the ISRC may be used as the year key.
- 00001 → Recording key
Must always consist of 5 DIGITS and is assigned by the first holder
the coding should always be numbered consecutively
e.g. 00001 / 00002 > consecutive
e.g. 00010 / 00020 > consecutive
e.g. 23100 / 23101 / 23102 > consecutive
- IMPORTANT one separate ISRC per title!

The ISRC is coded onto the digital recording medium in accordance with the respective system specifications. The ISRC is read into the sub-channel together with the PQ data.

The first holder key must be obtained from:

Deutsche Landesgruppe der der IFPI e. V., Oranienburger Straße 67/68, 10117 BERLIN, GERMANY,
Tel.: +49 30 590038-0 / Fax: +49 30 590038-38 / E-Mail: verbaende@phono.de

The ISRC may, inter alia, be used for digital broadcasting, as a billing instrument, for the identification of audio and video recordings, music titles and first holders.