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Information and documentation — International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC)

Information et documentation — Code international normalisé des œuvres musicales (ISWC)

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15707:2001), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes are as follows:

— Clause 2, the mandatory Normative references clause has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered;

— Clause 4, references to the International ISWC Agency have been removed and the registration authority URL www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies has been added;

— Clause 5, references to ISWC agency have been removed;

— former A.1.1, the header has been removed and the content has been combined with the main header A.1.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document has been developed in collaboration with the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

The International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC) system was developed by the member societies of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC). CISAC's purpose in creating an ISWC for musical works is to enable more efficient administration of rights to those works on a worldwide basis. The ISWC provides an efficient means of identifying musical works in computer databases and related documentation and for the exchange of information between rights societies, publishers, record companies and other interested parties on an international level.

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Information and documentation — International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC)

1 Scope

This document specifies a means of uniquely identifying a musical work. It standardizes and promotes internationally the use of a standard identification code so that musical works can be uniquely distinguished from one another within computer databases and related documentation and for the purposes of collecting societies involved in the administration of rights to such works.

The International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC) identifies musical works as intangible creations. It is not used to identify manifestations of, or objects related to a musical work. Such manifestations and objects are the subject of separate identification systems, such as the International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) for sound recordings, the International Standard Music Number (ISMN) for printed music, and the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) for audiovisual works.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
check digit
added digit which may be used to verify the accuracy of a standard number through a mathematical relationship to the digits contained in that number

Note 1 to entry: Adapted from ISO/IEC 7064.

3.2
musical work
work (3.3) composed of a combination of sounds, with or without accompanying text

3.3
work
distinct, abstract creation of the mind whose existence is revealed through one or more expressions (e.g. a performance) or manifestations (e.g. an object)

4 Construction of an ISWC

4.1 Basic construction

An ISWC consists of a prefix element followed by nine digits and a check digit, as follows:

— prefix element (1 character);

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