

## **ISRC - International Standard Recording Code**

The ISRC is a unique international identifier for tracks on sound and music-video recordings. Comprised of a 12 character alpha-numeric code, the ISRC functions as a digital “fingerprint” for each track. Unlike a Universal Product Code the ISRC is tied to the track and not the carrier of the track (CD, cassette). In addition, the ISRC remains allocated to a track regardless of changes in ownership. It is an extremely powerful tool for royalty collection, administration, and anti-piracy safeguards in the digital arena.

The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) administers these codes in the USA.

ISRC’s are placed into the digital information encoded during the mastering of an album, or song. You should have these codes ready for your mastering engineer to embed into your digital masters.

ISRC’s are actually really easy to understand, and simple to register for.

Here’s an example:

### **US-AF5-07-32476**

“US” = the country code

“AF5” = registrant code. You just register with the RIAA to get your unique registrant code. If you are on a record label, their code will be used.

“07” = the year

“32476” = the code assigned to the track by the registrant. This code may not be repeated within the same calendar year (5 characters). you can make this up based on whatever you like – often people use numbers that indicate which record (e.g. 001) and which track (e.g. 01). so, if it’s the first track on your first record, you might use “00101”. If it’s the twelfth track on your ninth album, it might read “00912.”

To get your unique registrant code, use the link below to retrieve the most recent version of the ISRC Application from the RIAA. It’s one of the simplest steps in making a record.

<http://www.riaa.com/issues/audio/isrcApp.pdf>