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International ISRC Agency Bulletin 2009/02 Appointment of New National Agencies

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For some time the ISRC website has carried a notice about National ISRC Agencies:

Please note IFPI is currently not accepting applications pending review of international standard ISO 3901:2001

This ISRC bulletin explains the background and the current position on the appointment of National ISRC Agencies so that everyone is aware of the options that are being explored.

The current structure of the ISRC system is that the International Agency appoints National Agencies who allocate registrant codes to rights holders so that they can assign their own ISRCs. This was originated in 1986 – before the emergence of the internet and associated services. The International ISRC Agency has been involved in a review of the ISRC standard requested by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), which has included an examination of the best way to assign ISRCs in the future.

Several options have been proposed to the ISO working group and these include:

- Retaining the status quo
- Centralizing the allocation of registrant codes
- Centralizing the assignment of ISRCs

Because no decisions have yet been taken by the ISO working group, the International ISRC Agency will normally not approve the appointment of new National ISRC Agencies. Exceptional cases will be dealt with on their merits.

ISRC users in countries where there is no National ISRC Agency will continue to have registrant codes allocated by the International ISRC Agency (IFPI Secretariat in London), an arrangement which works well in practice and ensures that parties that need a registrant code can obtain one quickly.

The International ISRC Agency will of course welcome approaches from organisations that wish to assist with the promotion of ISRC in their territories.

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