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Title: Report on ISO 3901:2001, International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) for SC9 plenary meeting in Nairobi, May 14, 2009

Source: International ISRC Agency

Project(s): ISO 3901

Status:

Additional information:

REQUESTED ACTION

Circulated to P- and O-members, and to technical committees and organizations in liaison for:

☒ information

☒ discussion at SC9 Plenary in Nairobi, Kenya, May 14, 2009
[venue/date of meeting]

☐ comments by
[date]

☐ voting (P-members only by:

[date]

P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee concerned have an obligation to vote.

ISO 3901:2001

International Standard Recording Code (ISRC)

International Agency Report 2009

Since the ISO TC 46 / SC 9 meeting on 22 May 2008 in Stockholm, the International ISRC Agency has continued to meet its obligations under ISO 3901:2001.

Responsibility for International ISRC Agency

After a period of considerable uncertainty in the course of the year (during which operations were maintained but policy development was effectively suspended), the management of the International ISRC Agency has been protected and contracted out. The existing Executive Director will continue as a contractor and will be supported by staff in Washington DC and London. The cost recovery programs (see below) make this a sustainable situation.

Success and Implementation of ISRC

Registrant Code allocation has grown in most territories over the past two years, reflecting the increasing use of ISRC in commerce in digitally delivered music, principally by download sites and digital distribution companies. For example in 2008, the US ISRC Agency allocated 25% of the total number of Registrant Codes allocated since 1990.

Procedures for Allocation of ISRCs by Third Party Applicants

Since publishing the Procedures for Allocation of ISRCs by Third Party Applicants in 2007, many National ISRC Agencies report that they have allocated Registrant

Codes for use by third parties who wish to assign ISRCs on behalf of small producers.

This policy has been successfully implemented in a variety of forms reflecting local conditions. The ability to tailor this policy is critical as it ensures that ISRCs are assigned in a way that reflects the operational needs of the marketplace it serves. While these implementations follow the principles established in existing guidelines, the International ISRC Agency will likely need to revise its published procedures in continued support of the varied forms taken by these programs.

These procedures will be revised in connection with the ISO 3901 revision currently in process.

Cost Recovery Programs

In 2008, the International ISRC Agency dealt extensively with the question of issues relating to cost recovery programs by National ISRC Agencies. Given the current economic climate and the increasing burden of managing a growing ISRC system, there has been an increasing interest in charging a nominal fee for the allocation of a Registrant Code. National ISRC Agencies have been informed that they are welcome to recover the costs of their administrative support, provided that the ISRC system remains accessible to all users in its territory.

ISRC Website

While core ISRC information is posted to the ISRC Website at www.ifpi.org/isrc, National ISRC Agencies develop their own web resources for local use and are encouraged to reuse the international assets.

The US ISRC Agency has developed a website to process Registrant Code allocation and provide improved documentation on ISRC assignment. This has been designed in a modular way to allow reuse in other contexts. Initial intentions are to repurpose the website to serve territories that are currently served directly by the International ISRC Agency and work has started on doing this for Korea.

Appointment of new ISRC Agencies

No new agencies have been appointed. The International ISRC Agency expects to make the use of the US developed website mandatory for new appointments though it will be very selective in making appointments and will prefer regional appointments where this is appropriate. Discussions about ISRC management in the Caribbean are well advanced and should provide a good service to this musically vital and increasingly economically important region which would struggle if a national agency were appointed in each small territory.

ISO 3901 Revision - Working Draft

The International ISRC Agency held stakeholder meetings in Hong Kong, London and New York in 2008 to build consensus around proposed changes to the existing standard. These meetings have resulted in an initial Candidate Working Draft Standard that is has been under review by the Working Group.

ISO 3901 Revision - ISO Project 3901 Timeline

Working Group 10, which is charged with the revision of ISO 3901 has met twice by conference call but the uncertainties mentioned above prevented it completing its work. The best way forward will be discussed at the TC46 / SC9 meeting in May 2009.