



UNCLAIMED ROYALTIES STUDY

ACRONYM GLOSSARY

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
AFM	American Federation of Musicians	A labor union representing professional musicians in the United States and Canada.
ASCAP	American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers	A U.S. nonprofit performing rights organization (PRO) that provides public performance licenses for musical works. Subject to a consent decree.
BIEM	Bureau International des Sociétés Gérant les Droits d'Enregistrement et de Reproduction Mécanique	An international organization representing member mechanical rights societies. Negotiates licensing agreements with IFPI, assists in technical collaboration between its member societies to solve problems that arise between individual members, and contributes to the defence and development of copyright protection in the domain of mechanical rights.
BMI	Broadcast Music, Inc.	A U.S. nonprofit performing rights organization (PRO) that provides public performance licenses for musical works. Subject to a consent decree.
CIS	Common Information System	Common information system that uses a variety of international standard identifier codes for musical works (ISWC), audiovisual works (ISAN) and rights holders (IPI, ISNI), several tools and databases (CIS-Net, IPI System, AV Index, Agreements, etc.) and a set of standardized formats (CWR, AVR, UP, CRD) for information exchange. Launched by CISAC and used by all CISAC members.
CIS-Net	Common Information System Network	A network of databases for the use of CISAC members built upon the CIS standards.
CISAC	International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers	Worldwide organization of authors' societies, representing more than 4 million creators from all geographic areas and all artistic repertoires (including musical compositions, audio visual, dramatic, literary, and visual works). CISAC launched its CIS system to streamline rights data management. The ISWC, ISNI, and IPI unique identifiers are part of CISAC's CIS system.
CMO	Collective Management Organization	CMOs collectively license the use of rights they manage and collect and distribute royalties generated by various licensed uses. Includes PROs, mechanical rights societies, music licensing companies (a.k.a. neighboring rights societies), and other collective licensors. The term is most often used outside of the United States.
CRB/CRJs	Copyright Royalty Board/ Copyright Royalty Judges	Three-judge panel that makes determinations and adjustments of terms and rates of royalty payments for the U.S. statutory licenses. Part of the Copyright Office.

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CWR	Common Works Registration	CISAC standard developed with publishers with a primary use to register works with collecting societies. However, the CWR has recently expanded and is used in other types of exchanges (e.g., publishers to DMPs). CWR employs data standards that have been developed for the Common Information System (CIS) project of CISAC.
DAW	Digital Audio Workstation	An electronic device or software application used for recording and producing music. Examples are ProTools and Logic Pro.
DDEX	Digital Data Exchange, LLC	An international organization that develops standards for the exchange of data and information across the music ecosystem.
DLC	Digital Licensee Coordinator	A nonprofit, designated by the Copyright Office, that coordinates the activities of digital music providers under the blanket section 115 compulsory mechanical license. The DLC is authorized to participate in Copyright Royalty Board proceedings to establish the administrative assessment to be paid by digital music providers to operate the MLC. A DLC representative serves as a nonvoting member on the MLC's board.
DMP	Digital Music Provider	Generally, services offering recorded music and other forms of digital entertainment to the public via streaming or download.
DSP	Digital Service Provider	In the music context, services offering recorded music and other forms of digital entertainment to the public via streaming or download, i.e., a DMP.
DSR	Digital Sales Report Message Suite Standard	DDEX standard that communicates information about sales, usage, or revenue generated on a digital music service.
ERN	Electronic Release Notification	DDEX standard that provides core metadata about sound recording and video releases to DMPs.
FMC	Future of Music Coalition	A U.S. nonprofit that advocates for musicians.
GAO	Government Accountability Office	An independent, nonpartisan agency that provides analyses, options, recommendations, and other assistance to help Congress make effective oversight, policy, and funding decisions.
GMR	Global Music Rights	A U.S. for-profit performing rights organization (PRO) that provides public performance licenses for musical works. Not subject to a consent decree.
GRD	Global Repertoire Database	An earlier, EU-initiated attempt to create a comprehensive and authoritative database for ownership and administration of musical works throughout the world. The GRD was not developed.
GRid	Global Release Identifiers	A unique identifier for sound recordings developed by MI3P.
HFA	Harry Fox Agency	U.S. provider of music rights administration services, especially for mechanical rights for musical works. Owned by SESAC.
IFPI	International Federation of the Phonographic Industry	A nonprofit trade organization that represents the interests of the recording industry worldwide.
IMJV	International Music Joint Venture	An early effort by PROs to develop a comprehensive and authoritative worldwide musical work ownership database. Ultimately never developed.

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IMPALA	Independent Music Companies Association	A nonprofit organization representing independent music companies.
IMR	International Music Registry	WIPO's project to develop a database, intended to be a single access point for rights management systems around the world, to provide the rights status of musical works and sound recordings. Ultimately dissolved.
IPI	Interested Parties Information	A unique identifier assigned to rights holders with an interest in an artistic work, including natural persons or legal entities, made known to the IPI Centre. The IPI System is an international registry used by CISAC and BIEM societies. The collation and presentation of IPI information is standardized according to the CIS business rules. The IPI serves the documentation, distribution, and accounting processes of the societies that use the IPI System. The IPI system is administered by the Swiss copyright society SUISA.
IPN	International Performer Number	A unique identifier to identify performers. Allocated and used by performer CMOs. IPNs are managed by SCAPR.
ISNI	International Standard Name Identifier	A unique identifier for identifying the public identities of contributors to creative works, regardless their legal or natural status, and those active in their distribution. These may include researchers, inventors, writers, artists, visual creators, performers, producers, publishers, aggregators, and more. A different ISNI is assigned for each name used. ISNI is not widely in use across the music industry.
ISO	International Standards Organization	An international standard-setting body that promotes worldwide standards.
ISRC	International Standard Recording Code	A unique identifier assigned to sound recordings and music videos (assigned at the track level rather than by album) and created in conjunction with ISO. Managed by IFPI and regional agents (U.S. agent is RIAA).
ISWC	International Standard Musical Work Code	A unique identifier assigned to musical works and used in exchanges of information between PROs, publishers, record companies, and other interested parties on an international level. The system was developed by CISAC member societies. Managed by CISAC and regional agents (U.S. agent is ASCAP).
MDX	Music Data Exchange	A software application developed by SoundExchange in cooperation with RIAA and NMPA to facilitate the exchange of sound recording and publishing data between record labels and music publishers. Provides a central database of metadata and publisher rights and claiming capabilities.
MEAD	Media Enrichment and Description	DDEX standard that provides more than the core information delivered in an ERN message.
MI3P	Music Industry Integrated Identifiers Project	Project to develop a global infrastructure for the music industry to facilitate uses by online music services through a system of standardized data exchange. Governed by DDEX.
MLC	Mechanical Licensing Collective	A nonprofit entity that will administer the new blanket licensing system established by the Music Modernization Act beginning on the License Availability Date (January 1, 2021). The MLC will collect notices and reports from digital music providers, collect and distribute royalties, and identify musical works and their owners for payment. It will also maintain a public database containing information relating to musical works.

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MLC	Music Licensing Company	An international collective rights organization (CMO) that licenses the public performance (neighboring) and other rights in recordings. Not to be confused with the United States' establishment of a mechanical licensing collective (MLC) under the MMA.
MMA	Music Modernization Act	The Music Modernization Act updates the music licensing landscape to better facilitate legal licensing of music by digital services. It creates a blanket license for DMPs using the compulsory license for making and distributing musical works (the section 115 mechanical license). It also provides certain protections (and exceptions to those protections) to pre-1972 sound recordings and addresses the distribution of certain producers' royalties.
MWN	Musical Works Notification Message Suite Standard	DDEX standard designed to allow parties to obtain licenses or statements of rights claims from musical work rights owners.
NMPA	National Music Publishers Association	A nonprofit trade organization that represents part of the music publishing industry in the United States.
NOI	Notice of Intention to Obtain a Compulsory License	Prior to the MMA, users had to file a notice of intention with the copyright owner to obtain a compulsory license under the section 115 compulsory mechanical license (or if the copyright owner could not be identified or located from the Copyright Office's public records, the NOI had to be filed with the Copyright Office). The NOI system remains in place for non-digital uses (e.g., CDs, vinyl, etc.) and during the current transition period to the blanket license (except that the Office no longer accepts NOIs). But after the License Availability Date (January 1, 2021), DMPs wishing to use the section 115 compulsory license will need a blanket license from the MLC.
NSAI	Nashville Songwriters Association International	A nonprofit trade association that represents songwriters in all genres of music.
OMI	Open Music Initiative	Nonprofit initiative creating an open-source protocol for the uniform identification of music rights holders and creators.
PLine	Phonogram Line	DDEX field signifying a rights statement for musical works.
PRO	Performing Rights Organization	Responsible for licensing public performance rights of musical works for affiliated songwriters and publishers and collecting and distributing royalties from those licenses (e.g., ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, GMR).
RIAA	Recording Industry Association of America	A nonprofit trade organization that represents part of the U.S. recorded music industry.
RDx	Repertoire Data Exchange	Centralized data exchange gateway under development by IFPI and WIN to allow record companies and music licensing companies to submit and access authoritative recording data via a single point.
RIN	Recording Information Notification	DDEX standard incorporated into recording studio equipment and DAWs that allows for producers and other users to store metadata associated with a recording project.
SAG-AFTRA	Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists	A nonprofit labor union that represents actors, journalists, radio personalities, recording artists, singers, voice actors, and other media professionals.

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
SCAPR	Societies Council for the Collective Management of Performers' Rights	A nonprofit organization representing performers' collective management organizations (CMOs).
SCL	The Society of Composers and Lyricists	A nonprofit trade association that represents songwriters and composers working in all forms of visual media.
SESAC	Society of European Stage Authors and Composers	A U.S. for-profit performing rights organization (PRO) that provides public performance licenses for musical works. Owns HFA. Also operates certain services outside the United States. Not subject to a consent decree.
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol	A network protocol that provides secure file access, transfer, and management over any reliable data stream.
SGA	Songwriters Guild of America	A nonprofit trade association that represents songwriters.
SONA	Songwriters Of North America	A nonprofit trade association that represents composers and lyricists.
SRDB	Sound Recording Database	RIAA database of sound recording ownership information.
SX	SoundExchange	A nonprofit organization designated by the U.S. Copyright Royalty Judges to collect and distribute digital performance royalties for sound recordings under the section 114 statutory license. Also operates SXWorks, its music publisher services arm.
WIN	Worldwide Indie Network of Independent Labels	A coalition of independent music labels around the world.
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	An agency of the United Nations that administers international treaties on a wide range of intellectual property areas, including copyright.
XML	Extensible Markup Language	A file format used to create common information formats and share both the format and the data using standard text.

ADDITIONAL MUSIC TERMS

TERM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Authors' Rights Societies	CMOs, including performing right organizations and mechanical rights societies, that represent the rights of songwriters and, for some CMOs, other types of authors and publishers.
License Availability Date	January 1, 2021. The date that the section 115 blanket license becomes available; unmatched royalties, along with usage reports, will start being transferred from DMPs to the MLC; and prior section 115 compulsory mechanical licenses are automatically substituted for and superseded.
Music Distributor	Signs agreements with record labels/artists giving the distributor the right to sell the music to retail shops and/or digital music services.
Music Publisher	Enters into agreements with songwriters and composers where the copyrights in musical works are assigned to (or are administered by) the publishing company, which licenses the musical works to others. The publisher typically handles administration duties associated with the musical work, including ensuring that licensees are paying appropriate royalties.
Musical Work	The composition created by the songwriter or composer along with any accompanying lyrics.
Performers' Collective Management Organizations	CMOs that represent performers' public performance (called neighboring rights outside of the United States) and other rights in recordings. Some performers' CMOs also represent producers and are music licensing companies.
Phonorecord	Material objects in which sound recordings are fixed (<i>e.g.</i> , vinyl records, CDs, digital downloads, etc.), but does not include videos.
Record Label	Aids in the making and marketing of sound recordings and music videos and enters into agreements with performers, producers, and others. The copyrights in sound recordings and music videos are typically owned by the record label, which then licenses those works to others. The record label typically handles administration duties associated with sound recordings and music videos, including ensuring that licensees are paying appropriate royalties.
Sound Recording	A work that results from the fixation of a series of musical, spoken, or other sounds, but not including the sounds accompanying a motion picture or other audiovisual work.