

ANGOA: the French collecting society for retransmission royalties.

EGEDA: the Spanish collecting society for retransmission royalties.

ISAN: International Standard Audiovisual Number. For more details, see the section **What is an ISAN** below.

ISANization: the process of obtaining and assigning an ISAN to a given audiovisual work.

RA: Registration Agency. These are appointed by the ISAN International Agency (ISAN-IA) to receive and process ISAN applications and to assign ISANs to specific works.

Policies described in this FAQ for Mandatory ISANization apply to ANGOA, EGEDA and all other collecting societies that may in future enforce a similar policy.

Mandatory ISANization

Q: What announcements have been made by ANGOA and EGEDA?

A: ANGOA and EGEDA have recently advised that as of January 1st, 2010, providing an ISAN for each of their works will be mandatory for royalty processing and payment, regardless of when the corresponding rights for that work were declared at AGICOA.

Q: If my works are not ISANized, will I get paid royalties for France and Spain?

A: ANGOA and EGEDA have stated that payment of royalties will be made under deduction of each society's standard management fee only if an ISAN has been provided for each corresponding audiovisual work. They have reserved the right to ask for ISAN registration on behalf of the Rightsholders in order to enable their distributions, and to deduct corresponding costs from the royalties. AGICOA will inform its Rightsholders when such requirements are found in order that you may register appropriate ISANs in a timely fashion.

Q: How much time do I have to ISANize my works?

A: AGICOA expects to confirm claims to ANGOA and EGEDA by Q3 2010, and we will then be able to inform Rightsholders what works have been broadcast and that do not have ISANs. If such works are ISANized before ANGOA and EGEDA make their next distributions, claims for those works will be paid in that distribution, otherwise they will be paid in subsequent distributions following their actual ISANization.

Rightsholders can of course register ISANs for works for which they expect to make claims at any time before Q3 2010, which would mean that such claims would be ready for processing at that time.

The more quickly Rightsholders can ISANize relevant works in their catalogues, the sooner ANGOA and EGEDA will be able to pay those claims.

Q: When would ANGOA or EGEDA ask for ISAN registrations on behalf of Rightsholders?

ANGOA and EGEDA have stated that due to the extra administrative tasks involved, it would be more expensive for Rightsholders to have works ISANized at the time of royalty processing and that they would naturally prefer ISAN registrations to be done through each Rightsholder's chosen RA beforehand.

However, if Rightsholders do not contact their chosen RA to register ISANs prior their distributions, ANGOA and EGEDA will in a timely fashion notify concerned parties of deadlines for relevant ISAN registrations. If ISANs are still not registered, ANGOA and EGEDA may then register ISANs on their behalf in order to ensure payment of royalties for that distribution.

Q: Do I need to have an ISAN for each episode of my series to be paid French or Spanish retransmission royalties for broadcasts of that series?

A: The ISAN ISO standard calls for ISANs for each episode, however AGICOA are today using only the root of an ISAN in our rights management of serial works. While the same is currently true for ANGOA and EGEDA, they have stated that should episodic ISANs in future be integrated into their works identification for royalty processing, they would then reserve the right to register an ISAN for each episode, and to deduct corresponding costs from the royalties.

Q: Are there additional reasons I may want to ISANize each episode of my series?

A: For future compatibility, AGICOA will be linking any existing and new registered episodes in the ISAN global database to the ISANs we already use in our rights management. If any broadcaster begins to include episodic ISAN information in their broadcast stream, this will greatly enhance our works identification process for that broadcast.

Episodic ISANization can also have other benefits including stock control, piracy protection, and precise identification of your works if they are used on digital broadcast platforms. It may therefore be worth considering this step when ISANizing your catalogue.

Q: Do I need to add ISANs in my AGICOA declarations in order to receive payments from ANGOA and EGEDA? Or do we now have to submit separate registrations to ANGOA or EGEDA?

A: It is most efficient to simply add ISANs to your declarations with AGICOA, who will submit your claims, complete with ISANs, to ANGOA and EGEDA. This can be done using IRRIS Web, or included in your bulk declarations as per existing methods. ISANs will be used by ANGOA and EGEDA to identify each work that has been broadcast.

Q: What happens to royalties that are payable as of 2010 but for works without ISANs?

A: ANGOA and EGEDA have stated that Royalties calculated for a given work and not paid out will remain available for any claim, as long as the corresponding broadcasting period is open (has not been time-barred). As soon as the corresponding works have been ISANized and the appropriate Rightsholders identified, payments will be made at the next distribution for that country. AGICOA will do its utmost to inform Rightsholders if monies have been unpaid, and to alert you in a timely fashion of the need to register corresponding ISANs. You can find a list of open and time-barred broadcasting periods at <http://www.agicoa.org/distributionstatus.html>.

Q: Can the same ISAN for a work be used for both ANGOA and EGEDA claims?

A: Yes. You only ever need to register an ISAN for a work once, for a one-time fee. This means that if you register an ISAN for a work in relation to a claim with ANGOA, the same ISAN will be re-used if the work is used in Spain and there is a corresponding claim from EGEDA. Once purchased, the same ISAN can be used again and again, throughout the life of a work, with any collecting society who may in future require ISANs, and for any other purpose where ISANs are used for works identification, worldwide.

Q: I am a distributor of films. Shouldn't the burden of obtaining an ISAN be on the producer's shoulders?

A: A work can be registered by anyone recognized as an ISAN registrant by ISAN Registration Agencies including producers, distributors, agents or any rights holder. For compliance with the mandatory requirements of ANGOA and EGEDA, the party entitled to claim relevant royalties would have the most incentive to register an ISAN - whether the registrant is a producer, a distributor or an agent.

What is an ISAN?

Q: ISAN - what does it mean and what is it for?

A: ISAN is an ISO standard (ISO: 15706-1 & 15706-2). The ISAN International Agency (ISAN-IA) who appoints Registration Agencies (RAs) supervises ISAN. The ISAN (International Standard Audiovisual Number) is a voluntary numbering system for the identification of audiovisual works. It provides a unique, internationally recognized and permanent reference number for each audiovisual work registered in the ISAN system.

It is the equivalent of the well-known International Standard Book Number (ISBN), the unique numeric commercial book identifier.

The ISAN identifies Audiovisual Works and their related versions, not rights, broadcasts or publications. The ISAN remains unchanged regardless of the uses to which it is put.

Q: What does an ISAN look like?

A: An ISAN code is a 24-digit number (in hexadecimal format) comprised of three segments: a root, an episode, and a version. Two other digits (after the episode and after the version) are used as checksums.



The ISAN root is assigned to a core work. Subsequent film parts or television episodes that relate to the root work can have the same root, but a different episode component (if a core work does not have associated parts or episodes, then the episode segment is filled with zeros). Works (and their episodes) that have been modified in some way - for example, dubbing, and subtitling the work into other languages - can also have different versions.

Q: What information do I need to supply to register an ISAN for an Audiovisual work?

A: Here is a table that shows both the mandatory and optional (recommended) descriptive information required for the ISAN Root, Episode and Version segments.

ISAN Segment	Descriptive Information	
	Mandatory	Optional (Recommended)
Root		
	Title of audiovisual work/content + alternate titles (when applicable)	
	Duration (in minutes and/or seconds)	
	Original language(s)	
	Work Type (Feature Film, Documentary, TV entertainment, etc...)	
	Year of reference (Copyright or production)	Year of first publication
	Country (or countries) of reference	
	Color or Black & White	
	Full name of principal director(s)	Full name of main producer
		Main Production Company
		Full name of participants (actors, scriptwriter, etc...)

ISAN Segment	Descriptive Information	
	Mandatory	Optional (Recommended)
Episode		
	Same as Root, plus:	
	Title of the Serial	Episode Number
	Episode Title	Season
Version		
	Title of the version + alternate titles (when applicable)	
	Running Time	
	Year of Release	
	Version Intention	Media Type, Streaming Format, Channel Information, Platform
	Version Description	Other related Identifiers such as (ISWC, ISRC, AdID, etc...)
	Spoken & Written Language	Version specific Rating Information

Q: How do we get the ISAN number for our works? We have never heard of this!

A: Kindly contact your ISAN registration agency: www.isan.org.

Q: Which RA should I contact?

A: Get the list of RAs at www.isan.org. For countries with no local Registration Agency, please contact ISAN-IA directly by emailing cs@isan.org

Q: How do I know if an ISAN is attached to my work?

A: Go to www.isan.org and "Find an ISAN work" for a basic search, or register within the ISAN system via your RA for detailed searches.

Q: When I search for productions by name on the ISAN site nothing comes up.

A: Contact your ISAN RA.

AGICOA and ISAN

Q: Which of my works are really worth ISANizing?

A: Any work that is broadcast internationally is in principle worth ISANizing. As a producer, distributor or agent, you may use ISAN as an identification tool for other rights management purposes than AGICOA registrations.

Any work that is broadcast in France or Spain will generate a corresponding royalty. In the case of ANGOA or EGEDA, AGICOA identifies the works and Rightsholders, but does not calculate the monetary value of a claim. You should therefore contact the corresponding agency directly in order to get the information on the royalties pending for a given work.

ANGOA: www.angoa.fr

EGEDA: correo@egeda.com

Q: Isn't it more efficient to let AGICOA ISANize all my works? I don't see much benefit in doing it myself by getting in touch with my local Registration Agency.

A: AGICOA is not a Registration Agency; it is not entitled to provide ISANs. AGICOA will however inform you if an ISAN is needed by any collecting society in order to facilitate a royalty payment.

You are in a better position than AGICOA to provide the exact details needed to describe your work during ISANization. Furthermore, as a producer, distributor or agent, you may use ISAN as an identification tool for other rights management purposes than AGICOA registrations.

Q: I have an ISAN but I forgot to declare it. Will I be billed for it again?

A: No, you will not. If the ISAN has previously been registered, it will exist in the global ISAN database, to which AGICOA is in the process of synchronizing to its works database so we can retrieve your ISAN and include it with your declaration at AGICOA.