

## 013 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD MUSIC NUMBER (ISMN)

### Field Definition and Scope

This field contains an International Standard Music Number and a qualification which distinguishes between ISMN when more than one is contained in a record.

The field corresponds to the ISBD Resource Identifier and Terms of Availability Area. The field may contain the terms of availability and/or price, even if it does not contain an ISMN.

Repeatable when more than one valid ISMN is to be recorded. If it is desired to make links between a 13-digit and a 10-digit ISMN, \$6 subfields can be used in each 013 field.

### Subfields & Occurrence

Field/Subfield	Field/Subfield Name	Repeatability	Occurrence
013	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD MUSIC NUMBER (ISMN)	R	O
a	Number (ISMN)	NR	O
b	Qualification	NR	O
d	Terms of Availability and/or Price	NR	O
z	Erroneous ISMN	R	O
6	Interfield Linking Data	R	O

### Indicators

Indicator	Value	Description
1	#	blank (not defined)
2	#	blank (not defined)

### Subfields Description

#### \$a Number (ISMN)

A correctly applied ISMN including hyphens. The ISMN are assigned by the designated agency in each country. Not repeatable.

#### \$b Qualification

An indication of the scope of the ISMN in subfield \$a (if present), usually the name of a publisher, an indication of the binding of the resource, or an indication of the relationship of an ISMN to a set or to a particular volume ([EX 1](#), [2](#), [4-5](#)). Not repeatable.

#### \$d Terms of Availability and/or Price

The price of the resource, and any comment on its availability. Where there is an 010 International Standard Book Number (ISBN) field and the contents of this subfield would simply repeat what is in 010\$d then the subfield can be omitted. Not repeatable.

#### \$z Erroneous ISMN

An ISMN that has been identified as being erroneously applied to an the resource or is otherwise invalid. It may have been allocated to two different publications and in this instance cancelled, or it may have been incorrectly printed ([EX 3](#)). Repeatable.

#### \$6 Interfield Linking Data

This subfield contains information allowing the field to be linked for processing purposes to other fields in the record. (See section 3.13 Interfield Linking Data, 3 Format structure). ([EX 6](#)).

### Notes on Field Contents

## ISMN Structure

The ISMN is used to identify music publications, whether available for sale, hire, gratis or for copyright purposes only, according to the provisions of ISO 10957.

Each separately available constituent part of a publication must receive its own ISMN.

From 1 January 2008 ISMN has been converted into a 13-digit system, comprising the following elements:

- Prefix element
- Publisher element
- Item element
- Check digit

When printed or displayed, the identifier is always preceded by the letters: ISMN. In field 013, these are generated automatically from a UNIMARC record and should not be entered into the text whether the agency uses Latin or local script for this abbreviation. The ISMN is divided into 4 elements, 2 of them of variable length. The elements must each be separated clearly by hyphens when displayed in human readable form: it is recommended hyphens be used in UNIMARC records. The first and last elements are of fixed length. The number of digits varies in the second and third elements of the ISMN. The length of the registration group element and of the registrant element is relative to the expected publishing output of the registration group or registrant. When these elements are short in length it indicates that the output is expected to be large.

**Prefix element:** The first element “979-0” distinguishes the ISMN from the ISBN. 979 introduces the “Bookland” field within the EAN (GS1) barcoding system, and “0” denotes the first tenth of the overall numbers capacity which is defined for ISMN.

**Publisher element:** The second element of the ISMN identifies the publisher of a given music publication. It is allocated to each publisher by a national or regional ISMN agency. The length of this element varies in relation to the anticipated output of the publisher concerned.

**Item element:** The third element of the ISMN identifies an edition of notated music which can represent a full score, a miniature score, a set of wind parts, an oboe part, etc. An *item*, in the terms of the Standard, is one separately saleable or available or obtainable constituent part of a music publication. The item element is assigned to a particular resource by the publishers from within the range of numbers assigned to them. The length of the item element will be inversely proportional to the length of the publisher element.

**Check digit:** The fourth element of the ISMN is the check digit. This is calculated using a modulus 10 algorithm. Each of the first 12 digits of the ISMN is alternately multiplied by 1 and 3. The check digit is equal to 10 minus the remainder resulting from dividing the sum of the weighted products of the first digits by 10 with one exception: if the calculation results in a remainder of 10 the check digit is 0.

Here is a sample calculation for the ISMN 979-0-3452-4680-?

Step 1: determine the sum of the weighted products for the first 12 digits of the ISMN according to the table below.

	Prefix				Publisher				Item				Check digit	Sum
ISMN	9	7	9	0	3	4	5	2	4	6	8	0		
Weight	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3		
Product	9	21	9	0	3	12	5	6	4	18	8	0		95

Step 2: Divide the sum of the weighted products by 10:  $95 / 10 = 9$  remainder 5.

Step 3: Subtract the remainder calculated in step 2 from 10. This is the check digit (unless the remainder is 10 in which case the check digit is 0). In the example,  $10 - 5 = 5$ , so the result is ISMN 979-0-3452-4680-5.

The 10-digit ISMN, no longer applied to new resources, consists of four distinct parts, each of which is separated by a hyphen or space. Hyphens are recommended in UNIMARC. For the sake of completeness, the description of the 10-digit ISBN follows.

The four parts are:

**Distinguishing element:** The letter M distinguishes the ISMN from the ISBN.

**Publisher identifier:** Designates the publisher of a given music publication. It is allocated to each publisher by a national or regional ISMN agency.

**Item identifier:** Identifies an edition of a work and the various items within it. An *item*, in the terms of the standard, is one separately saleable or available or obtainable constituent part of a music publication.

**Check character:** This is a single digit at the end of the ISMN that provides an automatic verification of the correctness of the ISMN. It is computer calculated.

### Verification of Check Character

The check character is calculated on a modulus 10 with alternating weights of 3 and 1 assigned from left to right beginning with the letter M prefix. The letter M counts as 3.

This means that each of the first nine characters of the ISMN - i.e. excluding the check digit itself - is multiplied by an alternating sequence of the numbers 3 and 1 from left to right and that the sum of the products thus obtained, plus the check digit, must be divisible without remainder by 10.

For example:

	Publisher prefix			Title Number						Check digit
ISMN	M	3	4	5	2	4	6	8	0	5
Weight	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	
Products	9	3	12	5	6	4	18	8	0	=65

Total: 65 + 5 (check digit) = 70

As 70 can be divided by 10 without remainder M-345-24680-5 is a valid International Standard Music Number.

### Data Format

The letters ISMN, which are usually found printed with an ISMN on the resource, should not be entered in field 013.

Any ISMN which is found to be wrongly printed on the resource can be entered in subfield \$z, Erroneous ISMN, which is provided to give access to records that may have been requested by an erroneous number appearing on the item. When only an erroneous number is known, the field will contain a subfield \$z without subfield \$a being present.

Hyphens are inserted to separate the four parts of the number in the \$a or \$z subfield. No other punctuation is permitted. When an ISMN is displayed in a catalogue entry the inclusion of the hyphens is mandatory. Many national agencies do not store the hyphens in the machine-readable record since they can be generated by algorithm if the range of publisher identifiers which have been allocated is known. When records are exchanged internationally the recipient of records may not always know the range of publisher identifiers. Therefore it is recommended that hyphens always be included in the ISMN in field 013 to ensure the display output.

Strictly speaking, each music publication has one ISMN. However, there are circumstances in which a single record may need to include more than one ISMN, depending on the policy of the cataloguing agency. Examples of situations in which multiple ISMN might appear in a record are: where a publisher issues a work in more than one binding or physical format, each with a different ISMN, and a single record is created by the agency encompassing more than one of the “editions”, where a single record is created for a multi-volume publication and different ISMN have been assigned by the publisher to each

individual volume in the set and to the set as a whole; where a single resource is published, or published and distributed, by more than one entity, each of which has assigned a separate ISMN to the resource.

In order to distinguish between ISMN when there is more than one in a record, qualifications may be added to one or more of them, according to the practice of the agency preparing the record.

Terms of availability and price are often related to each ISMN. Thus, this information is recorded in the same field. Punctuation is included with the data as required.

The field should be repeated for each valid ISMN. It should be repeated for an invalid ISMN unless that invalid ISMN clearly relates to a known valid equivalent entered in the record, in which case the invalid ISMN will be entered in the same field as its corresponding valid ISMN ([EX 3](#)).

Some agencies may use the ISMN as record identifier and enter it in the field 001. In those cases, the ISMN should be entered additionally in field 013.

## Related Fields

010 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER (ISBN)	The field contains the International Standard Book Number. It is sometimes difficult to decide whether a publication is a music edition or a “normal” book, or both. In these cases, both an ISMN and an ISBN may be assigned.
011 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER (ISSN)	There are only a few periodicals of printed music, but many music publications are issued in series. Both categories should be assigned, an ISSN for the title of a continuing resource and an ISMN for each individual resource in the series.
225 SERIES	An ISMN for a multipart monographic notated music resource to which the resource being catalogued belongs may be entered in subfield 225 \$y.

## Examples

EX 1
013 ##\$aM-706700-00-7\$b(HDS)
013 ##\$aM-705701-00-4\$b(MIC)
Example of ISMN-10. The resource is published jointly by Hrvatsko društvo skladatelja and Muzicki informativni centar.
EX 2
013 ##\$aM-9005202-2-7\$b(bound)
013 ##\$aM-9005202-3-4\$b(pbk)
Example of ISMN-10. The publication is available both in bound and in paperback edition.
EX 3
013 ##\$aM-9005202-1-0\$zM-9005202-1-X
Example of ISMN-10. ISMN M-9005202-1-0 is incorrectly printed with an X as the check digit.
EX 4
013 ##\$a979-0-3217-6546-7\$b(score, bound)
013 ##\$a979-0-3217-6547-4\$b(score, pbk.)
Example of ISMN-13. The score is published both in bound and in paperback edition.
EX 5
013 ##\$a979-0-3217-6543-6\$b(score)
013 ##\$a979-0-3217-6544-3\$b(vocal score)
013 ##\$a979-0-3217-6545-0\$b(set of parts)
Example of ISMN-13. The resource is published in score, vocal score and set of parts.

EX 6
013 ##\$6z01\$aM-9005202-1-0\$zM-9005202-1-X
013 ##\$6z01\$a979-0-9005202-1-0
Example with subfield \$6: ISMN-10, with its wrong ISMN, linked with the new ISMN-13.

## History

1998	New field.
2012	Corrections and additions.
2020	Update section Related Fields.