

To the attention of ISAN Registration Agencies

Geneva, 15th of January 2010,

ISAN-IA Statement of Clarification Regarding Registration of Serial Works

1. The ISAN standard as defined by ISO 15706-1:2002 (http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=28779) states in Annex A (normative) General principles for the issuance and use of ISAN:

“A.11 Serial audiovisual works

Each episode or part of a serial audiovisual work shall be issued its own ISAN.”

2. All ISAN Registration Agencies operate under contractual obligations to ISAN-IA and the ISO standard, as well as technical regulations dictating how ISAN codes are registered. On a technical level, there is no method to register only a root ISAN. A root ISAN is generated via the registration of an episode or part of a serial audiovisual work. In the ISAN central database, the root of an ISAN refers exclusively to works and versions that have been registered with ISAN or V-ISAN. Therefore the universal and unique identification of serial works using the ISAN root is only possible for episodes or parts that have an ISAN allocated and sharing that root.
3. Registration Agencies are obligated to issue one ISAN per episode or part of a serial audiovisual work in order to remain in compliance with the standard. Should ISAN Registrants wish to register their serial audiovisual works for the purpose of universally and uniquely identifying sets of episodes with a root ISAN, their ISAN Registration Agency shall inform them of the requirement to register all related episodes when said Registrant is known to represent such episodes and the information is available.

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