

Data protection of addresses of ISMN registrants

Since ISMN agencies collect address data of publishers and composers, the GDPR, the General Data Protection Regulation, is important to observe. GDPR is a European law which came into effect in May 2018. Its rules are relating to the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and to the free movement of personal data. The regulation protects fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and in particular their right to the protection of personal data.

We at the International ISMN Agency gather address data of all publishers or composers who have an ISMN. We get these data from the national ISMN agencies. If publishers/composers do not want their address data to be published on our website, they can let the responsible ISMN agency know or us directly so that we do not publish it. But of course, it is to the benefit of a publisher or composer to let interested customers have access to the address because they definitely want to sell their publications.

Data protection at the national ISMN agencies (within the European Union):

ISMN agencies have to get the consent of their clients (natural persons only) to send the contact details to the International ISMN Agency for publishing these data in the ISMN Directory on the website of the International ISMN Agency <https://www.ismniinternational.org/directory>. This applies to new registrants as well as to old ones who got their numbers a longer time ago. Asking for the consent of the registrants is part of the duties of ISMN agencies to fulfill their role as agency for allocating ISMNs in their countries. In cases where a publisher or composer does not agree with the publication of the respective contact details, the ISMN agency is required to inform the International ISMN Agency so that the detailed information can be reduced to the minimum of publisher name, country and ISMN registrant identifier(s). Agencies should inform their registrants that the International ISMN Agency keeps the publisher data on its website for the benefit of the publisher or composer because it gives them visibility. By this, interested persons can find a publisher to place their orders. Each ISMN is linked to a unique publication of notated music produced by a unique publisher. So it is in the best interest of the publisher or composer to allow customers to contact them.

Data protection of the ISMN Directory on International ISMN Agency's website: Website visitors can key in either a registrant identifier or the name of a publisher and will see the contact details of that publisher. Regarding ISMN registrants: When a publisher or composer (this refers to natural persons, not companies) does object against publication of their address details, we can publish only the minimum of address data: name, country and ISMN registrant identifier. All data of publishers and ISMN agencies (address details and ISMNs) are held in a MYSQL database. Access to the database is allowed only from the server in the office of the International ISMN Agency. The server has a firewall and is thereby protected from unauthorized access. All connections to the database are only allowed via SSL respectively SSH to have the data transfer as secure as possible. An incremental backup is done every day, a complete backup is done once a week.

