

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Soproq now require your UPC code?

Soproq requires your UPC code in order to align its practices with those of our international partners. Thus, our partners abroad will be able to make better allocation of royalties thanks to the quality of the shared data.

But, what is a UPC/EAN code?

A **UPC code** (Universal Product Code) is a unique, permanent, and internationally recognized reference number allowing the identification of a specific product available for purchase online or in stores. Consisting of 12 digits, the UPC code is commonly referred to as a "barcode".

The **EAN code** (European Article Numbering) code is a barcode used in Europe and is generally composed of 13 digits.

And a product?

A product is the result of a fixation of any sound on one or more recording media (carriers). It can be a physical object (CD, LP, 45 rpm Vinyl Disc) as well as an intangible good in digital format. The product exists from the time it is released and can be a single, an EP or an album.

When is a UPC/EAN code assigned?

The UPC code is assigned during the marketing stage of your product, as it is required by retailers, distributors, collective societies, and Nielsen Soundscan.

What is the difference between the UPC/EAN code and the ISRC code?

The UPC code identifies a physical or digital product that you market, such as an album, EP or single. The ISRC code identifies a sound recording (track), independently of the product it is on (CD, vinyl, digital, etc.). For more information, see our [ISRC Code](#) page.

For a digital release, where can I get a UPC/EAN code?

If you plan to deposit or have already deposited your product on one of the online music sales and streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer, etc.), your **distributor, record label, or aggregator** must create a UPC code for your product, since this is a prerequisite on these platforms. **This code can be used to complete your declaration to Soproq.**

For a physical release, where can I get a UPC/EAN code?

If your physical product is available in a retail outlet (shop, record shop, etc.), the UPC code is generally printed in the form of a machine-readable barcode and affixed to the packaging of your physical product. It was provided to you by your **record label or distributor**.

If you don't have a record label or a distributor, and you don't plan to put your product on digital platforms, you will have to contact [GS1 Canada](#) to obtain it.

If I declare a single with a UPC code before my album is released, do I need to get a new UPC code for my album that includes the previously released single?

Yes, because they are two separate products, the first one including only one track. The album, of which this single is part, is a collection of several tracks and must have a different UPC code.

Any other questions?

If you have more specific questions for which you cannot find an answer, do not hesitate to contact our member services at (514) 842-5147. You can also send us your questions at info@soproq.org.