

CWR and claims

8 August 2025



What is the average timeline to receive ACK2 files?

ICE aim to deliver ACK2 files within 5 working days or less.

There were some delays earlier in 2025 after Cube launched, with ACK2s being delivered later than expected, however this has since been resolved.

What happens when Cube is trying to validate information in CWR files that's meant for other non-ICE societies?

This leads to CWR error messages such as *'Submitting publisher has no relation to the quoted agreement number. Submitted claims will be used.'*

If you're supplying a single global CWR file, Cube will try to confirm it against all lines that it has received.

If Cube is receiving lines that it can't validate against agreements held in its system, it will accept the CWR as is and alert you with a message ending in *'Submitted Claims will be used.'*

To avoid Cube trying to validate lines that aren't applicable to your CWR, you may need to submit a separate Cube CWR file with all the claims you want Cube to ingest.

Make sure that the Cube CWR file includes all territories that you are licensing online to avoid MTOL licensing conflicts with other MTOL bodies.

If agreement numbers and IP chains for other societies are included in registrations, e.g. SACEM agreement numbers and IP chains, how does this impact registrations to Cube?

The most important thing is that you include a claim for each territory you have a claim for - as a PRS or MCPS publisher, make sure that you include a claim for the UK. Otherwise, it will not be added to PRS/MCPS repertoire for matching against incoming usages.

Because Cube will try to confirm all lines supplied to them, you may receive ACK2 validation messages saying that the agreement information couldn't be used to confirm the information you provided. You'll get a message including *'Submitted Claims will be used.'*

What is the 'relation authority' of a publisher?

Relation Authority in ICE Cube refers to what relations publishers have with each other and the authority each publisher has over another to receive information.

For example, if you have a sub-publishing network, ICE needs to be aware of the different IPs within that network to decide that Cube can receive and ingest a CWR coming from any one of those IPs on your behalf. This ensures that a claim coming from a party outside your network doesn't affect your own claims.

If Cube makes an 'assumed' claim, will the party that's linked to the work receive any kind of notification or ACK file?

No, there are no notifications or ACK files for when a claim is determined to be Assumed.

Do 'Assumed Claims' on works receive royalty distribution?

Yes - PRS will distribute against all statuses of claims including Assumed Claims.

How do Agreement Groups influence these Derived and Assumed claims?

It has a significant impact on Derived Claims on works. Agreement Groups are the hierarchies you previously registered on the old ICE system ('IBM') that are converted into a group of Assignor/Assignee agreements.

The shares you register for yourself (at least for the UK) are re-assigned to the assignees of the relevant agreements that are held in Agreement Groups - these create Derived Claims for claims that come through the Agreement Group in those territories. This is also what used to happen in IBM.

It has an indirect effect on Assumed Claims because Cube is using agreements to support the claims used in your CWR.

If the SPT line has less territories in it than any agreement held in Cube which otherwise has the same SPU information, Cube will create an Assumed Claim by using the Ownership shares on your SPU line (for shares) and check the relevant agreements (within the Agreement Group) to the SPU publisher to determine the chain of title.

The Assumed Claim is applied to all other territories outside of your stated SPT territories in your CWR.

How do Derived Claims differ from an Assumed Work?

Derived Claims are decided by the agreements linked to you. Cube is using your onward sub-publishing agreements held in Agreement Groups to derive claims to your sub-publishers in other territories.

Assumed Claims are determined if your SPT line (for your claim) has less territories in it than any agreement held in Cube which otherwise has the same SPU Assignor/Assignee information that you've included in your CWR.

Cube will create an Assumed Claim by:

- (1) using the Ownership shares on your SPU line and
- (2) checking relevant agreements to the SPU

to decide the shares and the chain of title.

The Assumed Claim is applied to all other territories outside of your stated SPT territories in your CWR (because it assumes that the Assignor collects for the World).

Assumed Claims are determined instead of Derived Claims when there is a problem in the territories (i.e. less territories than what is held on agreements in Cube).

Derived Claims do not have this issue and will simply apply onward sub-publishing agreements.

Why isn't it possible to use an Agreement Group in CWR registrations?

Using Agreement Group IDs in CWR registrations will create Field Rejections/FR error messages in your ACK2 file because those agreement numbers are not accepted in the same way they were before in IBM - only ICE Agreement References ('Cube Agreement Numbers') are accepted without Field Rejections.

Field Rejections do not prevent a CWR registration from being accepted - it just means that the field in question is rejected while the rest of the file is accepted and loaded into Cube (pending other validations). In this case it means that the CWR will be held on file with Submitted Claims.

What can happen next is that Cube will then attempt to support the claims with agreements on file and re-evaluate the status of claim - so you could receive an ACK2 suggesting that the work will be uploaded with Submitted Claims, but later view Cube to see that the claims are showing as Validated Claims (i.e. that Cube agreements were located to support the claims).

The works would continue to be uploaded and authoritative but using the Agreement Group ID (as an IBM agreement number) would generate FRs.

We assumed that Agreement Group IDs would be accepted like they were before, but this has been proven incorrect. We apologise for any confusion caused.

If we have different entities for different territories, are we at risk of going into conflicts with ourselves?

This shouldn't happen because there needs to be conflicting territorial claims on your CWR for this to take place. Newer registrations with wider territories listed in SPTs that don't overlap with earlier entities and territories shouldn't cause a dispute either.

It is possible that submitting multiple registrations for the same work with conflicting territories and entities could create an Overclaim Data Conflict if the total payments equal more than 100% when merged. ICE staff would get in touch with you in this case to understand what the correct claims should be.

Are work registrations from other societies (GEMA, SACEM, etc) considered authoritative?

Yes, but only for their respective territories, e.g. France and SACEM territories for SACEM, Germany for GEMA etc. We receive registrations from them as downloads from Cis-Net (Fasttrack), which shows us what they have listed in their copyright database for a work.

How is this approach to conflicts different from pre-Cube? Would a share conflict have escalated to a dispute status before based on UA registrations of a share?

There is no difference in how conflicts are resolved in Cube for UA shares. It's written into the PRS Rules and Regulations that members must claim their respective shares on works as part of their duties as a member (Rule 3).

Until a claim is made, no Duplicate Claim, Dispute nor Counterclaim can take place.

What is the best contact for CWR-based queries?

If you have an account manager, please approach them first for advice.

For all other technical CWR queries, email icereadiness@prsformusic.com

