

Matching and merging in Cube

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What is Cube?

Cube is the copyright database which replaced the previous ICE Copyright ('IBM') database. It operates behind the scenes, and we provide the view of your copyrights through your online account in apps like Search Works and Register My Music.

Do work revisions automatically merge?

Works will automatically merge after matching, if the criteria aligns for Cube to be able to do align the registrations automatically; if not, a manual merge will be required.

If duplicate works are created during revisions, they should automatically match to the target work or appear as possible match. This is based on various criteria – please see the session resources for details.

What should we do when Cube fails to match a new registration to an existing registration made by somebody else?

Contact us through Member Support so that we can work with ICE to set the match. Visit our Help Portal to get in touch: www.prsformusic.com/help/contact-us

What happens when there's a combination of 'confirmed match' and possible match' due to multiple registrations from various interested parties?

The entire 'work cluster' of possible match and confirmed match will need to go to Cop Ops for manual resolution.

How long does it take to resolve an unsuccessful match?

Automated processes run almost instantly once works are uploaded into Cube if they meet the criteria for auto-matching and auto-merging.

Manual matching and merging processing times vary, depending on the value of incoming usages and the level of activity on the work. ICE prioritises higher-value works first and gradually works down to lower-value matches and merges.

When a possible match enters the ICE Copyright Operations (aka, Cop Ops) Workstream, how do ICE prioritise this workload?

ICE Copyright Operations (aka, CopOps) prioritises the manual workload based on the top-down value from activity, to make sure top value works are matched and consolidated first.

If a work is registered twice, how do I trigger a conflict?

You can wait for the counterclaim to be set up by the ICE Copyright Operations (aka, CopOps) team as all conflicts need to be manually set. Or submit a request to PRS Member Support to put the works into counterclaim. We can forward the request to ICE to set it up.

What happens with merge requests?

Merge request made to Member Support are triaged by our teams and sent onto ICE Copyright Operations (aka CopOps) for merging if they fit the criteria (i.e. the works have had activity within the last 3 years for PRS, or 6 years for MCPS; the work needs mastering so that licensing can proceed; or a counterclaim needs instigating).

Why don't works with Possible Matches get automatically merged?

Auto-merging can't be attempted until any possible matches are manually checked. If Cube detects that there are conflicting pieces of data attempting to be reconciled, it will highlight data conflicts that need manual resolution by ICE.

How do I add other publishers after registering a work with Original Publishers (without agreement), without amending the work?

To add other Original Publishers without amending the work, select '**Add Agreement**' under '**Add Sub-Publisher**' and complete the agreement search screens for each publisher. This process helps establish the chain of title without requiring a work amendment. If issues persist, contact Member Support with details of the steps taken and the share splits you're trying to apply. They can review and advise on any necessary updates to Register My Music.

Is there an alert when an auto-merge has been made?

ICE would have to develop this, but we will scope this enhancement if this is a popular request.

What happens when two conflicting registrations don't match, and PRS continues to pay a party that no longer holds rights to the work?

Please contact Member Support so the registrations can be reviewed and updated. Visit our Help Portal to get in touch: www.prsformusic.com/help/contact-us

We'll first need to confirm with the distributing party that their representation has officially ended. If that cannot be verified, we'll request that ICE put the work into counterclaims to prevent further incorrect distributions.

What are the requirements for a work to be merged?

Auto-merging of works is attempted immediately after a Confirmed Match - value thresholds don't matter for the automation.

For manual work by ICE Copyright Operations, there is a broad £30 offline activity threshold for merging, and £1 for online activity. However, ICE strives to work to a lower threshold of £10 and lower.

If there are multiple duplicate registrations of the same song, can they be merged all at once or do they need to be handled one by one?

ICE Copyright Operations can review and merge multiple matched works in a single session. To help streamline the process, please provide a full list of the duplicate registrations that need merging so they can be addressed together as efficiently as possible.

Is submitting a CWR different from manually registering songs as a publisher?

Yes. CWR (Common Works Registration) is a standard coding format used by societies and publishers to exchange registration data. When you register works through Register My Music (RMM), your submission is automatically converted into CWR format and sent to ICE for upload into Cube. Some publishers use their own CWR software to submit registrations directly to ICE, bypassing RMM.

Are works held in the repository not seen in the database?

The raw registration information is not visible in Cube, but it's possible that the Masterwork for a work will reflect the same information as in a single registration. Works held in repository are not seen in Cube, but the Masterwork for a work can reflect the same information after it's gone through the mastering process.

Is there any notification when a match has been made for a work?

No notifications are sent when works are matched.

Do we input the work status?

Work statuses are allocated in Cube automatically.

What are the different work statuses?

In Search Works, these are the terms we use:

Work Fully Documented

This means that all shares and agreements have been assigned to identifiable interested parties (i.e. writers, composers, arrangers and publishers) with membership (CAE/IPI) numbers, and all parties have authorised their shares. 100% shares have been claimed for both performing and mechanical rights. The work has been, or is due to be, allocated an ISWC (International Standard Musical Work Code).

You may sometimes see this called a 'Status One' work.

Work Registered

A work registration has been accepted and uploaded to the works database. The work is either:

- Missing a claim from one or more interested parties on the work
- Has claimed shares that don't add up to 100% for either or both performing and mechanical rights.

You may sometimes see this called a 'Status Two' work.

Unnotified Work

The work has been created internally by PRS for Music because we've been informed that it has been used, but we couldn't match the usage data to an existing work registration.

If you see an Unnotified Work that you recognise as yours, register your shares by clicking 'Register This Work' in the top right corner when viewing it. If you see you have been added to an Unnotified Work that is not one of your works, contact us to raise a case and we'll update the record.

You may sometimes see this called a 'Status Four' work.

Should we use IPIs when registering writers?

Yes, always use IPIs for writers where you know them. If you don't give IPIs to writers, they do not get paid royalties directly for their shares.

As a publisher, if you don't include your controlled writer IPI information, you'll receive your writer's shares. We won't be able to pay the writer directly and you're expected to pay their royalties forwards.

Why should we use IPIs versus names in Cube?

The preference is always to match on IPI numbers where possible. Matching only reverts to names in the absence of IPI information.

Can a writer create multiple IPIs?

If your writer needs pseudonyms created at IPI level, the writer will need to contact Member Support to get pseudonyms set up.

If you add new names which don't have IPI numbers onto works, that doesn't automatically generate new IPI numbers for the writer.

Can matching be done using the IPI Base Number if work 1 and work 2 have different IPI Name Numbers?

Yes, matching can still occur based on the IPI Base Number, as multiple IPI Name Numbers can be associated with the same individual or entity under a single Base Number.

If a work has multiple alternate titles (e.g., slowed or sped-up versions), should each version be submitted separately, or can they be included under one registration? Does this affect the matching process?

Alternate versions can be submitted under a single work registration using alternative titles, as long as all other details - writers, publishers, and share splits - are identical. PRS's business rule is to roll up cues with multiple titles into one registration when the metadata matches. Cube applies this rule even if the cues are submitted individually.

If you prefer the versions to be treated separately, please let us know so we can ask ICE not to merge them.

Should I contact Cube about changing titles?

Contact PRS Member Support if you need to change an Original Title instead of submitting a new work or amendment for it and we'll arrange an update. Visit our Help Portal to get in touch:
www.prsformusic.com/help/contact-us

Is there a way to see the share picture vs control picture in Cube?

If you have Publisher access, you can view the Ownership and Payment share pictures in Cube. You won't be able to access other share views.

Should we still be submitting merge requests?

Submit merge requests for anything urgent. For example: if a cluster of work registrations haven't been merged and it's preventing licensing; or you didn't receive an expected payment on a work because the wrong entry was chosen for distribution and PRS will need to make financial adjustments to you.

How long does the merging tunecode process take?

If the merging process can go through all the automated channels - auto-matching to a confirmed match, then auto-merging - it happens almost instantly after the work files upload to Cube.

When the system identifies a need for manual work to confirm the match or to merge the works together, how long it takes depends on both the value and volume of the work. ICE CopOps work in top-down value order of works and the volume of work coming in. But, they do work to deadlines to ensure as many works as possible are correct and ready for upcoming distributions.

When a new registration matches an unnotified work, does any accumulated money automatically get paid out?

After the unnotified work is merged in, any held accumulated royalties on the work will be paid out at the next available distribution.

I've registered an agreement that triggered a duplicate claim email from ICE. Can I still submit my CWR registrations, or do I need to wait until the claim is resolved?

It's best to wait until the duplicate claim is resolved before submitting your registrations.

If you need to proceed, you can still register the work. Please be aware that any active works linked to the disputed agreement could be placed into individual counterclaims.

These works won't be released automatically once the conflict is resolved, and you'll need to notify us once the agreement issue has been cleared.

Why doesn't ICE generate reports for publishers showing which of their works have auto-merged (or not)?

An enhancement request is currently open with ICE to develop a 'merged works' report that can be extracted on demand. Once available, publishers will be able to request this report through Member Support to review which works have been auto-merged.

Visit our Help Portal to get in touch: www.prsformusic.com/help/contact-us

There's no confirmed timeline yet for when this feature will be released, but we'll let you know as soon as it becomes available.

Can we get in touch directly with ICE if we're having slow responses from the Publisher Query team for merges?

We apologise for the delays in responding to you on your queries, we take your issues seriously and are doing what we can to resolve them as accurately and quickly as possible.

ICE are a third-party agent only - please continue to speak to us. You can reach the ICE Cube project team at PRS via email at icereadiness@prsformusic.com

