



Managing Your Reproduction (Mechanical) Rights

It's important to understand how **reproduction** rights are declared and managed when registering works with SOCAN.

In most publishing agreements, the **music publisher is the legal copyright holder for the reproduction right share**. This means that SOCAN will pay **100% of reproduction royalties directly to the publisher**, as the publisher is the official registered rightsholder (owner).

Put another way, reproduction right royalties flow through the publisher who is then contractually responsible for paying writers their writer's share according to their individual publishing agreements (e.g., 50/50, 75/25, etc.). This is in contrast to performing rights where performing rights royalties are split 50/50 and flow directly to the writer and publisher.

If the writer does not have a publishing agreement with a third party, they would be what we call **"self-published"** and would be considered both the writer and the publisher of the work. In these cases, the reproduction rights would go to this self-published writer.

How To Enter Your Reproduction Rights When Registering Your Works

When registering a musical work, it is essential to accurately declare the publisher's owned shares:

- If the publisher contractually owns **100% of the reproduction rights**, the registration must declare **100% in the Mechanical % section for the publisher**.

Contributor Details *

	IPI Number	Role	Name	Publisher Link	U.S. Society of License	Perf % 100.00	Mech % 100.00	Perf. Society Affiliation	Mech. Society Affiliation	Remove
1	02400071902	Composer/A...	ERIN ABBOTT	T2		50.00	0.00	N/S	N/S	Remove
2	02400630894	Publisher - T...	IP ME TEST	F		50.00	100.00	SOCAN	N/S	Remove

- It's important to also indicate the link between writers and publishers. This is especially important where there are multiple writers and publishers on a work. Indicating the link ensures that the correct writer is associated with the correct publisher
- If the writer is **self-published**, they must declare **themselves as the publisher** and therefore indicate **100% in the Mechanical %** section as the rightsholder of the work.

Contributor Details *

	IPI Number	Role	Name	Publisher Link	U.S. Society of License	Perf % 100.00	Mech % 100.00	Perf. Society Affiliation	Mech. Society Affiliation	Remove
1	02400071902	Composer/A	ERIN ABBOTT		ASCAP	100.00	100.00	N/S	N/S	Remove



[Managing Your Reproduction \(Mechanical\) Rights - continued](#)

[Why Accuracy Matters](#)

The official registration determines who the collective management organization is legally authorized to pay.

Incorrect or incomplete publisher-share data can lead to delays, misdirected payments, or disputes.

[In Summary](#)

- Collective management organizations pay the **legally registered rightsholder of reproduction rights**. This is usually the publisher, or the writer if self-published.
- While SOCAN pays writers directly for public performance rights, reproduction rights royalties are paid first to the publisher who is responsible for paying writers their writer's share in accordance with their publishing agreements.
- A work registration **specifically for the reproduction share** must reflect the legal reality:
 - **100% to the publisher** if the publisher holds the rights
 - **100% to the writer-publisher** if self-published

[FAQ](#)