The MLC Data Quality Initiative - Background

A key responsibility of any music publisher or administrator is making sure that the Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) from which they receive royalties possess accurate and complete data regarding their musical works. This will continue to be the case for music publishers and administrators who anticipate receiving royalties from The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC). This is one way that music publishers and administrators can "Play Their Part" in helping The MLC fulfil its important mission of paying royalties accurately and expediently.

The MLC recognizes that checking the accuracy of the data held by a given CMO can be a time consuming and tedious process for music publishers and administrators. The MLC's Data Quality Initiative is intended to help make this process efficient and more effective.

So how does The MLC Data Quality Initiative help?

The MLC created the Data Quality Initiative (DQI) to provide a streamlined way for music publishers, administrators and foreign collective management organizations to compare large schedules of their musical works data against The MLC's data. The MLC will provide DQI participants with reports that highlight **only the discrepancies** between the two sets of data so that participants can more easily identify and address those discrepancies.

In designing the DQI, The MLC sought to create a process that was:

- **Accessible:** The MLC's goal is to enable as many qualified participants as possible to take part in the DQI. To that end:
    - We have partnered with Vistex, makers of a widely used publishing royalties platform, to help them design and launch enhancements to their Music Maestro platform that will enable administrators who use that platform to participate in the DQI.
    - The MLC will partner with additional software system vendors to design and launch enhancements to their platforms that enable users of those platforms to participate in the DQI. The MLC invites interested vendors to contact us to explore these partnership opportunities.
    - For interested participants who have their own proprietary software systems, The MLC will work directly with you to provide the file specifications you will need in order to take part in the DQI.
- **Efficient**: The DQI eliminates the need for participants to check each and every one of their work registrations manually. The comparison reports we provide highlight only works for which there are data discrepancies. This enables participants to focus their efforts on addressing those discrepancies rather than finding them.

- **Repeatable:** Since The MLC generates its comparison reports using an automated process, participants can check their data as frequently as they would like.

- **Flexible:** Participants can use the DQI to check the accuracy of the data for all of the works that they own or administer as well as smaller selections of their works (or both). The DQI enables participants to tailor their approach to fit their individual needs and priorities.

How does it work?

Participants create simple file(s) containing the works they want to compare with The MLC's data, using a file format provided by The MLC. They then upload or email the files to The MLC. Upon receipt, The MLC will compare the data in those files with The MLC's data and then send back comparison reports highlighting errors and inconsistencies in the data. Participants can then use these reports to troubleshoot the cause of these issues and take the appropriate corrective action.

How do I participate?

- If you are music publisher, administrator or foreign CMO with your own proprietary technology or are using a third-party software system, please CLICK HERE to explore next steps.

- If you are a user of Vistex's Music Maestro platform, please contact us at data.quality@themlc.com and we'll help you get started.

What is the difference between the DQI and CWR?

The DQI enables participants to **check and compare** the accuracy of their data against The MLC's data. It does not act as a mechanism for delivering work registrations/works data.

CWR is the music publishing industry's de facto standard mechanism for **delivering** work registrations. Music publishers, administrators and foreign CMOs may use CWR to deliver new and updated work registrations to The MLC.