

# Can a Release contain the Same Sound Recording Multiple Times?

Yes, it can!

Typical examples include Boxed Sets where a record company publishes both "original" albums and "best of" compilations together. In such cases the same Recording can be in one Release more than once. Two cases<sup>(\*)</sup> need to be differentiated:

1. The two (or more) recordings are truly the same and they even **use the same binary** sound recording file. In that case one `SoundRecording` composite should be used for both uses of the recording – unless there are metadata differences that need to be preserved (e.g. a change in the band name); and
2. The two (or more) recordings are truly the same but two (or more) **different audio files** exist. In that case two `SoundRecording` composites must be used even if all the metadata is the same. The only differences between the two `SoundRecording` are the `ResourceReference` and the `TechnicalResourceDetails`.

Receivers of ERN messages therefore need to consider that they might receive an ERN message containing two (or more) `SoundRecording` composites with the same identifier and that two (or more) `TechnicalResourceDetails` point to the same resource file.

If no binaries are to be communicated, the distinction between the two cases disappears and case (1) is the appropriate approach.

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(\*) There is a third case where the two (or more) recordings are of the same song (i.e. Musical Work) – but they are distinct recordings. Examples include a studio version and a live version of the same song. In that case the two recordings would be identified by different `ResourceIds` and two `SoundRecording` composites will need to be used. However, this case is different as these are different recordings.