



Rules for Chart Eligibility Albums

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INTRODUCTION

The following Chart Rules exist to determine eligibility for entry into the Official UK Album Charts. The aim of the Rules is to protect the integrity of the Charts and to ensure that they are an accurate reflection of the popularity of each recording by reference to genuine transactions.

The Rules apply equally to all companies issuing and/or distributing recordings. They set out the conditions on which a record will be eligible for inclusion in the Chart. The rules also apply to the UK's Official genre charts, subject to variation where appropriate.

It should be noted that record companies and distributors remain free to package and market their products in any way they choose. However, releases which do not comply with the Rules will not be eligible to be included in the Chart.

The Chart Rules are issued by the Official Charts Company in conjunction with the Chart Supervisory Committee (CSC) under the supervision of the Official Charts Company board. The Official Charts Company is responsible for interpreting and applying the Chart Rules on a day-to-day basis under the supervision of the CSC. The Official Charts Company may, at its discretion, refer any matter concerning the interpretation of the Chart Rules with respect to one or more recordings to the CSC, a designated sub-committee of the CSC or the board, for a decision. The decision of the board will be final.

Copies of the Terms of Reference of the CSC are available from the Official Charts Company on request.

1.0 Genuine Transactions

1.1	
	All information used to compile the Chart must be recorded as a result of a genuine transaction by a genuine consumer.
	No record company, distributor, retailer, Artist or other party should act or encourage others to act in any way designed to distort, or which has the effect of distorting the Chart by achieving a higher or lower Chart position for a record than it would otherwise achieve.
	Actions which will be considered a breach of these rules include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) promoting the sale of any album by supplying a dealer with records by another artist free of charge or upon terms more favourable than would be the case but for that promotion;b) purchasing albums or causing albums to be purchased or streamed other than as a genuine consumer transaction;c) multiple transactions of albums on behalf of other persons,d) interference with the operation of transaction recording machines or other equipment or computer software used to compile the Charts or collect or collate its information or in any other way being a party to the submission of false or inaccurate data to the Chart compiler;e) offering money or other benefits to a chart reporting retailer or service contingent upon an album entering any of the Charts or attaining a minimum chart position;f) procuring the sale and/or consumption of an album in conjunction with a non-related or excessive gift, i.e. which gives the consumer a product, voucher or benefit or anything else which is either unrelated to the album concerned or of a value in excess of the value of the record without that gift (value means normal retail price), and where it is not an album and merchandise package as outlined in section 8.0.g) any other activity intended unfairly to influence Chart positions.
	Where the Official Charts Company has reason to believe that an album is the subject of any of the above types of activity, it will, at its discretion, either remove identifiable irregular transactions from the data used to compile the Chart, or exclude the record from the Chart with immediate effect.
	The Official Charts Company's nominated chart compiler will ensure the accuracy and completeness of any transaction information provided to it by a retail outlet to the extent it is possible to do so using Good Industry Practice. Where the nominated chart compiler has reason to believe that the inclusion of transactions from a retail outlet or a number of retail outlets maybe inaccurate, misleading or incomplete and run contrary to the guidelines expected by a skilled and experienced market research firm, then the retail outlet(s) in question will be excluded to avoid potential distortion.
	If an album is excluded from the Chart, the Official Charts Company will inform the record company, distributor, ERA and the BPI in writing on the first working day after the exclusion takes effect. If unusual or irregular sales transactions cause the Official Charts Company to remove data from the Charts , the Official Charts Company will inform the Secretariat of the BPI and/or ERA, as appropriate, on the first working day after the data is removed.

2.0 Codes of Conduct

2.1	
	These rules are additional to the codes of conduct operated by the BPI/ERA or other trade or professional association.

3.0 Albums Definitions Summary

Product	Dealer Price	Playing Time and Content
a. Physical Albums		
LP/CD/DVD/HD DVD/BLU RAY/MD/SACD/Dualdisc/CD/DVD Sets/ Standard DMD		
(Budget)	0.50 - 3.75	Over 25 minutes OR more than four songs where the format does not qualify as a “Maxi” single or remix single as defined by singles eligibility rules. <i>*Maximum memory capacity for Standard DMD is 512MB.</i>
(Mid price)	3.76 - 5.99	
(Full price)	6.00 or over	
Album & Merchandise Packages		Refer to section 8.0 for further details on minimum dealer price
Deluxe DMD**		
(Full price)	8.20 or over	DMD with memory capacity over 512MB or where content is over that permitted on a Standard DMD format. <i>**Maximum memory capacity for Deluxe DMD is 5GB.</i>
b. Digital Albums		
(Full price)	3.75 or over	Over 25 minutes OR more than four songs where the format does not qualify as a “Maxi” single or remix single as defined by singles eligibility. <i>For market share purposes a digital variant meeting the above minimum dealer price will be allocated as a full-price album.</i>
(On Demand Audio Stream)	N/A	
c. Physical & Digital Album Multi Format Packages		
Standard CD album published dealer price + 20% uplift.		Refer to section 4.6 for details.

1. **Playing Time** refers to the amount of recorded material irrespective of content.
2. A **Track** is a continuous piece of recorded material.
3. **Compilation Album Chart** Includes original soundtracks unless all tracks feature the same artist, multi orchestral recordings, and “1 artist per side” albums (if not new)
4. **Artist Album Chart** includes single artist compilations, original cast recordings, original cast performance soundtracks and single orchestra recordings
5. **DMD** Digital Memory Device eg USB, SD Card
6. **Physical and Digital Album Bundles.** The minimum dealer price is calculated against the standard CD format of a release and it applies to any physical and digital bundle associated with the release.
7. For chart purposes, 'on demand streams' are those streams delivered by an 'on demand service', namely a service which offers: (a) only a la carte streams (those which have been actively selected by the user); or (b) a mixture of a la carte streams and also streams which have been played from curated playlists, where the user has access to what is considered by Official Charts to be a reasonable number of skips. For removal of doubt, services which provide access to streams solely via curated / non-interactive playlists will not be deemed to be 'on demand' services.

4.0 Combining of Transactions

4.1	Combining Formats for Album Chart
	Unlimited album formats may be combined for chart placing providing they adhere to all chart rules
4.2	Alternative Album Formats (Deluxe, Re-Issues)
	Transactions of alternative versions of an album where the alternative version features additional audio and / or audio visual material to the standard album version, will be combined provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alternative format contains 100% of the audio tracks as featured on the standard version • The additional material on the alternative format has not been previously available for purchase or stream in its entirety as a separate product <p>If the additional tracks are released as a separate product, transactions of an album cannot be combined with those of the original format. This is applicable even if the album contains mixes/live/extended versions of songs on the original format.</p>
4.3	Alternative Album Formats featuring less than 100% of material on Standard Album
	Alternative formats not featuring 100% of the audio tracks from the standard version of the album may be combined providing it meets 80% crossover with standard album format. <i>(See Appendix 1 Figure 1).</i>
4.4	Remix and Live Albums
	Transactions of remix or live albums will not be combined with sales of the original studio version.
4.5	Standalone DVD Albums
	An album may be released on a DVD format and its transactions combined with other format variants, provided there is a chart eligible CD of the same album on general release bearing the same title as the DVD format. <p>In order for the DVD album to be combined 80% of tracks on one of the available CD formats should appear on the DVD format. <i>(See Appendix 1 Figure 1).</i></p>
4.6	Import Albums
	When they contain at least 80% of the tracks on the standard domestic format, imports are considered to be alternatives to the standard UK versions and their transactions are added accordingly. If an import differs in content or packaging from a UK release, it counts as a separate format. <i>(See Appendix 1, Figure 1)</i> <p>An imported record is eligible for a chart position in its own right if there is no equivalent UK release.</p>
4.7	Multi Format Packages & Box Sets
	Multiple pack albums or Box Sets featuring different album titles are eligible for the chart in their own right. They will not be combined with the transactions of one of their constituent items. <p>Multiple format albums or Box Sets featuring different formats of the same album (including physical formats packaged with a code or alternative mechanic offering a digital copy of album) are eligible to be combined with standard version of the same album. Multi format albums or Box Sets constitute a single transaction.</p> <p>Note: A minimum 20% uplift to standard CD dealer price is required for multi format albums.</p>
4.8	Simultaneous Availability from Distributors
	When the same record (or combinable variant) is available on UK release from two different companies, transactions will not be combined except at the request of both companies.
4.9	Catalogue Numbers and Barcodes
	All physical formats should carry a unique catalogue number, and a unique barcode should relate to the catalogue number. This is applicable even when identical recordings are issued in different packaging, including colour variations of CD's, vinyl and DMD's. <p>All physical formats of an album release should be reported to Millward Brown.</p> <p>Note: Physical products without a barcode will not have their transactions tracked for chart purposes.</p>

4.10	ISRCs and Digital Barcodes
	All digital album bundles must carry a unique barcode and ISRC codes for individual tracks (including videos).
	All digital formats of an album release should be reported to Millward Brown.
	Note: Digital tracks without an ISRC or digital albums without a barcode will not have their transactions tracked for chart purposes.

5.0 Exclusions

5.1	Budget Albums
	Budget albums are excluded from all published Album Charts, except Classical Album Charts.
5.2	Exclusion By Request
	A UK rights owner/licensee may request the Official Charts Company to exclude an album from the Charts where the record is not generally available from the owner's normal distributor (for example - deleted titles, or pre-release sales caused by distribution leaks).
	The Official Charts Company may at its absolute discretion exclude an album from the Chart in such circumstances. An album that otherwise meets all eligibility criteria will not be excluded from the charts.
5.3	Promotional Products
	Any promotional (free to consumer) physical product or digital product will not be eligible for inclusion in the chart.

6.0 Competitions, Vouchers and Retailer Promotions

6.1	Competitions / Vouchers
	Competition inserts or entry may not be included in any physical or digital album release. (also see 6.3 retail promotions)
	A competition featured on or within the packaging of any album release, including but not limited to the 'enhanced section', microsite or any other chart eligible software application or program will render the format ineligible for inclusion in the charts.
	A release incorporating an exclusive voucher giving discounts on other goods or services, or exclusive access to such goods and services-are considered free gifts and are ineligible for inclusion in the chart.
6.2	Data Capture Incentives
	Standard generic company/record label data capture mechanics that offer a small incentive in exchange for consumer details do not make a product ineligible for the chart.
6.3	Retailer Promotions
	Any incentive in the form of a retailer sponsored free gift or discount, to purchase one or more chart eligible albums, will not disqualify transactions of records from contributing to the Chart position provided that the records, and the gifts or discount offered, comply with all other chart eligibility rules. If a retailer promotion does not conform with this, transactions of the record concerned will be excluded from the chart.
	Retailer promotions on albums are not limited to the free gifts as described in format breakdowns (posters, postcards and booklets) provided that the Official Charts Company receives written confirmation from the retailer that it is sponsoring the promotion.
	If a retailer is running a competition it may not be dependent on the purchase of specific albums.
	Consumers should not be automatically entered into a competition upon purchase.

6.4	Retailer Instore Personal Appearances
	<p>Where a retailer hosts an instore appearance by an artist, and requires attendees to purchase an album product from their store or chain to gain entrance, such transactions will be chart eligible provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The personal appearance takes place within a chart reporting outlet; • The product is related to the appearing artist; • Purchase is restricted to one album; • The hosting retailer has informed the Official Charts Company and/or Millward Brown of the instore event(s) • The product complies with all other chart eligibility rules; <p>Any requirement to make a purchase of a specific product from a specific store /chain in order to gain entry to an artist instore appearance is at the sole discretion of the hosting retailer.</p>

7.0 Pre Order Incentives

7.0	Pre Order Incentives
	<p>Retailers may conduct pre order incentives on products providing they comply with all other chart rules</p> <p>No competition incentive may be offered on a digital and/or physical pre order.</p> <p>Where a physical album is available for pre-order access to a pre-release stream or timed out download of all or some of the album tracks will be chart eligible.</p> <p>A free permanent download of an album given to consumer as a pre order incentive will render the physical album ineligible for the chart.</p>
7.1	Instant Gratification Incentives
	<p>An Instant Grat mechanic run during an album pre-order will not disqualify the album pre-orders from contributing to the Chart position</p> <p>Any track provided as an Instant Grat will not be eligible for the Official Singles Chart, but will not disqualify a standalone sale of the same recording, subject to Singles Chart Rule 7.0 (See Official UK Singles Chart Rules March 2015)</p>

8.0 Album & Merchandise Packages

8.0	Album & Merchandise Packages
	Record companies are free to package full and mid-price album formats with added value items. These packages are subject to increased minimum dealer price against the standard version of an album.
	For low value items such as wristbands, badges, patches, key ring, or similar the product will be subject to a minimum 20% uplift above the dealer price of the full price standard album format.
	For high value items such as, t-shirts or similar the product will be subject to a minimum 80% uplift above the dealer price of the full price standard album format.
	Added value items must be packaged with the album and must be clearly related to the artist or artist brand. In the case of non-artist albums merchandise may be label or brand related.
	The album and merchandise package must carry a unique barcode to that of the standard (or any other) version of the album.
	Tickets for live events and access 'experiences' e.g. meet and greet are not eligible to be packaged within Album & Merchandise packages
	Note: Record companies and retailers must obtain written approval for <u>ALL</u> album and merchandise packages prior to production to ensure chart eligibility.
8.1	Album & Ticket Packages
	Albums may be bundled with tickets provided each component is also available to buy individually. Album & Ticket bundles must have a greater retail value than the standalone ticket.
	Access to a ticket pre-sale will be allowed with an album pre-order provided the album pre-order does not guarantee a ticket to the consumer.
	Pre-sale ticket allocation may not be dependent upon the pre-order of an album. A customer not wishing to pre-order an album must be given equal opportunity to access the ticket pre-sale.

9.0 Album Streams

9.0	Album Streams
	<p>Effective from Week 9 2015, the Official Artist Albums Chart is based on the sum of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical album DUS • Digital album DUS • Streaming album DUS
9.1	Album Stream Methodology
	<p>The 2 album tracks attracting most streams are neutralised to the level of the average of the next 10 highest streamed tracks associated with the album (or all tracks where album has < 12 tracks).</p> <p>When establishing the revised streams for neutralised tracks from an album, the average streams applied to neutralised tracks will be based on streams of all ISRCs linked to the 10 single products used in the calculation. (See Appendix 1 Figure 3).</p> <p>After the methodology above is applied, the streams of the top 12 tracks (or all tracks where an album < 12 tracks) making up the album are aggregated together and converted to create the “Streaming album DUS”, using a conversion rate of 1,000 streams = 1 album sale.</p> <p>A new album DUS is created from adding together the physical album DUS, digital album DUS and the streaming album DUS. (See Appendix 1 Figure 3).</p>
9.2	Qualifying Tracks
	<p>In all cases, qualifying tracks will be those from any registered album format track listing. In the event where a release has both standard and deluxe versions, the track listings will be aggregated and de-duplicated to create the qualifying track listing. Where a track(s) from an album have registered zero streams, those tracks will not be utilised in calculating the average stream count for the neutralised tracks.</p> <p>Where an album is flagged as a Live release, only live versions of tracks from the project will be included in the streaming factor calculation</p>
9.3	Multiple Albums
	<p>Where a track is credited to more than one artist – streams of that track will count equally towards each artist’s studio albums.</p> <p>Where a track appears on more than one album by an artist, streams of this track will be attributed equally to each studio album and a maximum of one greatest hits album (the hits title with the highest sales DUS for that given week, or other hits title nominated in advance by label).</p>
9.4	Album Availability
	<p>Streaming will only be factored into an album DUS where at least seven tracks (inclusive of singles) from an album are available to stream. This threshold will apply to the longest track listing available. Where an album’s fullest track listing comprises 5 or 6 tracks, 100% of tracks must receive >0 streams.</p>

9.5	Streaming Only Albums
	Newly released studio artist albums available in a streaming only format will be chart eligible.
	For a streaming album to qualify as newly released it may not feature repertoire previously available on albums by the artist (unless they are newly released alternative versions of previously available tracks).
	Greatest hits/anthologies/live albums and generally compilations of previously released material will not be chart eligible if available for streaming only
	Where possible, Official Charts / Millward Brown to be notified ahead of release that a streaming only album is to be made available to consumers.
	Where possible album title and track ISRC's to be registered with Millward Brown pre-release. Retrospective notification of a streaming only album release must take place within the first week of availability
	Linking different streaming only versions of albums together will be subject to the existing eligibility guidelines for alternative formats
	A maximum of two streaming only album variants will be eligible to be combined for one chart position (excluding clean / explicit versions of a release).
	Eligible albums must be delivered to streaming services as albums. Album to be defined as a collection of new tracks supplied simultaneously as a digital bundle with the requisite number of tracks to qualify as an album (as opposed to a digital single bundle).
	Streaming only album to be identified and presented to consumers by streaming services as an album – streaming only bundles labelled as a playlist would not qualify as a streaming only album release.
	Official Charts will factor in the existence of traditional album features such as, an album title covering the collection of tracks and unique artwork, in determining the eligibility of a streaming only album.

Allowable Album Content

Alternative versions of albums that are to be combined with the standard version of the album that don't have 100% of tracklisting will be subject to 80% crossover rule. (See Section 4.0 and Appendix 1 for further information)	
Total Playing Time	Unlimited
Audio Content	Unlimited
Video Content	Unlimited
Memory Capacity (Standard DMD only)	Maximum of 512MB
Ringtones	One ringtone per album format is permissible. The ringtone must correspond to one of the featured tracks on the format in which the ringtone is made available.
	Ringtone software allowing purchaser to customise one ringtone is also permitted.
Multimedia Content	Multimedia element must be directly related to the featured artist(s) and not previously available for purchase in its entirety as a separate product.
	<p>An enhanced album format may include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downloadable feature such as screensaver/icon or other similar as previously agreed by the Official Charts Company • Game / related software related to the artist, created exclusively for the album and not previously available for purchase in its own right • Artist merchandise details
Weblinks	Weblinks must connect to the homepage of the featured artist's website and/or the releasing label's website.
	Additional weblinks to further websites clearly endorsed or supported by the featured artist and/or weblinks to label related information are also eligible provided they comply with all other chart rule requirements specified within this section.
	Weblinks directly connecting purchasers of an album to either 'shop' web pages on an artist or label website or specific retail websites will not be chart eligible.
	Weblinks to an artist related microsite* containing artist related content are also chart eligible provided they do not feature at any time audio and DVD products for sale or direct links to other non artist specific audio and video retailing sites. <i>*a microsite is defined as a "vaulted" area that has been specially created to add value to the featured album campaign and is only accessible via a hyperlink contained on the album(s). Protected added value content is eligible providing it complies with the guidelines above and all other chart rules.</i>
	Featured weblinks on enhanced formats may not be advertised as offering a non-related or excessive gift.* <i>*For this purpose, a non-related gift or excessive gift is a gift that gives the consumer a product, voucher or benefit which is unrelated to the album concerned or has an independent value in excess of the (normal retail) price of the album concerned.</i>
Packaging	Packaging for an album release must have no value in its own right and no other use other than to contain the recording.
	If the packaging of an album adds value to the item, and could be sold in its own right, and does not qualify for exemption under the clauses below it is considered to be a free gift and the album is therefore ineligible for the Chart.
	Flyers promoting merchandise or other product may be included within the packaging provided that access to this merchandise is not available exclusively through purchase of the record. Flyers must be contained within the format packaging.
	Please consult OCC if you are unsure of the eligibility of a product's packaging

Permitted Free Gifts	A “ gift ” is defined as any item which has a market value of its own, however small. Records sold with free gifts are ineligible for the chart. Therefore no other item may be included other than those outlined below:
	One “ poster ”. Can be printed on both sides. There is no size specification but after folding it must be contained within the packaging.
	“ Cards ” Card(s) must be contained within the format packaging and be 2 sided with no folds. Card(s) maybe printed on both sides. Maximum card size is dictated by the dimensions of the packaging they are to be contained within.
	“ Booklets ” must be contained within the format packaging
	“ Stickers ”, to fit within the packaging without folds

Deluxe Edition (CD/DVD Sets)

	A DVD may be packed with a CD or enhanced CD format
	A DVD must be directly related to the artist/brand in question and not previously available for purchase in its entirety as a separate product.
	A DVD may be shrink wrapped to a CD format or contained within standard CD/DVD packaging.
	In order to be combined with a standard CD format a CD/DVD set must feature 80% of the tracks featured on the standard CD format. (See Appendix 1, Figure 1)
	All CD/DVD sets must carry a unique catalogue number and barcode.

Deluxe DMD Formats

	Maximum memory capacity for a Deluxe DMD is 5GB
	A Deluxe DMD may be combined with a Standard CD providing 80% of the tracks featured on the Standard CD format appear on the Deluxe DMD format. (See Appendix 1, Figure 1)
	Added value multimedia content must be directly related to the artist/brand in question and not previously available for purchase in its entirety as a separate product.
	All Deluxe DMDs must carry a unique catalogue number and barcode.

Deluxe Vinyl Formats

	A Vinyl or LP release may contain a CD copy of same album
	A Vinyl or LP release may contain a code (or alternative mechanic) giving access to a digital copy of the same album
	Note: Vinyl album incorporating a digital version of the album will be subject to a minimum uplift of 20% against standard physical CD format of album

Please note that the following are NOT eligible.
Any element not mentioned above and which has not been specifically approved by the Official Charts Company prior to release

Appendix 1

This appendix forms part of the Chart Rules and is included to provide clarification of Section 4.0 Combining of Sales

Figure 1 – 80% Crossover Rule

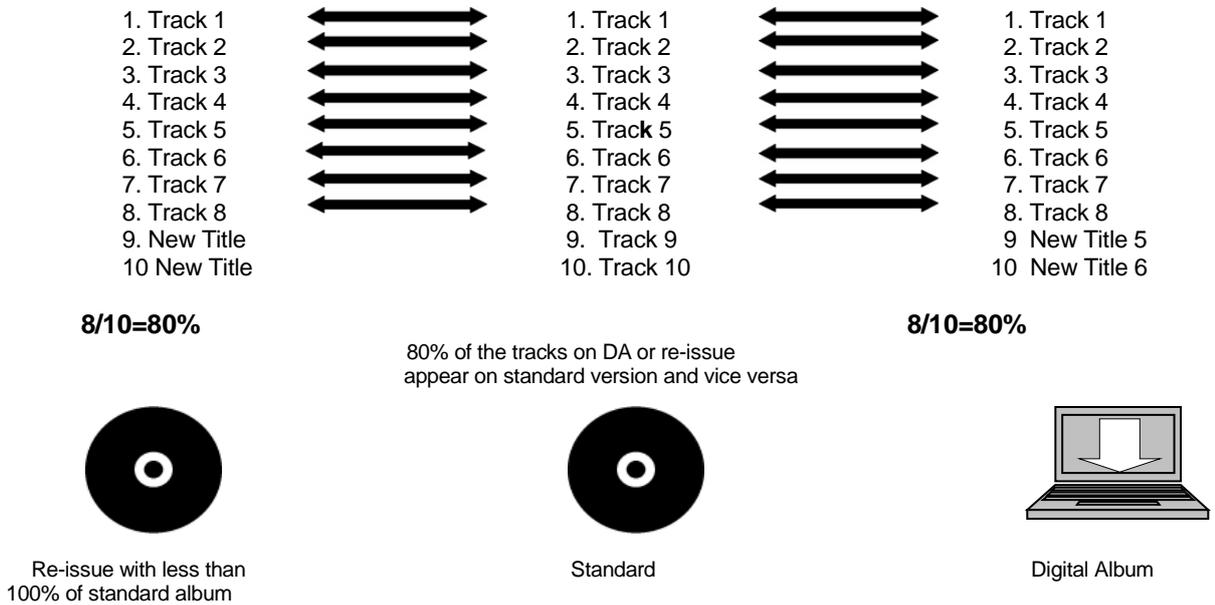
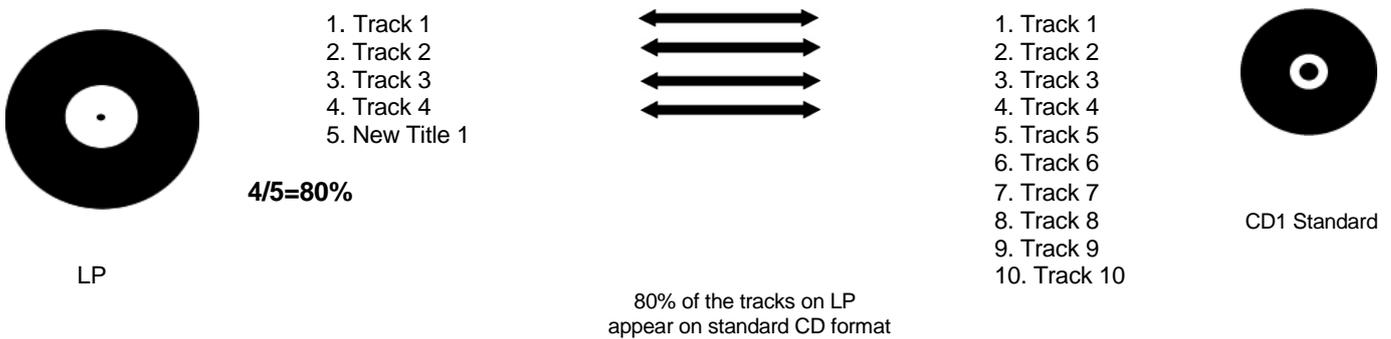


Figure 2 – LP 80% Rule



Additional Notes

When calculating 100% and 80% rules the following are to be excluded from calculations: Alternative tracks (including remixed, extended, live or demo versions of featured tracks), Videos, EPKs and Interviews.

Figure 3 – Album Streaming Methodology

