

Copyright, Design & Patents Act (1988)

When copying documents, the Copyright, Design & Patents Act (1988) must be taken into consideration. This law is for the protection of the work produced by someone.

Copyright means, the work is the property of someone. When the work is copied the copier must get permission to do this from the owner. On occasion, this may involve paying a fee.

The works protected by copyright are:

- Literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works.
- Films, broadcasts and cable programmes and sound recordings.
- The typographical arrangements of published editions (i.e. the whole layout of the printed pages of a published edition of a work)

There is an expiry time on all copyrights but these vary for the different types of works.

Literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works.

- The copyright expires, **50 years** after the author has died.

Sound recordings and films.

- The copyright expires, **50 years** from when the work was made or released.

Typographical arrangements

- The copyright expires, **25 years** after the year in which the edition incorporating the arrangement was first published.

When you are a copyright owner you have exclusive rights of the following.

- They can copy the work.
- Issue copies of their work to the public.
- They can perform, show or play the work in public.
- They can broadcast the work or include it in a cable programme service.
- They can adapt it.

The copyright law will not be broken if the work is used for certain specific purposes such as:

- For research or private study
- Criticism or review of the work provided the identity of the author and the title of the work are acknowledged.
- The reporting of current events provided the identity of the author is acknowledged.
- Incidental inclusion of any work in an artistic work, sound recording, broadcast or cable programme, e.g. a shot in a film showing a book lying on a table with its title visible.
- Educational use.
- **If a licence has been negotiated, such exceptions do not apply.**
- Libraries and archives - specific regulations are contained in the Copyright (Libraries and Archivists) (Copying of Copyright Material) Regulations 1989.
- The reporting of Parliamentary or judicial proceedings, the proceedings of a Royal Commission or statutory enquiry.

- Abstracts - the copying of an abstract (summary) or an article on a scientific or technical subject published in a periodical containing both the abstract or article.