



*IP COMPASS is a publication of
Namazie & Co.*

MITA (P) 226/09/2003

December 2010

1. Creative Commons – What it is and How to use it

Creative Commons is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to making it easier for people to share and build upon the work of others, consistent with the rules of copyright.

Creative Commons was founded in 2001 with the support of Center for the Public Domain. The organization is led by a Board of Directors comprised of education experts, technologists, legal scholars, investors, entrepreneurs and philanthropists.

Creative Commons works to "port" the core Creative Commons Licenses to different copyright legislations around the world.

The porting process involves both linguistically translating the licenses and legally adapting them to particular jurisdictions.

The organization provides free licenses and other legal tools to mark creative work with the freedom the creator wants it to carry, so others can share, remix, use commercially, or any combination thereof.

Creative Commons also offer consulting services on content, community and technical matters for a fee. Some of the best-known users of Creative Commons licenses namely Al Jazeera, Flickr, Google, Wikipedia, Whitehouse.gov

2. Clearing the Way: Copyright and Licenses

Introduction of Collective Management Organizations in Singapore

A collective management organization is formed or appointed by copyright holders to manage the rights in their copyright works. Collective management organizations administer the licensing of rights, collection of royalties and enforcement of rights on behalf of the copyright holders. Although not all copyright holders are members of collective management organizations, in some instances, these organizations form the main contact points between copyright holders and users.

Collective Management Organizations in Singapore:

- Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Ltd

The Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Ltd (COMPASS) is a non-profit public company which administers the public performance, the communication of a work to the public, which rights include the broadcasting of the work; inclusion of the work in a cable programme; and the making available of a work (on a network or otherwise), and reproduction rights in music and musical associated literary works on behalf of its members (composers, authors and music publishers). By virtue of the reciprocal agreements with many other similar music copyright organizations around the world, COMPASS protects an extensive repertoire written by thousands of songwriters and composers worldwide.

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- **Horizon Music Entertainment Pte Ltd (HME)**

HME has obtained, by various agreements with the copyright owners, the authority to license the reproduction of copyright works and collect royalties. It represents the interests of copyright owners by dealing with licensees and potential licensees.

- **InnoForm Entertainment Pte Ltd**

InnoForm Entertainment Pte Ltd is a private organization that administers the reproduction rights of karaoke and music videos on behalf of major record companies.

- **Music Publishers (S) Ltd**

Music Publishers (S) Ltd is a non-commercial and non-profit making organization and its principal activities are to act as a representative of the music publishers of Singapore

- **Recording Industry Performance Singapore Pte Ltd (RIP)**

RIP is a collective licensing body representing a number of record companies.

- **The Copyright Licensing and Administration Society of Singapore Ltd (CLASS)**

CLASS's main aim is to protect copyright and champion the interests of book publishers and authors in the country.

How to seek permission from Collective Management Organizations to use copyright

Since the collective management organizations represent the copyright owners, users can approach any representative of the relevant collective management organization for authorization to use the works that they administer.

However, collective management organizations do not administer all works, or all the rights in the works they

administer. If the rights to works are not administered by a collective management organization in Singapore (such as the rights to use a photograph, drawing, sculpture, etc), users will have to approach the copyright owner to get his/her permission to use the particular work in that particular manner. The names of the rights owner are often available on the work itself. If not, users could check with the provider of the work.

Singapore has also established a Copyright Tribunal empowered to resolve licensing disputes between copyright owners and users of copyright materials. Hearings by the Copyright Tribunal do not require users to engage a lawyer. In the event that the terms and conditions for licenses with the rights owners could not be agreed upon, and the dispute falls within the purview of the Copyright Tribunal, the [Copyright Tribunal](#) could be an avenue to settle the concerns with the collective management organization.

To gain wider awareness in the public and in the international creative community, the Collective Management Organizations need to develop a greater public profile. More cooperative efforts and projects between the artists and developers of works on the one hand, and the Collective Management Organizations, on the other hand, would allow copyright users to perceive such entities as a proactive means of facilitating creative efforts within a legal framework, rather than to view these organizations as merely fees collectors rather than organizations that represent themselves as census of creative outcomes of Singapore's talents.

The most recent effort in developing a copyright database is the invitation by **the National Library Board Singapore (NLB)** for a contractor to provide copyright registration and administration services to the NLB for a term of two years. With approximately 150,000 items to be cleared in the first year and 80,000 items for the second year, this seems a major project. The items are listed from literary dramatic works, musical works, and artistic works. All bids are welcome!



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