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ACTA – Anti - Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Singapore signed up to the Anti - Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) on October 1, 2011, along with eight other countries in Tokyo. ACTA is aimed at combating copyright and trademark piracy, and is seen as going beyond the standards established by the World Trade Organisation's Agreement On Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Although negotiations to put ACTA into place have been between 11 parties, only eight of the eleven have signed ACTA. The eleven parties are Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States.

Key provisions of ACTA include stricter border control measures to enforce IPRs, stronger civil and criminal liabilities and enhanced IPR protection of electronic works.

It is hoped that the new regime will enable Singapore's IPR legislation, once amended to comply with ACTA, to better facilitate research and development, as well as the commercialisation of new technologies in the region.



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