

Copyright[©]

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Copyright is an important topic for engineers to encourage them to produce useful and creative work, and also, to appreciate others works and not to steal them under any condition. This article contains a clear definition of copyright and a classification of works that are protected by copyrights, and works that are not. Moreover, some other small details are given about copyright registration and duration.

I. INTRODUCTION

COPYRIGHT is a form of protection that secures for the creator of a creative effort the exclusive right to control who:

- can make copies
- make works derived from the original work.
- distribute copies of the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending.
- perform the work publicly, in the case of literary, musical, dramatic, and choreographic works, pantomimes, and motion pictures and other audiovisual works.
- display the work publicly, in the case of literary, musical dramatic and choreographic works, pantomimes, and pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including the individual images of a motion picture or other audiovisual work.

There are a lot of subtleties and international variations but that is the gist of it. If you create something, and it fits the definition of a creative work, you get to control who can make copies of it and how they make copies. [1]

II. PROTECTED WORK

The first big issue involves defining what a creative work is. The law requires that it exist in some tangible form, it cannot just be in your head, it has to be on dist, or paper. It has to be creative and that means it cannot just be factual data. It should be some thing that helps people to do things in easier ways, bring more profits for an institution or a new technology. Creative work can be one of the following forms:

- Literary works (TX).
- Musical and dramatic works (PA) including any accompanying words or music.

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- Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works (VA).
- Sound records (SR).

A. Literary Works (TX)

Form TX covers literary works including books, periodicals, manuscripts phonorecords, computer programs, film, tapes and discs.

B. Musical and Dramatic Works (PA)

From PA covers musical and dramatic works including musical composition (includes lyrics), stage plays, screenplays, television plays, pantomimes and choreographic, motion pictures and other audiovisual works.

C. Pictorial, Graphic, and Sculptural Works (VA)

Form VA covers musical and dramatic works, including fine art, graphic art, applied art photographs, prints and art reproductions.

It also includes maps globes, charts, technical drawings, diagrams, models, sculptures, statues, figures, and forms.

D. Sound Recordings (SR)

From SR covers sound recordings, including music, spoken work, and sound effects. [1], [2]

III. UNPROTECTED WORK

However, not every thing is applicable to be copyrighted, there are some works that are not protected, and they are classified in the following categories:

- Works that have not been fixed in a tangible form of expression.
- Titles, names, short phrases, and slogans, familiar symbols or designs.
- Ideas, procedures, methods, systems, processes, concepts, principles, discoveries, or devices, as distinguished from a description, explanation, or illustration.
- Works consisting entirely of information that is common property and containing no original authorship (e.g.: standard calendars, height and weight charts, tape measures and rulers, and lists or tables taken from public documents or other common sources).[1]

IV. ADVANTAGES OF COPYRIGHT REGISTRATIONS

In general, copyright registration is a legal formality intended to make a public record of the basic facts of a particular copyright.

However, registration is not a condition of copyright protection. Even though registration is not a requirement for protection, the copyright law provides several inducements or advantages to encourage copyright owners to make registration. Among these advantages are the following:

- Registration establishes a public record of the copyright claim.
- Before an infringement suit may be filed in court, registration is necessary for works of U.S. origin.
- If made before or within 5 years of publication, registration will establish prima facie evidence in court of validity of the copyright and of the facts stated in the certificate.
- If registration is made within 3 months after publication of the work or prior to an infringement of the work, statutory damages and attorney's fees will be available to the copyright owner in court actions. Otherwise, only an award of actual damages and profits is available to the copyright owner.
- Registration allows the owner of the copyright to record the registration with the U.S. Customs Service for protection against the importation of infringing copies.

For additional information, go to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website at www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import and click on "Intellectual Property Rights".[1]

V. COPYRIGHT DURATION

A work that was created (fixed in tangible form for the first time) on or after January 1, 1978, is automatically protected from the moment of its creation and is ordinarily given a term enduring for the author's life plus an additional 70 years after the author's death. The duration of copyright will be 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation, whichever is shorter. [1]

VI. CONCLUSION

Copyright provides protection to any creative work that fits in the applied conditions. The four protected types of works are: literary works, musical and dramatic works, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, and finally sound recording. However, not every produced work is protected, there are some works that are not protected like names and ideas. Also, registering the copyright has many advantages related to judging the breaking of the copyright laws. Copyrights will not continue for ever, there are regulations that decide the duration of any copyright.

REFERENCES

- [1] United States Copyright Office, Copyright Basics. Washington DC 20559-6000, US: Library of Congress.
- [2] Copyright Website, What does Copyright Protect? <http://www.benedict.com/Info/Low/What.aspx>