

MHRD invites comments on Copyright Rules (Amended)

August 15, 2012

Pursuant to the recently approved amended Copyright Act, the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has framed new copyright rules (amended). The said rules can be accessed from the MHRD's website and also from the link copied below.

MHRD has now invited comments, views, and suggestions from all the stakeholders. The comments can be submitted to the Copyright Office latest by September 21, 2012.

It is worth mentioning that the Copyright (Amendment) Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on May 27, 2012 and Lok Sabha on May 22, 2012. Thereafter the provisions of Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 came into force on June 21, 2012.

Some of the significant amendments are delineated below:

- In relation to a Cinematograph Film the author means the producer and the director also. Earlier it was only for producers and the term for copyright protection is for 60 years but now it is also for the directors and the term for copyright protection of the directors is **70 years**.
- Independent rights to the lyricist and the composers.
- Physically challenged persons can also access to the copyright materials in special formats, provided that they should not infringe the copyright of other authors.
- Photographic works to be protected for 'life plus 60 years' earlier it was only for 60 years.
- Statutory License for Cover Versions. It is pertinent to point out that **Cover Version** refers to a new performance or recording of an existing song.
- Amendments to Copyright Act, 1957 at par with the global Internet Laws.
- Performer's rights are expanded and they are allowed to make the recordings of their performances and to reproduce it in any version.
- Statutory licenses to broadcasting organization to access any literary, musical works and sound recordings and to pay the Copyright holder as fixed by the Copyright Board.

Source: <http://copyright.gov.in/>