

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. We already hold a music licence, why would we also need an MPLC Umbrella Licence?

A. Music Rights Organisations are totally separate organizations to the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC). They manage music rights only. MPLC provide the same service for Hollywood Film Studios, Independent Film Studios and TV producers. Screening a film or TV programme, whether broadcast on TV, on home entertainment DVD/Blu-Ray or viewed from the internet requires a licence from MPLC.

Q: Why would I want to show TV shows and Films?

A: The use of films and TV shows, whether on TV, DVD or viewed from the internet can be a great way to entertain your customers as well as bringing additional style and ambience. It can also offer a competitive advantage with customers remembering the overall comfort and quality of their experience. Providing entertainment for children can add a much needed respite for busy parents.

Q. Why would we need the MPLC Umbrella Licence?

A. The use of home entertainment DVDs, broadcasts and downloads, whether rented or purchased, are intended for home use only, as per the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000. If a business screens films and TV shows then they are considered a 'public performance' and illegal unless licensed. It is an employer's responsibility to ensure that the correct licence is in place to cover film use on company premises, or guarantee that such content is not displayed. Furthermore, if the manager is aware, or has reason to believe that screenings take place during business activities, they have a liability as a 'secondary infringer'.

Q: Do I need a MPLC Licence if I already hold a TV Licence?

A: Yes, the MPLC Licence is required in addition to a TV Licence. The TV licence is not concerned with the protection of our studio partners' content. The Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, requires a separate licence from MPLC, whether broadcast on TV, on home entertainment DVD/Blu-ray or viewed from the internet.

Q. What is the MPLC Umbrella Licence?

A. MPLC is the licence provider to over eight hundred & fifty (850) Hollywood, Bollywood and Independent Film Studios and TV producers. It covers studios including Twentieth Century Fox, BBC Worldwide, Discovery Channel, Granada Media, Walt Disney, Dreamworks, Touchstone, Lionsgate, Miramax, Paramount, Pixar, Warner and Universal Studios. The licence allows unlimited showings of our studios' and producers' content and there is no reporting of use or any other administration required. Just simple cover at one low annual fee.

Q. How do I get a licence?

A. To apply for your licence, please complete and return the enclosed application form to Motion Picture Licensing Company. MPLC will then issue the licence certificate and invoice by return. Alternatively, simply call one of MPLC's expert licensing representatives to arrange a licence on 065 6820368, email ieinfo@mplc.ie or visit www.mplc.ie.

Q. Who are the MPLC?

A. The Motion Picture Licensing Company, MPLC was established over 30 years ago. The licence is now provided in over 30 countries around the world and covers various public, non-theatrical film events for schools, coaches, trains, libraries, childcare centres, nurseries and kids clubs, prisons, oil rigs, corporate training, churches, healthcare centres, gyms, private clubs, bars and restaurants, government services and retailers.

Motion Picture Licensing Company are registered with the Irish Patents Office (Registration No: P/21/03/0015/1).

MPLC are a member of the Creative Industries Forum and are listed as registered members of the Copyright Licensing Bodies with the Irish Patents Office www.patentsoffice.ie (Registration Number: P//21/03/0015/1).

Q: What are the penalties for screening films without the licence?

A: Under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, infringement penalties could include damages, injunction and/or an amount of profits. Furthermore, your actions may amount to a criminal offence which attracts a fine not exceeding € 1,905 and/or twelve months in prison for summary convictions and a fine not exceeding € 127,000 and/or five years on indictment. MPLC works with An Garda Síochána and the Revenue's Customs and Excise Department to investigate and ensure that illegal showings are prosecuted on behalf of the film industry.

Q. Who would prosecute?

A: An Garda Síochána and the Revenue's Customs and Excise Department investigate and prosecute illegal showings on behalf of the film industry.

Q. How can I contact MPLC?

E: ieinfo@mplc.ie

T: 065 6820368

W: www.mplc.ie