
THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA CLUBS

www.thecacc.org.uk

Audio Visual and Copyright/Performance Licencing

Any part of an AudioVisual production which is not originated by the author, whether audio (eg music) or visual (eg third-party images added for historical background), requires some form of approval. This may be through licencing, or may be through use of royalty-free sources. This note deals with the most commonly required licences for audio / music.

Licences for music are available to amateur producers from the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers (IAC, also the Film & Video Institute). Licences are available to individuals and separately to Clubs. The IAC Club licence only covers productions that are made by a Club as a group project, and not productions by individuals who happen to be members. The Club licence is really designed for film/video clubs where lots of people contribute with direction, lighting, production, sound recording etc etc.

The music licencing arrangements are clear-cut for production creation. The IAC provides the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) and British Phonographic Industry (BPI) licences, which grant permissions to physically extract music from purchased CDs for the purpose of making AV sequences to show in clubs/competitions on an amateur basis. One covers the rights of the composers, and the other the rights of the publishers. These licences are available to IAC members, to PAGB affiliated Clubs, to PAGB affiliated Club members and to RPS members, and cost about £8.

What is less clear is the licence required to play a production in public, meaning anywhere outside your home, as there are at least two competing schemes. The IAC scheme provides a Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) licence for under £1, but it is only available to full IAC members. However, many public halls have their own Performing Rights Society (PRS) licence, which avoids the need for a PPL licence. These two schemes are in competition, and it is very difficult to find one website that provides all the answers.

Drake Hall in Amersham has a PRS licence, but CACC has no information about the PRS licence status of other venues. Authors, including CACC lecturers, showing audiovisual productions at various locations are advised to be members of IAC and hold their own PPL licence.

The people who insist that all entrants to competitions must have a PPL licence can never answer the question - "Whose licence is applicable when the entrants are not presenting at the competition?"

Information about the IAC licencing schemes is available at:

<http://www.fvi.org.uk/iac/copyright/copyright-clearance-scheme.html>