

**UNESCO**  
**WORLD ANTI PIRACY OBSERVATORY**

**QATAR**

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## I. Legislation

### 1. Copyright laws

Copyright is protected in Qatar through international Agreements, [Law No. 7 of 2002 on the Protection of Copyright and Related Rights](#) (the copyright law) and other legislation related to enforcement of copyright or affecting copyright protection.

The copyright law No. 22 of 2006 was issued on June 25, 2006, and published in the official gazette No. 2745 on July 5, 2006. Amendments to Article 13 of the Copyright law were brought by virtue of Law No. 12 of 2008.

The implementing regulations and decisions for the copyright law shall be issued by the competent Minister. Until that date, current regulations and decisions consistent with the copyright law shall remain in force.

The Copyright Law No. 22/2006 abolished all previous legislation contrary to its provisions including Copyright Law No. 10 of 1993.

### 2. Other laws

The other laws and regulations pertaining anti-piracy measures and copyright enforcement are:

- Criminal Law No. 11 of 2004.
- Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings No. 13 of 1990.
- Civil Law No. 22 of 2004
- Law on Criminal procedures No. 23 of 2004
- Law on Customs No. 40 of 2002

### 3. Latest developments and perspectives

No amendments are foreseen for the time being.

### 4. Summary of legislation

Copyright applies to any original literary and artistic work, irrespective of its value, quality, purpose or mode of expression. This includes books, pamphlets and other writings; lectures, speeches, and any other oral works; dramatic and dramatico-musical works; musical works with or without words; choreographic works and pantomimes; audiovisual works; photographic works; works of applied art, works of drawing and painting; three-dimensional geographic or topographic works; computer programs and titles of the works provided they are original (Article 2). Copyright also applies to the following derivative works provided they do not prejudice to the rights in the original work (Article 3):

- Works of translation, summary, alteration explanation and other modifications;
- collection of topics and selections if creative in the selection and arrangement of their subject matter;
- data bases if creative in the arrangement of selection of their subject matter;
- Collections of works and expressions of folklore if creative by reason of arrangements or selection of their subject matter.

The protection is also extended to the author's collections of his published speeches, articles, judicial proceedings or any other similar works (Article 24).

- *Exclusive rights of the authors and of the owners of neighbouring rights*

#### Exclusive Rights of the authors

##### **a) Economic Rights**

Copyright holders have the exclusive right to carry out or to authorize the reproduction, translation and transformation of the work including excerpts and musical arrangements; the distribution to the public through sale of the work; the rental of audiovisual works or computer programs; the public performance and the communication to the public of a work (Article 7 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

##### **b) Moral Rights**

In addition to the aforementioned economic rights, the author enjoys imprescriptible and perpetual moral rights which include the right to claim authorship, to use a pseudonym or not to have his name indicated on his work; to object to any distortion, deformation or any other modification of his work; to object and to prohibit any other use of his work which would be prejudicial to his honor or reputation. The author may also withdraw his work from circulation or introduce any modification to it provided third parties are compensated for the damages resulting thereof (Articles 9 and 10 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

#### Exclusive right of the owners of neighbouring rights

Related/ Neighboring rights are protected under Articles 40 to 42 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights. These rights are the rights of performing artists in their performances; producers of sound recordings (phonograms) in their recordings; radio and television broadcasting organizations in their radio and television programs.

**Performers** have the exclusive right to authorize or prohibit the broadcasting and communication to the public of their unfixed performance; the fixation of their unfixed performance in sound recordings; the reproduction of sound recordings containing unauthorized fixation of their performance; the commercial rental of their performance; and the distribution to the public of their performance through sale of sound recordings containing the performance. Performers enjoy also moral rights which consist of the right to claim authorship of their performances provided that this would not contradict with the exploitation of the performance; and to object to any distortion, deformation or modification of their performance that would be prejudicial to their reputation (Article 40).

**Producers of sound recordings** have the exclusive right to authorize or prohibit the direct or indirect reproduction of their recordings in any manner or form; the rental to the public of their recordings; and the distribution to the public of their recordings through sale (Article 41).

**Radio and television broadcasting organizations** have the exclusive right to authorize or prohibit the rebroadcasting, the communication to the public, and the fixation of their broadcasts, as well as the reproduction of a fixation of their broadcasts (Article 42).

- *Exceptions and limitations to copyright / Permitted Acts in relation to copyright works*

Excluded from copyright protection are legislations, court decisions, and decisions of administrative committees, international conventions, official documents or any official translation thereof; news on current events that are mere media news; ideas, procedures, operational methods, mathematical concepts, principles and mere facts. However, any derivative created work shall be covered by copyright protection (Article 4 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

Limitations to exclusive rights are provided in Articles 18 to 26 of the law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights provided that the use is non-profit making, and it does not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work or unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author. These limitations include:

- using the work exclusively for personal use
- using the work for purposes such as teaching, citation in another work for illustration, demonstration or criticism; reproducing or making available to the public articles published in newspapers or periodicals on political, economic, social, cultural or religious news or a broadcast work of the same nature
- reproducing works that can be seen or heard through informatory display of current events
- making a single copy or an adaptation of a computer program for archiving purposes or for replacing a lost or destroyed original copy provided the original or adapted copy is destroyed upon expiration of the property title
- making a single copy of a work, in limited cases, through non-profit making educational establishments, libraries or archiving centers; publication by newspapers, periodicals or broadcasting organizations of speeches and lectures as well as legal proceedings or similar works legally made available to the public
- extracts of an audio, visual or audiovisual work made available to the public in the course of covering current events; and importing a copy of a work for personal purposes. In many cases, the use should be to the extent justified by the purpose and provided that the source and the name of the author are indicated.

Limitations to copyright apply also *mutatis mutandis* on the rights of performers, producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organizations.

Compulsory licenses are allowed in limited cases in Qatar for educational and/or research purposes. The Minister of Economy and Trade (or whomever the minister deputized) may grant a non-exclusive and non-assignable license following the request of any Qatari national to translate a foreign work into Arabic or to reproduce and publish a work that meets specific conditions; provided that fair compensation is paid to the author of the original work and the licensed copies are sold at a price equal or lesser than the price of similar works in Qatar (Article 27 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

- *Protection of foreign works*

In addition to the works of Qatari Authors wherever they are published, the protection of the copyright law covers works which are first published in Qatar; works which are first published in another country and then published in Qatar within 30 days from their publication in the other country; audiovisual works whose producer has his headquarters or place of residence in Qatar;

architectural works constructed in Qatar, or any other artistic work incorporated in a building or any other construction situated in Qatar; and works protected by an international convention or any agreement to which Qatar is a party in accordance to its provisions (Article 5 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights). The copyright law protects also sound recordings that have been recorded or published in Qatar; broadcasts or broadcasting organizations that have their headquarters in Qatar or broadcasting organizations that broadcast through a transmitter in Qatar; as well as performances, sound recordings or broadcasts protected by any international convention to which Qatar is party (Article 43 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

- *Period of copyright protection*

As a general rule, copyright protection is provided for the lifetime of the author and 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the author's death; 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the date of the death of the last surviving author in the event of co-authored work; 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the first authorized publication for collective and audiovisual works - or 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the making of the work should the work not have been published; 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the calendar year of the authorized publication for anonymous or pseudonymous works - or 50 years from the 1st of January of the year following the author's death when the pseudonym adopted by the author leaves no doubt as to his identity or if the author of an anonymous or pseudonymous work discloses his identity during the above mentioned period. Moral rights are protected in perpetuity (Articles 15 to 17 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

Rights of performing artists last for 50 years from the year following the fixation of the performance in a sound recording- or 50 years from the end of the year in which the performance took place should the performance have not been fixed on a sound recording; rights of producers of sound recordings last for 50 years from the year following the year of publication of the sound recording - or 50 years from the end of the year following the first fixation of the sound recording should the sound recording not have been published; rights of broadcasting organizations last for 20 years from the year following the first broadcast (Articles 40 to 42 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

The Law provides for a retroactive protection for all works, performances, phonograms and broadcasts created or fixed before the entry into force of the Law on Copyright and neighboring Rights provided that the protection period had not lapsed under a previous legislation or the legislation in the country of origin of such works (Article 54 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

- *Registration*

Copyright protection does not depend on formalities. Failure to deposit the work or any act of disposal relating to it does not prejudice the author's rights provided for under the Copyright Law and related legislation (Article 45 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

Copyright holders or their universal successors who wish to make a deposit must submit to the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Office at the Ministry of Economy and Trade an application duly completed. Details relating to deposit or registration of works and any act of

disposal thereof are provided in Article 45 of the law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights

## 5. International treaties

Qatar is a member of the following International Convention and Treaties on Copyright and Related Rights:

- [Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works](#)
- [WIPO Copyright Treaty](#) (WCT)
- [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty](#) (WPPT)
- [WTO TRIPS Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights](#)
- Arab Agreement for the Protection of Authors' Rights

Qatar signed the following Convention but did not ratify it yet:

- Arab Copyright & Neighboring Rights Convention signed on 3 December, 2004.

## II. Measures and remedies

### 1. Copyright infringement

Article 51 of the Copyright Law defines a number of acts which are considered to be illegal or infringing the copyright law. These acts are as follows:

- Manufacturing or importing any devices or instruments with an intention of using them through sale, rental or other means, if they were designed or meant to deactivate any devices or instruments, preventing or limiting the reproduction of a work, a sound recording, or a broadcast, or if meant to undermine the quality of the work.
- Manufacturing or importing any devices or instruments with the intention of using them through sale, rental or other means, if they can enable the reception of codified programs broadcast or communicated to the public in any other way, including programs communicated through satellite, or if they facilitate such transmission to persons not entitled to receive such programs.
- Removing or modifying any electronic data relating to copyright management, without the authorization of the right holder.
- Distributing works, performances, sound recordings or broadcasts, or importing such works for distribution, transmission or communication to the public, or providing them to the public without the authorization of the right holder, while knowing that electronic data relating to copyright management were removed or modified without the consent of the right holder.

Additional acts are punished by the copyright law and hence are considered to be infringing its provisions. These are found under Articles 47 to 50 of the Copyright Law and Article 388 of the Criminal Law, in particular:

- Violating the rights of copyright holders and holders of neighboring rights.
- Publishing or exploiting a work by a person who does not own it without a certified written authorization of the right holder.
- Claiming authorship of a work by a person who does not own it.

- Modifying the real meaning, nature, subject or title of a work by the publisher in contradiction with the will of the right holder or his instructions.
- Putting into circulation, selling or reproducing copies of a work by an establishment engaged in the distribution, sale, reproduction of copyrighted works without a written authorization of the right holder.
- Violating treaties related to copyright and neighboring rights to which Qatar is party.

Several acts relating to computer crimes in particular the violation and misuse of the automatic data processing systems are punished by the Criminal Law (Articles 370 to 380).

## **2. Remedies to protect copyright holders**

The Copyright law, the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings, the Criminal Law and the Civil Law provide for a number of remedies that may apply for protecting copyright and neighboring rights holders in the case of violations of their rights. These remedies include the following:

- Provisional measures may be taken to prevent an imminent or continuation of infringement of copyright and related rights, to preserve relevant evidence, in cases where the delay may cause irreparable damage to the right holder or in cases where there is a proven risk that delay may lead to the loss of relevant evidence (Article 47 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Articles 31 and 42 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 154 and 404 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings).
- Legal action may be instituted at the request of the copyright holder, the neighboring rights holders, their heirs or successors including fair and equitable civil judicial procedures (Articles 1, 47 and 53 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Articles 1, 40 to 82, 228 to 233, Articles 63 to 73 of the Law on Criminal Procedures, and 260 to 297 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings).
- Seizure of suspect articles and infringing goods may be ordered by the court at the request of right holders or ex-officio by the customs officials or the employees of the Office of the protection of copyright and neighboring rights mandated by the Minister to this effect (Articles 47 and 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Article 154 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings, Articles 76 and 388 of the Criminal Law, Article 58 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 54, 115 to 117, 120 to 126, 130 and 132 of the Customs Law).
- Confiscation of infringing copies of the work and all implements used in the reproduction as well as the confiscation of the profits attributable to the infringement (Articles 47, 52 and 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Article 58 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 76 and 388 of the Criminal Law).
- Fair and adequate damages may be imposed including moral damages, recovery of lost profits, trial expenses and attorney's fees (Article 47 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Articles 199, 201 to 203, 210, Articles 21 and 22 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and 214 to 219 of the Civil Law and Articles 131 to 137 of the Law on Civil, Articles 243 to 246 of the Law on Criminal Procedures, and Commercial Proceedings).
- Criminal sanctions may be imposed, in particular imprisonment for a minimum term of six months and a maximum term of three years, and/or a fine varying from 20,000 Riyals to 100,000 Riyals. In case of recidivism, the sanctions shall be doubled. A decision may also be taken to close down the establishment for a period of not less than one month and not more than three years. Sanctions are also imposed against co-conspirators



(Articles 48 to 50 and 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights and Articles 45, 65 and 388 of the Criminal Law). In the case of computer crimes the sanctions may vary between 3 months to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine between 3,000 to 50,000 Riyals (Articles 370 to 380 of the Criminal Law).

- Publication of the court decision in one or more local newspapers at the expense of the convicted person (Article 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

### **3. Provisional measures**

The Copyright Law (Articles 47 and 53) allows the court, upon application of the copyright holder, the neighboring rights holders, their heirs or successors to take provisional measures to prevent an imminent or continuation of infringement of copyright and neighboring rights, to preserve relevant evidence, in cases where the delay may cause irreparable damage to the right holder or in cases where there is a proven risk that delay may lead to the loss of relevant evidence (See also Articles 1 and 26 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings).

In such cases the court may order the cessation of the infringement; the seizure of infringing copies and any part thereof; the confiscation of infringing copies and any material or equipment used in copying; the payment of the appropriate indemnification; and the confiscation of profits attributable to the infringement (See also Articles 154 and 404 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings).

The court may adopt the provisional measures without notifying the defendant and in his absence in cases where the delay may cause irreparable damage to the right holder or where there is a proven risk that delay may lead to the loss of relevant evidence. The prejudiced parties shall then be notified as soon as the provisional measures have been carried out. The defendant may request a hearing, within thirty days after his notification by the measures. The Court shall decide, in such a session, to endorse, modify or repeal the provisional measure.

The plaintiff shall deposit with the court, along with the request for provisional measures, an adequate financial guarantee to prevent abuse and to guarantee any damages that the defendant may incur if the plaintiff's claim was not grounded.

A legal action shall be filed with the competent court within 15 days from the date of the issuance of the court order to carry out the provisional measures; otherwise the defendant may request the court to cancel the said measures. In this case and in cases where the provisional measures are cancelled due to the default of the plaintiff or upon becoming evident that there is no infringement or threat of infringement, the court may, based on the request of the defendant order adequate compensation for the damages resulting from such measures. The court may also order the plaintiff who acted abusively in requesting the provisional measures to adequately compensate the defendant (See also Article 404 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings).

### **4. Penalties for copyright infringement**

The Copyright law, the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings, the Criminal Law and the Civil Law provide for penalties in case of copyright or neighboring rights infringement. These penalties include the following:

- Fair and adequate damages may be imposed including moral damages, recovery of lost profits, trial expenses and attorney's fees (Article 47 of the Law on the Protection of

Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Articles 199, 201 to 203, 210, Articles 21 and 22 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and 214 to 219 of the Civil Law and Articles 131 to 137 of the Law on Civil, Articles 243 to 246 of the Law on Criminal Procedures, and Commercial Proceedings).

- Seizure of suspect articles and infringing goods may be ordered by the court at the request of right holders or ex-officio by the customs officials or the employees of the Office of the protection of copyright and neighboring rights mandated by the Minister to this effect (Articles 47 and 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Article 154 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Proceedings, Articles 76 and 388 of the Criminal Law, Article 58 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 54, 115 to 117, 120 to 126, 130 and 132 of the Customs Law).
- Confiscation of infringing copies of the work and all implements used in the reproduction as well as the confiscation of the profits attributable to the infringement (Articles 47, 52 and 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Article 58 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 76 and 388 of the Criminal Law).
- Criminal sanctions may be imposed, in particular imprisonment for a minimum term of six months and a maximum term of three years, and/or a fine varying from 20,000 Riyals to 100,000 Riyals. In case of recidivism, the sanctions shall be doubled. Sanctions are also imposed against co-conspirators (Articles 48 to 50 and 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights and Articles 45 and 388 of the Criminal Law). In the case of computer crimes the sanctions may vary between 3 months to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine between 3,000 to 50,000 Riyals (Articles 370 to 380 of the Criminal Law).
- The closure of the premises for a period of not less than one month and not more than three years (Article 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights and Article 65 of the Criminal Law).
- Publication of the court decision in one or more local newspapers at the expense of the convicted person (Article 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

## **5. Requirements for foreign persons**

As a general rule, foreign natural and legal persons shall enjoy the right to take action in Qatari courts.

In legal relations containing a foreign element, Qatari courts apply Qatari laws on rules of jurisdiction and legal proceedings (Article 32 of the Civil Law).

The legal system of foreign legal persons (such as companies, associations, institutions and others) is governed by the law of the State in which such legal persons have taken their headquarters, unless such persons had started their main activities in Qatar, in such case, the Qatari Laws should apply (Article 12 of the Civil Law).

Proceedings in all courts are conducted in Arabic. The courts provide translators for non-Arabic-speaking litigants.

### III. Enforcement

#### 1. Enforcement authorities

##### **a) Authorities responsible for enforcing the copyright law**

The police, public prosecutors, the judiciary, customs officials, and employees of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Office at the Ministry of Economy and Trade are the competent authorities responsible for enforcing the copyright law and combating piracy in Qatar (Articles 44, 47 and 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights, Article 388 of the Criminal Law, Articles 27 to 36 of the Law on Criminal Procedures and Articles 54, 115 to 117, 120 to 126, 130 and 132 of the Customs Law).

Sworn-in employees of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Office have police powers with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the Copyright Law (Article 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights). For that purpose, they have the power to oppress and identify crimes related to copyright infringement; in particular, they have the right to inspect any place that is in charge of printing, copying, producing or distributing copyrighted works; to examine documents and records; and to confiscate any material, copies or means used in copyright violation.

The police acts under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, the public prosecutors and the judiciary act under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, and the employees of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Office act under the authority of the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

##### **b) Enforcement bodies entitles to act ex-officio in copyright infringement cases**

Sworn-in employees of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Office have police powers with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the Copyright Law. They may act ex-officio in cases of copyright violation. In this case, they have the right to inspect any place that is in charge of printing, copying, producing or distributing copyrighted works; to examine documents and records; and to confiscate any material, copies or means used in copyright violation (Article 55 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

Customs officers may act ex officio at the borders and in the country in copyright infringement cases. They are entitled to seize prohibited goods, ex-officio or at the request of right holders, in the Customs area, places subject to Customs control and outside the Customs area in limited cases (Articles 54, 115 to 117, 120 to 126, 130 and 132 of the Customs Law).

##### **c) Courts dealing with copyright cases**

The judiciary system in Qatar is divided into two main divisions, the Sharia courts and the civil system. There are no specialized courts for copyright or intellectual property rights (IPR) in Qatar. The competent courts are the courts of the civil system which include the civil courts and the criminal courts.

The court having jurisdiction over civil remedies is the competent court of first instance in charge of civil cases. The court having jurisdiction over criminal offence is the competent court of first instance in charge of criminal cases. The criminal courts try capital offences against state security, property, breach of trust, financial offences (forgery, fraud, counterfeiting, cheating) and

offences against the person (kidnapping, murder). The civil courts have jurisdiction over all disputes not heard by the Sharia courts or the criminal courts, particularly commercial and labor cases (Article 24 of the Law on Civil and Commercial Procedures and Article 162 of the Law on Criminal Procedures).

## **2. Enforcement at the border**

The Customs is the Authority responsible for combating piracy at the borders. Transporting or holding pirated goods is dealt with under the Customs Law as transporting or holding restricted or prohibited goods (Articles 1, 21, 22 and 140, of the Customs Law).

Customs officers may act ex officio at the borders and in the country in copyright infringement cases. They are entitled to seize prohibited goods, ex-officio or at the request of right holders, in the Customs territory, in places subject to Customs control and outside the Customs territory in cases specified by the law (Articles 54, 115 to 117, 120 to 126 and 130 of the Customs Law).

The penalty for smuggling pirated goods consists of a fine of not less than the value of the goods and not more than three times the value, and/ or a term of imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than three years (Article 142 of the Customs Law).

The Customs Section at the Court of First Instance is the competent court to deal with the following cases (Article 158 of the Customs Law).

- Smuggling crimes
- Crimes and offenses committed in violation of the provisions of the Customs law and related implementing regulations.
- Objections to the decisions and resolutions concerning the collection of fines.

The aforementioned provisions apply also in the case of infringement of related rights/ neighboring rights.

## **IV. Public Awareness**

### **1. Awareness campaigns and actions**

### **2. Promotion of legal exploitation**

### **3. Associations and organizations with awareness-raising purpose**

Private bodies have been created to promote intellectual property in Qatar and to fight against piracy, in particular the following:

- **Intellectual Property Enforcement Office**

The Qatari government established an Intellectual Property Enforcement Office (by virtue of Decree no. 28 of 2007) to deter intellectual property piracy. The Office constitutes a unit within the Economic Fraud Section which falls under the supervision of the Criminal Search Department of the Ministry of Interior. Its main duty is to reduce the levels of software, copyright, and music piracy in the country.

- **ICC-Qatar Commission on Intellectual Property**

The intellectual property policy of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is formulated by its Commission on Intellectual Property, which gathers over 300 business executives and private practitioners from 50 countries. The commission identifies key intellectual property issues facing the international business community and contributes the business voice to debates to resolve these. It also works to raise awareness of intellectual property by initiatives such as its annual *Roadmap on Current and Emerging IP Issues for Business and other publications*. The Commission on Intellectual Property meets twice each year in plenary, but carries out work constantly throughout the year in issue-specific task forces. The Commission also works closely with intergovernmental organizations involved in intellectual property policy-making, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) where ICC has observer status. <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ip/id2465/index.html>

- **Brand Owners Protection Group**

The Brand Owners Protection Group (BPG) is a group of world leading Brand Owners and Legal Consultants who are alarmed at the continuous illicit replication of genuine goods and interested in the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights. BPG is a non-profit organization which seeks the enforcement of intellectual property laws, copyright, patent, and trademark protection, and licensing laws in order to protect consumers from counterfeits and all other forms of illicit trade. <http://www.gulfbpg.com/index.php>

- **Saba & Co. Intellectual Property**

Saba is the longest-established and most renowned intellectual property firm in the Arab world. Saba is active in all areas of prosecution, registration, and enforcement of intellectual property rights and provides the full range of related legal and paralegal services. On the enforcement front, the firm's expertise extends to all areas of intellectual property, including trademark infringement, unfair competition, misleading practices, as well as similar actions. Saba coordinates with private investigators and government enforcement agencies to obtain evidence on infringing use; conducts civil litigation against infringers; provides technical expertise to consumer advocacy groups to highlight the social costs of counterfeit commerce; and works with government enforcement agencies to prosecute and take administrative action against infringers. Also, Saba strongly believes that the key to a successful anti-piracy/anti-counterfeit policy lies in effective border measures and the proactive support of the local law enforcement agencies. As such, Saba continuously works with the government authorities concerned in the countries of the region to prompt them to tighten the laws on counterfeiting. Saba is also a founding member of the local chapters of the Brand Protection Group for Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and GCC and Yemen. <http://www.sabaip.com/index.aspx>

- **Arab Society for Intellectual Property**

The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) is a specialized Arab professional body which was established in 1987. ASIP aims at promoting and developing intellectual property protection in the Arab world, through the encouragement of the development and modernization of IP systems and the laws and regulations that govern them. ASIP is dedicated to the building of capacities and expertise among IP professionals and practitioners as well as enhancing awareness among the general public through the utilization of a number of tools in order to successfully achieve its objectives, by holding education programs, conferences, and seminars, research projects and studies. <http://www.aspip.org/Default.aspx?&lang=en>

#### 4. Best practices

### V. Capacity-building

#### 1. Training

#### 2. Establishment of specialized units and intersectoral groups

#### 3. Best practices

### VI. Other

#### 1. TPM/DRM

The Copyright Law provides protection for Technological Protection Measures (TPM) through imposing criminal sanctions on any person who commits any of the following acts:

- Manufacturing or importing any devices or instruments with an intention of using them through sale, rental or other means, if they were designed or meant to deactivate any devices or instruments, preventing or limiting the reproduction of a work, a sound recording, or a broadcast, or if meant to undermine the quality of the work.
- Manufacturing or importing any devices or instruments with the intention of using them through sale, rental or other means, if they can enable the reception of codified programs broadcast or communicated to the public in any other way, including programs communicated through satellite, or if they facilitate such transmission to persons not entitled to receive such programs.
- Removing or modifying any electronic data relating to copyright management, without the authorization of the right holder.
- Distributing works, performances, sound recordings or broadcasts, or importing such works for distribution, transmission or communication to the public, or providing them to the public without the authorization of the right holder, while knowing that electronic data relating to copyright management were removed or modified without the consent of the right holder.

The person who commits the violation should be sentenced for a period of not less than six months and not more than one year of imprisonment (Article 52 of the Law on the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights).

In addition, several acts relating to computer crimes in particular the violation and misuse of the automatic data processing systems are punished by the Criminal Law. Penalties vary between 3 months to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine between 3,000 to 50,000 Riyals (Articles 370 to 380).

#### 2. Licensing Schemes

#### 3. Optical Discs

#### 4. Hotlines

## **5. Contact Details**

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### **Web links**

Database of GCC Laws  
<http://www.gcc-legal.org/MojPortalPublic/>

**Arab IP Center of the League of Arab States:**  
<http://www.arabipcenter.org>