

UNESCO
WORLD ANTI PIRACY OBSERVATORY

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

I. LEGISLATION	2
1. Copyright laws	3
2. Other laws	3
3. Latest developments and perspectives	3
4. Summary of legislation	3
5. International Conventions and Treaties	4
II. MEASURES AND REMEDIES	4
1. Copyright infringement	4
2. Remedies to protect copyright holders	4
3. Provisional measures	4
4. Penalties for copyright infringement	4
5. Requirements for foreign persons	5
III. ENFORCEMENT	5
1. Enforcement authorities	5
2. Enforcement at the border	5
IV. PUBLIC AWARENESS	5
1. Awareness campaigns and actions	5
2. Promotion of legal exploitation	5
3. Associations and organizations with awareness-raising purpose	5
4. Best practices	5
V. CAPACITY-BUILDING	5
1. Training	5
2. Establishment of specialized units and intersectoral group	5

3. Best practices	6
VI. OTHER	6
1. TPM/DRM	6
2. Licensing schemes	6
3. Optical discs	6
4. Hotlines	6
5. Contact details	6

I. Legislation

1. Copyright laws

Syria's copyright law is governed by [Law No. 12 on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights](#), implemented on September 4th, 2001.

2. Other laws

Information not available

3. Latest developments and perspectives

Syria has drafted an amendment to Law No. 12, which aims to make Syria's law consistent with international standards concerning intellectual property rights.

Syria has also applied for membership in the World Trade Organization.

4. Summary of legislation

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

Exclusive rights of authors

Authors have the right to decide how their works are diffused to the public. Authors also have the right to commercially exploit their works in any manner, and no other person may do so without the author's written permission.

Further, authors' moral rights include the right of paternity and the right of integrity.

Exclusive rights of owners of related rights

Broadcasting organizations have the right to prevent the use of their programs, whether that use is in the form of copying, broadcasting, selling or leasing, in conformity with the rights of performers and producers of phonograms.

- *Exceptions and limitations to copyright*

Free use of works is permissible in the following circumstances:

- Copy for personal copy of a work;
- Quotation of a number of passages of a work, provided that it is consistent with fair practice and indicates the author's name and the source; and
- Use of a work by way of illustration for teaching in publications, television or radio programs or audiovisual recordings, provided that such use is consistent with fair practice.

- *Protection of foreign works*
Information not available
- *Period of copyright protection*
Information not available
- *Registration*

Registration is not required to receive protection. Syrian law provides for a procedure of legal deposit, but deposit is not compulsory. It is only required upon demand for confiscation procedures in order to document the legal prosecution involved.

5. International Conventions and Treaties

Syria 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](#)
- [Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations](#)

II. Measures and Remedies

1. Copyright Infringement

Information not available

2. Remedies to Protect Copyright Holders

Courts can order the destruction of copies of infringing works under Articles 43, 44 and 45 of the copyright law.

3. Provisional Measures

Right holders can request courts to stop the publication, display or manufacturing of infringing works, and to impose confiscation of the work and copies thereof. Confiscation can also include the machinery used to make the infringing works. Right holders can also request validation of the public performance of infringing works and to prohibit the continuation of any current display or performance of such works. Lastly, right holders can request the confiscation of any unjust enrichment gained by the infringer(s).

Similarly, right holders may submit complaints to the Copyright Office to carry out the necessary seizure of infringing works, and to take samples of such works to the relevant courts.

4. Penalties for Copyright Infringement

Infringement of authors' exclusive rights is considered to be a relatively serious misdemeanor. Offenders may be subject to imprisonment from three months to two years, and they can face a

monetary fine of not less than 100,000 lira (Law No.12, Article 40). These penalties can be doubled for repeated offenses, and courts can close establishments operated by offenders for a limited period of time or permanently. Courts can also confiscate equipment and devices used for the infringement.

5. Requirements for Foreign Persons

The Ministry of Justice and the judicial authorities of Syria determine whether foreign persons can access national courts.

III. Enforcement

1. Enforcement Authorities

a) Authorities responsible for enforcing the copyright law

The authority responsible for enforcing the copyright law is:

- Directorate for the Protection of Copyright in the Ministry of Culture

b) Enforcement bodies entitled to act ex-officio in copyright infringement cases

Information not available

c) Courts dealing with copyright cases

Syria's civil or summary courts handle copyright disputes, and the right holder is entitled to choose civil or summary proceedings.

2. Enforcement at the Border

All matters related to border enforcement fall under Syria's General Law on Customs.

IV. Public Awareness

1. Awareness campaigns and actions

Information not available

2. Promotion of legal exploitation

Information not available

3. Associations and organizations with awareness-raising purpose

Information not available

4. Best practices

Information not available

V. Capacity-Building

1. Training

Information not available

2. Establishment of specialized units and intersectoral group

Chapter 4 of the drafted amendment to Law No. 12 contains provisions for the licensing of collective administrations, which are intended to function as a way of balancing the interests of individual creators and society.

3. Best practices

Information not available

VI. Other

1. TPM/DRM

Information not available

2. Licensing schemes

Information not available

3. Optical discs

Information not available

4. Hotlines

Information not available

5. Contact details

Information not available