Chapter 10

Digital Audio Recording Devices and Media

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Definitions

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) A “digital audio copied recording” is a reproduction in a digital recording format of a digital musical recording, whether that reproduction is made directly from another digital musical recording or indirectly from a transmission.

(2) A “digital audio interface device” is any machine or device that is designed specifically to communicate digital audio information and related interface data to a digital audio recording device through a nonprofessional interface.

(3) A “digital audio recording device” is any machine or device of a type commonly distributed to individuals for use by individuals, whether or not included with or as part of some other machine or device, the digital recording function of which is designed or marketed for the primary purpose of, and that is capable of, making a digital audio copied recording for private use, except for—

(A) professional model products, and
(B) dictation machines, answering machines, and other audio recording equipment that is designed and marketed primarily for the creation of sound recordings resulting from the fixation of nonmusical sounds.

(4)(A) A “digital audio recording medium” is any material object in a form commonly distributed for use by individuals, that is primarily marketed or most commonly used by consumers for the purpose of making digital audio copied recordings by use of a digital audio recording device.

(B) Such term does not include any material object—

(i) that embodies a sound recording at the time it is first distributed by the importer or manufacturer; or
(ii) that is primarily marketed and most commonly used by consumers either for the purpose of making copies of motion pictures or other audiovisual works or for the purpose of making copies of nonmusical literary works, including computer programs or data bases.

(5)(A) A “digital musical recording” is a material object—

(i) in which are fixed, in a digital recording format, only sounds, and material, statements, or instructions incidental to those fixed sounds, if any, and

(ii) from which the sounds and material can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device.
(B) A “digital musical recording” does not include a material object—
   (i) in which the fixed sounds consist entirely of spoken word recordings, or
   (ii) in which one or more computer programs are fixed, except that
       a digital musical recording may contain statements or instructions con-
       stituting the fixed sounds and incidental material, and statements or
       instructions to be used directly or indirectly in order to bring about the
       perception, reproduction, or communication of the fixed sounds and
       incidental material.
(C) For purposes of this paragraph—
   (i) a “spoken word recording” is a sound recording in which are fixed
       only a series of spoken words, except that the spoken words may be ac-
       companied by incidental musical or other sounds, and
   (ii) the term “incidental” means related to and relatively minor by
       comparison.
(6) “Distribute” means to sell, lease, or assign a product to consumers in
    the United States, or to sell, lease, or assign a product in the United States for
    ultimate transfer to consumers in the United States.
(7) An “interested copyright party” is—
    (A) the owner of the exclusive right under section 106(1) of this title to
        reproduce a sound recording of a musical work that has been embodied
        in a digital musical recording or analog musical recording lawfully made
        under this title that has been distributed;
    (B) the legal or beneficial owner of, or the person that controls, the right
        to reproduce in a digital musical recording or analog musical recording
        a musical work that has been embodied in a digital musical recording or
        analog musical recording lawfully made under this title that has been
        distributed;
    (C) a featured recording artist who performs on a sound recording that
        has been distributed; or
    (D) any association or other organization—
        (i) representing persons specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), or
        (ii) engaged in licensing rights in musical works to music users on
           behalf of writers and publishers.
(8) To “manufacture” means to produce or assemble a product in the United
    States. A “manufacturer” is a person who manufactures.
(9) A “music publisher” is a person that is authorized to license the repro-
    duction of a particular musical work in a sound recording.
(10) A “professional model product” is an audio recording device that is
    designed, manufactured, marketed, and intended for use by recording profes-
    sionals in the ordinary course of a lawful business, in accordance with such
    requirements as the Secretary of Commerce shall establish by regulation.
(11) The term “serial copying” means the duplication in a digital format of a copyrighted musical work or sound recording from a digital reproduction of a digital musical recording. The term “digital reproduction of a digital musical recording” does not include a digital musical recording as distributed, by authority of the copyright owner, for ultimate sale to consumers.

(12) The “transfer price” of a digital audio recording device or a digital audio recording medium—

(A) is, subject to subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the case of an imported product, the actual entered value at United States Customs (exclusive of any freight, insurance, and applicable duty), and

(ii) in the case of a domestic product, the manufacturer’s transfer price (FOB the manufacturer, and exclusive of any direct sales taxes or excise taxes incurred in connection with the sale); and

(B) shall, in a case in which the transferor and transferee are related entities or within a single entity, not be less than a reasonable arms-length price under the principles of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 482 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any successor provision to such section.

(13) A “writer” is the composer or lyricist of a particular musical work.

SUBCHAPTER B — COPYING CONTROLS

§ 1002 · Incorporation of copying controls

(a) Prohibition on Importation, Manufacture, and Distribution.—No person shall import, manufacture, or distribute any digital audio recording device or digital audio interface device that does not conform to—

(1) the Serial Copy Management System;

(2) a system that has the same functional characteristics as the Serial Copy Management System and requires that copyright and generation status information be accurately sent, received, and acted upon between devices using the system’s method of serial copying regulation and devices using the Serial Copy Management System; or

(3) any other system certified by the Secretary of Commerce as prohibiting unauthorized serial copying.

(b) Development of Verification Procedure.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a procedure to verify, upon the petition of an interested party, that a system meets the standards set forth in subsection (a)(2).

(c) Prohibition on Circumvention of the System.—No person shall import, manufacture, or distribute any device, or offer or perform any service,
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the primary purpose or effect of which is to avoid, bypass, remove, deactivate, or otherwise circumvent any program or circuit which implements, in whole or in part, a system described in subsection (a).

(d) Encoding of Information on Digital Musical Recordings.—

(1) Prohibition on encoding inaccurate information.—No person shall encode a digital musical recording of a sound recording with inaccurate information relating to the category code, copyright status, or generation status of the source material for the recording.

(2) Encoding of copyright status not required.—Nothing in this chapter requires any person engaged in the importation or manufacture of digital musical recordings to encode any such digital musical recording with respect to its copyright status.

(e) Information Accompanying Transmission in Digital Format.—Any person who transmits or otherwise communicates to the public any sound recording in digital format is not required under this chapter to transmit or otherwise communicate the information relating to the copyright status of the sound recording. Any such person who does transmit or otherwise communicate such copyright status information shall transmit or communicate such information accurately.

SUBCHAPTER C — ROYALTY PAYMENTS

§ 1003 · Obligation to make royalty payments

(a) Prohibition on Importation and Manufacture.—No person shall import into and distribute, or manufacture and distribute, any digital audio recording device or digital audio recording medium unless such person records the notice specified by this section and subsequently deposits the statements of account and applicable royalty payments for such device or medium specified in section 1004.

(b) Filing of Notice.—The importer or manufacturer of any digital audio recording device or digital audio recording medium, within a product category or utilizing a technology with respect to which such manufacturer or importer has not previously filed a notice under this subsection, shall file with the Register of Copyrights a notice with respect to such device or medium, in such form and content as the Register shall prescribe by regulation.

(c) Filing of Quarterly and Annual Statements of Account.—

(1) Generally.—Any importer or manufacturer that distributes any digital audio recording device or digital audio recording medium that it manufactured or imported shall file with the Register of Copyrights, in such form
and content as the Register shall prescribe by regulation, such quarterly and annual statements of account with respect to such distribution as the Register shall prescribe by regulation.

(2) Certification, verification, and confidentiality. — Each such statement shall be certified as accurate by an authorized officer or principal of the importer or manufacturer. The Register shall issue regulations to provide for the verification and audit of such statements and to protect the confidentiality of the information contained in such statements. Such regulations shall provide for the disclosure, in confidence, of such statements to interested copyright parties.

(3) Royalty payments. — Each such statement shall be accompanied by the royalty payments specified in section 1004.

§ 1004 · Royalty payments

(a) Digital Audio Recording Devices. —

(1) Amount of payment. — The royalty payment due under section 1003 for each digital audio recording device imported into and distributed in the United States, or manufactured and distributed in the United States, shall be 2 percent of the transfer price. Only the first person to manufacture and distribute or import and distribute such device shall be required to pay the royalty with respect to such device.

(2) Calculation for devices distributed with other devices. — With respect to a digital audio recording device first distributed in combination with one or more devices, either as a physically integrated unit or as separate components, the royalty payment shall be calculated as follows:

(A) If the digital audio recording device and such other devices are part of a physically integrated unit, the royalty payment shall be based on the transfer price of the unit, but shall be reduced by any royalty payment made on any digital audio recording device included within the unit that was not first distributed in combination with the unit.

(B) If the digital audio recording device is not part of a physically integrated unit and substantially similar devices have been distributed separately at any time during the preceding 4 calendar quarters, the royalty payment shall be based on the average transfer price of such devices during those 4 quarters.

(C) If the digital audio recording device is not part of a physically integrated unit and substantially similar devices have not been distributed separately at any time during the preceding 4 calendar quarters, the royalty payment shall be based on a constructed price reflecting the proportional value of such device to the combination as a whole.
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(3) LIMITS ON ROYALTIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or (2), the amount of the royalty payment for each digital audio recording device shall not be less than $1 nor more than the royalty maximum. The royalty maximum shall be $8 per device, except that in the case of a physically integrated unit containing more than 1 digital audio recording device, the royalty maximum for such unit shall be $12. During the 6th year after the effective date of this chapter, and not more than once each year thereafter, any interested copyright party may petition the Copyright Royalty Judges to increase the royalty maximum and, if more than 20 percent of the royalty payments are at the relevant royalty maximum, the Copyright Royalty Judges shall prospectively increase such royalty maximum with the goal of having no more than 10 percent of such payments at the new royalty maximum; however the amount of any such increase as a percentage of the royalty maximum shall in no event exceed the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the period under review.

(b) DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDING MEDIA.—The royalty payment due under section 1003 for each digital audio recording medium imported into and distributed in the United States, or manufactured and distributed in the United States, shall be 3 percent of the transfer price. Only the first person to manufacture and distribute or import and distribute such medium shall be required to pay the royalty with respect to such medium.

§ 1005 · Deposit of royalty payments and deduction of expenses

The Register of Copyrights shall receive all royalty payments deposited under this chapter and, after deducting the reasonable costs incurred by the Copyright Office under this chapter, shall deposit the balance in the Treasury of the United States as offsetting receipts, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury directs. All funds held by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be invested in interest-bearing United States securities for later distribution with interest under section 1007. The Register may, in the Register’s discretion, 4 years after the close of any calendar year, close out the royalty payments account for that calendar year, and may treat any funds remaining in such account and any subsequent deposits that would otherwise be attributable to that calendar year as attributable to the succeeding calendar year.

§ 1006 · Entitlement to royalty payments

(a) INTERESTED COPYRIGHT PARTIES.—The royalty payments deposited pursuant to section 1005 shall, in accordance with the procedures specified in section 1007, be distributed to any interested copyright party—
(1) whose musical work or sound recording has been—
   (A) embodied in a digital musical recording or an analog musical record-
       ing lawfully made under this title that has been distributed, and
   (B) distributed in the form of digital musical recordings or analog musical
       recordings or disseminated to the public in transmissions, during the
       period to which such payments pertain; and
(2) who has filed a claim under section 1007.

(b) Allocation of Royalty Payments to Groups. — The royalty payments
shall be divided into 2 funds as follows:

(1) The Sound Recordings Fund. — 66 ⅔ percent of the royalty
    payments shall be allocated to the Sound Recordings Fund. 2 ⅝ percent
    of the royalty payments allocated to the Sound Recordings Fund shall be
    placed in an escrow account managed by an independent administrator
    jointly appointed by the interested copyright parties described in section
    1001(7)(A) and the American Federation of Musicians (or any successor en-
    tity) to be distributed to nonfeatured musicians (whether or not members
    of the American Federation of Musicians or any successor entity) who have
    performed on sound recordings distributed in the United States. 1 ¾ percent
    of the royalty payments allocated to the Sound Recordings Fund shall be
    placed in an escrow account managed by an independent administrator
    jointly appointed by the interested copyright parties described in section
    1001(7)(A) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (or
    any successor entity) to be distributed to nonfeatured vocalists (whether or
    not members of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
    or any successor entity) who have performed on sound recordings distrib-
    uted in the United States. 40 percent of the remaining royalty payments in
    the Sound Recordings Fund shall be distributed to the interested copyright
    parties described in section 1001(7)(C), and 60 percent of such remaining
    royalty payments shall be distributed to the interested copyright parties
    described in section 1001(7)(A).

(2) The Musical Works Fund. —
   (A) 33 ⅓ percent of the royalty payments shall be allocated to the Musi-
       cal Works Fund for distribution to interested copyright parties described
       in section 1001(7)(B).
   (B)(i) Music publishers shall be entitled to 50 percent of the royalty pay-
        ments allocated to the Musical Works Fund.
   (ii) Writers shall be entitled to the other 50 percent of the royalty pay-
        ments allocated to the Musical Works Fund.

(c) Allocation of Royalty Payments Within Groups. — If all interested
copyright parties within a group specified in subsection (b) do not agree on a
voluntary proposal for the distribution of the royalty payments within each group,
the Copyright Royalty Judges shall, pursuant to the procedures specified under
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§ 1007 · Procedures for distributing royalty payments

(a) Filing of Claims and Negotiations. —

(1) Filing of claims. — During the first 2 months of each calendar year, every interested copyright party seeking to receive royalty payments to which such party is entitled under section 1006 shall file with the Copyright Royalty Judges a claim for payments collected during the preceding year in such form and manner as the Copyright Royalty Judges shall prescribe by regulation.

(2) Negotiations. — Notwithstanding any provision of the antitrust laws, for purposes of this section interested copyright parties within each group specified in section 1006(b) may agree among themselves to the proportionate division of royalty payments, may lump their claims together and file them jointly or as a single claim, or may designate a common agent, including any organization described in section 1001(7)(D), to negotiate or receive payment on their behalf; except that no agreement under this subsection may modify the allocation of royalties specified in section 1006(b).

(b) Distribution of Payments in the Absence of a Dispute. — After the period established for the filing of claims under subsection (a), in each year, the Copyright Royalty Judges shall determine whether there exists a controversy concerning the distribution of royalty payments under section 1006(c). If the Copyright Royalty Judges determine that no such controversy exists, the Copyright Royalty Judges shall, within 30 days after such determination, authorize the distribution of the royalty payments as set forth in the agreements regarding the distribution of royalty payments entered into pursuant to subsection (a). The Librarian of Congress shall, before such royalty payments are distributed, deduct the reasonable administrative costs incurred under this section.

(c) Resolution of Disputes. — If the Copyright Royalty Judges find the existence of a controversy, the Copyright Royalty Judges shall, pursuant to chapter 8 of this title, conduct a proceeding to determine the distribution of royalty payments. During the pendency of such a proceeding, the Copyright Royalty Judges shall withhold from distribution an amount sufficient to satisfy all claims with respect to which a controversy exists, but shall, to the extent feasible, authorize the distribution of any amounts that are not in controversy. The Librarian of
Congress shall, before such royalty payments are distributed, deduct the reasonable administrative costs incurred under this section.

**SUBCHAPTER D — PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN INFRINGEMENT ACTIONS, REMEDIES, AND ARBITRATION**

§ 1008 · Prohibition on certain infringement actions

No action may be brought under this title alleging infringement of copyright based on the manufacture, importation, or distribution of a digital audio recording device, a digital audio recording medium, an analog recording device, or an analog recording medium, or based on the noncommercial use by a consumer of such a device or medium for making digital musical recordings or analog musical recordings.

§ 1009 · Civil remedies

(a) Civil Actions. — Any interested copyright party injured by a violation of section 1002 or 1003 may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States district court against any person for such violation.

(b) Other Civil Actions. — Any person injured by a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States district court for actual damages incurred as a result of such violation.

(c) Powers of the Court. — In an action brought under subsection (a), the court—

1. may grant temporary and permanent injunctions on such terms as it deems reasonable to prevent or restrain such violation;

2. in the case of a violation of section 1002, or in the case of an injury resulting from a failure to make royalty payments required by section 1003, shall award damages under subsection (d);

3. in its discretion may allow the recovery of costs by or against any party other than the United States or an officer thereof; and

4. in its discretion may award a reasonable attorney’s fee to the prevailing party.

(d) Award of Damages. —

1. Damages for section 1002 or 1003 violations. —

   (A) Actual damages. —

   (i) In an action brought under subsection (a), if the court finds that a violation of section 1002 or 1003 has occurred, the court shall award to
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the complaining party its actual damages if the complaining party elects such damages at any time before final judgment is entered.

(ii) In the case of section 1003, actual damages shall constitute the royalty payments that should have been paid under section 1004 and deposited under section 1005. In such a case, the court, in its discretion, may award an additional amount of not to exceed 50 percent of the actual damages.

(B) Statutory Damages for Section 1002 Violations. —

(i) Device. — A complaining party may recover an award of statutory damages for each violation of section 1002(a) or (c) in the sum of not more than $2,500 per device involved in such violation or per device on which a service prohibited by section 1002(c) has been performed, as the court considers just.

(ii) Digital musical recording. — A complaining party may recover an award of statutory damages for each violation of section 1002(d) in the sum of not more than $25 per digital musical recording involved in such violation, as the court considers just.

(iii) Transmission. — A complaining party may recover an award of damages for each transmission or communication that violates section 1002(e) in the sum of not more than $10,000, as the court considers just.

(2) Repeated Violations. — In any case in which the court finds that a person has violated section 1002 or 1003 within 3 years after a final judgment against that person for another such violation was entered, the court may increase the award of damages to not more than double the amounts that would otherwise be awarded under paragraph (1), as the court considers just.

(3) Innocent Violations of Section 1002. — The court in its discretion may reduce the total award of damages against a person violating section 1002 to a sum of not less than $250 in any case in which the court finds that the violator was not aware and had no reason to believe that its acts constituted a violation of section 1002.

(e) Payment of Damages. — Any award of damages under subsection (d) shall be deposited with the Register pursuant to section 1005 for distribution to interested copyright parties as though such funds were royalty payments made pursuant to section 1003.

(f) Impounding of Articles. — At any time while an action under subsection (a) is pending, the court may order the impounding, on such terms as it deems reasonable, of any digital audio recording device, digital musical recording, or device specified in section 1002(c) that is in the custody or control of the alleged violator and that the court has reasonable cause to believe does not comply with, or was involved in a violation of, section 1002.
(g) Remedial Modification and Destruction of Articles. — In an action brought under subsection (a), the court may, as part of a final judgment or decree finding a violation of section 1002, order the remedial modification or the destruction of any digital audio recording device, digital musical recording, or device specified in section 1002(c) that—

(1) does not comply with, or was involved in a violation of, section 1002, and
(2) is in the custody or control of the violator or has been impounded under subsection (f).

§ 1010 · Determination of certain disputes

(a) Scope of Determination. — Before the date of first distribution in the United States of a digital audio recording device or a digital audio interface device, any party manufacturing, importing, or distributing such device, and any interested copyright party may mutually agree to petition the Copyright Royalty Judges to determine whether such device is subject to section 1002, or the basis on which royalty payments for such device are to be made under section 1003.

(b) Initiation of Proceedings. — The parties under subsection (a) shall file the petition with the Copyright Royalty Judges requesting the commencement of a proceeding. Within 2 weeks after receiving such a petition, the Chief Copyright Royalty Judge shall cause notice to be published in the Federal Register of the initiation of the proceeding.

(c) Stay of Judicial Proceedings. — Any civil action brought under section 1009 against a party to a proceeding under this section shall, on application of one of the parties to the proceeding, be stayed until completion of the proceeding.

(d) Proceeding. — The Copyright Royalty Judges shall conduct a proceeding with respect to the matter concerned, in accordance with such procedures as the Copyright Royalty Judges may adopt. The Copyright Royalty Judges shall act on the basis of a fully documented written record. Any party to the proceeding may submit relevant information and proposals to the Copyright Royalty Judges. The parties to the proceeding shall each bear their respective costs of participation.

(e) Judicial Review. — Any determination of the Copyright Royalty Judges under subsection (d) may be appealed, by a party to the proceeding, in accordance with section 803(d) of this title. The pendency of an appeal under this subsection shall not stay the determination of the Copyright Royalty Judges. If the court modifies the determination of the Copyright Royalty Judges, the court shall have jurisdiction to enter its own decision in accordance with its final judgment. The court may further vacate the determination of the Copyright Royalty Judges and remand the case for proceedings as provided in this section.
Chapter 10 · Notes


The Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004 amended subsection 1006(c) by substituting “Copyright Royalty Judges” for “Librarian of Congress shall convene a copyright arbitration royalty panel which” in matter preceding paragraph (1). Pub. L. No. 108-419, 118 Stat. 2341, 2368.

5. The Copyright Royalty Tribunal Reform Act of 1993 amended section 1007 by substituting “Librarian of Congress” in lieu of “Copyright Royalty Tribunal” or “Tribunal,” where appropriate, by amending the first sentence in subsection (c) and by inserting the reasonable administrative costs incurred by the Librarian in the last sentence of subsection (c), in lieu of its reasonable administrative costs.” Pub. L. No. 103-198, 107 Stat. 2304, 2312.

In 1997, section 1007 was amended, in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “calendar year 1992” in lieu of “the calendar year in which this chapter takes effect” and, in subsection (b), by inserting “1992” in lieu of “the year in which this section takes effect,” and also in subsection (b), by inserting “After” in lieu of “Within 30 days after.” Pub. L. No. 105-80, 111 Stat. 1529, 1534 and 1535.

The Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004 Act amended paragraph 1007(a)(1) and subsections (b) and (c) in their entirety. Pub. L. No. 108-419, 118 Stat. 2341, 2368.

In 2006, the Copyright Royalty Judges Program Technical Corrections Act amended subsections 1007(b) and (c) by making technical and conforming amendments to correct references to the Copyright Royalty Board and deleting “Librarian of Congress,” where appropriate. Pub. L. No. 109-303, 120 Stat. 1478, 1483.

6. The Copyright Royalty Tribunal Reform Act of 1993 amended section 1010 by substituting “Librarian of Congress” in lieu of “Copyright Royalty Tribunal” or “Tribunal,” where appropriate, and by inserting “Librarian’s” in lieu of “its.” Pub. L. No. 103-198, 107 Stat. 2304, 2312. That Act, which established copyright arbitration royalty panels, states that “[a]ll royalty rates and all determinations with respect to the proportionate division of compulsory
license fees among copyright claimants, whether made by the Copyright Royalty Tribunal, or by voluntary agreement, before the effective date set forth in subsection (a) [December 17, 1993] shall remain in effect until modified by voluntary agreement or pursuant to the amendments made by this Act.” Pub. L. No. 103-198, 107 Stat. 2304, 2313.