



## PHONOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE LTD

(Taken from PPL Website)

*(reviewed June 2011)*

If sound recordings (records, tapes, compact discs etc) are played in a club or pub, either as background music, on a jukebox, or for dancing, or discos normally a licence from PPL is legally required.

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, if recorded music is 'played in public' (ie played in any context other than a domestic one) every play of every recording requires the permission of the record company that controls the copyright in that recording. If a license isn't obtained then the business will be infringing copyright and may ultimately face legal proceedings.

PPL was formed in 1934 by the recording industry and is the body that administers this copyright on behalf of the makers of sound recordings. A single license from PPL allows businesses to use virtually all recorded music readily available in the UK. Its members assign their public performance and broadcasting rights to PPL so that they can licence the users of their sound recordings. The money collected from licence fees (minus their running costs) goes back to the member companies and to the performers and artistes who appear on the sound recordings.

PPL's licence gives permission to use any or all of the sound recordings produced by our members for the purpose stipulated on the licence. In practice this means it covers the majority of all sound recordings likely to be available publicly in the UK. If PPL didn't exist it would be necessary to obtain individual licences from each of the recording companies concerned. PPL, as a central licensing authority, provides the fastest and easiest means of access to a vast repertoire of recordings.

PPL is often confused with the **Performing Right Society for Music (PRS for Music)**, whose licence is also required when sound recordings are played in public. PRS for Music collects and distributes money for the use of music and lyrics on behalf of song writers, composers and publishers. Although PPL collects and distributes the money for the use of recorded music, on behalf of record companies and performers, **the playing of recorded music in public legally requires you to obtain both licenses.**

If you have a jukebox that is hired from an operator, or you use sound recordings that are rented from a background music systems supplier, you may find that PPL's licence has been secured by a rental company or that the sound recordings are not subject to PPL's control. You can check this with the operator or contact PPL to ensure that your use of sound recordings is legal.

Should you engage a DJ to play sound recordings at your club it is your responsibility as the organiser of the events and the owner of the premises to ensure that PPL's licence has been secured. It is not PPL's normal policy to grant licences to DJs, particularly where regular events are held (weekly or monthly discos). You may occasionally engage a DJ who claims to be licensed by PPL. In such circumstances you should ask to see the licence or contact PPL.

PPL's licence fee for the public use of sound recordings as background music in clubs is currently on the website; the fee is revised every September. The cost of a licence depends on the extent and nature of your use of recorded music and music videos at your business premises. A licence can cost as little as 14 pence per day. To enable PPL to advise you further contact the New Business team on 020 7534 1070 or at [ppnb@ppluk.com](mailto:ppnb@ppluk.com).

If clubs are still unsure about what kind of licence(s) for music they require, or want to know exactly how they go about getting one they should contact the organisations direct at the following addresses:

**For information about obtaining a licence contact the organisations direct: -**

Performing Right Society, 29-33 Berners Street, London W1T 3AB

Tel: 020 7580 5544

Email [musiclicence@prs.co.uk](mailto:musiclicence@prs.co.uk):

Website: [www.prs.co.uk](http://www.prs.co.uk)

Phonographic Performance Ltd, 1 Upper James Street, London W1F 9DE

Tel: 020 7534 1000

Email: [ppo.info@ppluk.com](mailto:ppo.info@ppluk.com)

Website: [www.ppluk.com](http://www.ppluk.com)

Clubs using video jukeboxes will need a separate licence from: -

Video Performance Ltd, 1 Upper James Street, London W1F 9DE

Tel: 020 7534 1400

Email: [general@vpluk.com](mailto:general@vpluk.com)

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