

## Showing of Broadcast Television Programmes and Film in Public

Following recent changes to Section 72 of the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988, the showing of broadcast television programmes and film in public now requires a licence.

Previously there has been exemption for showing films via free-to-air services– e.g., if you have a TV in a lounge or bar that plays films on channels such as BBC or ITV. However, there has been a requirement on the UK Government to remove that exemption to bring UK copyright law into line with European copyright law.

As a result, if films or TV programmes – whether broadcast on television or on home entertainment (i.e. DVD/Blu-Ray) or viewed from the Internet are shown in hotels, bars, restaurants, pubs, shops, clubs or other similar premises, a licence will now be required.

### The Motion Picture Licensing Company

As with PPL and PRS for audio copyright licencing, MPLC is a collection society which licenses rights on behalf of various film companies and independent producers. The fee is set by the size of the public area in the establishment which, in this case, does not include private areas such as bedrooms.

It is important to note that a MPLC licence is not required for TVs in guests' bedrooms, or if you have a TV in a public area of your establishment that is locked onto a channel that does not play films (e.g. the BBC News channel or Sky Sports). However, you cannot just say that "we only show the news channel" - the test is that the TV is not able to be switched to film-playing channels. We have provided a template letter for businesses to send to declare that they do not need the MPLC license.

The Motion Picture Licensing Company represents more than 400 TV and film producers and distributors. For more information, visit their website <http://www.themplc.co.uk>

The 'Total Area' means the area in square metres of all rooms / areas\* where televisions / screens are installed / situated (to convert square feet into square metres multiply the square footage by 0.09)

**Please note: Gym / Workout or Fitness Areas run by the hotel should use a separate tariff**

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