



What is Private Copying?

A "private copy" is a copy of a sound recording, or a substantial part of a musical work, of recorded music that is made by an individual for his or her own personal use. A copy made for someone else, or for any purpose other than the copier's own use, is not a private copy. In Canada, private copying is legal and does not infringe on copyright. Under Canada's Copyright Act, it is legal for individuals to copy recorded music for their own personal use. In exchange, there is a mechanism in place to compensate those with rights in that music: royalties for private copying.

How are private-copying royalties distributed to SOCAN members?

The Copyright Board has assigned this role to the Canadian Private Copying Collective (CPCC). Private-copying royalties are collected and paid to the CPCC by the manufacturers and importers of blank media (e.g., recordable cassettes, CDs). SOCAN then makes claims to the CPCC on behalf of its members, based upon performance data collected and sales figures provided by Soundscan. These royalties are then distributed to our members to compensate copyright holders for the recording of musical works for private use. In order to receive private-copying royalties, SOCAN members must first assign SOCAN the right to collect these royalties from the CPCC on their behalf.

For more information on the CPCC, here is a link to their website: [CPCC website](#)

How do I assign my private copy rights to SOCAN?

All new SOCAN members have the option to assign this right to SOCAN and grant SOCAN the right to collect these royalties on their behalf. Your welcome package contains further information on this.

Next, you must complete a Letter of Direction for all works in your catalogue. The Letter of Direction tells us how you want your private-copying shares paid (e.g., pay writer and publisher shares to the publisher). A Letter of Direction can be mailed to you or you can print the PDF version from the SOCAN website.

When will I receive private-copying royalties?

A SOCAN distribution of private-copying royalties occurs as part of our quarterly distributions, once we receive our share of royalties from the CPCC.

If you have any questions about this or any other topic, contact SOCAN at 1-866-30.SOCAN or go to www.socan.ca