



New levies for consumer electronics, information and communication technology

More and more information technology and communication devices, such as computers, printers or MP3 players, allow copying and reproduction of texts, pictures and music in a very fast manner. Users store their so-called private copies on accompanying media – CD, DVD, or internal or external drives of these devices. In the information society, copyright law globally adapts to this trend. Instead of the owners of rights of creative and artistic works, the governments put levies on devices and storage media which allow uncontrolled copying and spreading of these works. These new copyright levies are paid by manufacturers and vendors. However, in every European country rules are different, different amounts are being claimed for different product categories. In line with technological progress, new products again and again qualify for being levied.

K&L continuously checks the status of copyright legislation and monitors developments. The results of negotiations between industry and related authorities in all countries of the European Union and beyond are immediately screened. As a result, we can articulate recommendations for companies manufacturing or selling levied devices and storage media. Additionally, K&L takes over for clients all formal obligations of registrations and the ongoing reporting of numbers of units and sales figures, as well as the payment process.

Consulting, Services, Legal Safety for your obligations as producer or vendor

On the basis of the European Directive 2001/29/EC all member countries of the EU as well as many more countries in and outside Europe pass new laws in the copyright area. Legal framework and practice of implementation differ from country to country. Wherever a producer, importer or vendor does not meet his legal obligations or does not do so in time, severe punishments can be incurred. As for other European directives, regulations or national laws, K&L has developed complete service packages for compliance with the individual obligations of a company. Avail yourself of the competence and experience K&L can offer on the basis of our company's long-term involvement with European legislation as well as our practice in implementing and processing those obligations.

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New Copyright Levies

Consulting and Services for
producers and dealers of
electronic products

Gain an Overview

Many devices and storage media are levied according to the directive of the European Union

New copyright levies are added to the sales price of reproduction devices or empty storage media unless they are already included in the price. For this, the basis is the European Directive 2001/29/EC. It is not only reprographic devices such as copiers or scanners, but many other IT products, storage media and new consumer electronic devices for which producers and importers have to pay levies. Thus, legal private copying of copyright protected content is being settled with flat-rate payments. However, every member state of the European Union (EU) transforms the rules into national law in a completely different manner. Countries outside the EU only approximately follow the legal pattern of the EU in their legislations – or do not consider it at all. Consequently, there are important differences in

- Affected areas (devices and storage media)
- Amounts of levies
- Reporting periods and deadlines
- Payment conditions
- Special conditions
- Exemptions
- Responsible institutions and authorities
- Many other items more

K&L shows you in which country which rules currently apply. Next to the amount of the levies, we also explain to you the formal procedures how payments are made, the obligations of the payment process and the status of the current discussions and legislative processes.



Save effort and costs

Comply with all obligations with K&L as your service provider

K&L assumes all formal obligations of your company versus the responsible institutions and authorities.

As soon as your legal position has been defined, the next step is about complying with your legal obligations:

- Registration of your company with the responsible authorities and institutions
- Necessary contracts and power of attorney
- Handling of the necessary documents and data
- Regular and timely reporting of data
- Payment process
- Invoicing and controlling



Optimise your processes

Go for an efficient administration of copyright levies in your company

Determining copyright levies is an ongoing process: new devices will continue to be levied, tariffs will be modified, administrative rules will be adapted. Regular updates of tariffs and rules affecting your company ensure continuous compliance with your legal obligations. Additionally, K&L informs you about current negotiations by the committees which decide on modifications. Thus, you are able to integrate potential payment obligations early into your planning and, if necessary, provide for accruals.

Assess your obligations

There are numerous special rules in the various countries

For every company, the different copyright levy laws result in different obligations. Administrative and financial burdens are in most cases dependent on the performance of the devices affected. The locations of a company and the sales channels are also determining factors where levies have to be paid for which products. Furthermore, there are numerous special rules, parallel instructions and exemptions. Questions regarding which obligations a company has to fulfil can only be individually answered on the basis of the individual situation of a company.

K&L clears for you all legal questions: your individual company situation considering your products, your sales model und your markets. In this way, you can be assured that you will legally be on the safe side.

