



FAQs IPC Blanket Licence

1. What does the IPC Blanket Licence allow Production Companies to do?

The IPC Blanket Licence allows Production Companies to copy MCPS Members' music into programmes made for broadcast in the UK or for use on online platforms.

MCPS Commercial and Production Music are covered under the blanket. A list of all MCPS Production Music Libraries can be found here: www.prsformusic.com/libraries

Certain Commercial Music works are excluded under the IPC Licence and need to be cleared directly with the copyright owners. The list of excluded works is updated from time to time and can be found here: www.prsformusic.com/ipc

Works described on the database as N/S (non-society), are also not covered by the IPC Licence and must be cleared directly with publishers if they are to be used in programmes.

Programmes which are sold/distributed in Republic of Ireland are also not covered by the terms of the IPC.

2. What is the Licence term of the IPC Blanket?

The IPC Licence is currently in place from the 1st of January 2020 onwards and will remain in operation until any amendments have to be made to the Agreement. Uses of production music are cleared in perpetuity.

3. Is there an upfront fee to take out a licence?

There is no sign-up fee to use the IPC Licence. The Licence has a transactional 'pay-as-you-go' charging mechanism, therefore licensees are invoiced for their use of music in accordance with the cue sheets submitted.

4. Is a new IPC Licence needed for each programme made?

No, once a production company signs a copy of the IPC Agreement, the blanket Licence will cover all productions made for broadcast in the UK for the required clearance i.e. 2 TX on Channel ABC. Production music is cleared in perpetuity.

Production Companies are required to provide MCPS with cue sheets for all programmes within 14 days of delivery to the broadcaster.

5. Which broadcasters does the IPC Blanket Licence apply to?

Any broadcaster or online platform that does not have its own MCPS blanket Licence e.g. Channel 4, More 4, E4, Channel 5*, Five Star, Five US and various other satellite/cable channels/online platforms.

*Covered under Channel 5's broadcaster blanket licence:

- MCPS Production Music covered under Channel 5 licence for 'all media, worldwide' exploitation on all channels

- Commercial Music in CH5 programming beyond the third TX e.g. 4th, 5th, 6th TX (also referred to as narrative repeats) are covered under the Channel 5 Licence for the main channel only.

6. What do I have to do to sign up to the IPC Blanket Licence?

You can electronically sign a copy of the IPC Licence through the DocuSign link on our website: <https://www.prsformusic.com/licences/broadcasting-music-on-tv/ipc-licence>

7. Does the Licence cover any further transmissions required beyond the primary rights package?

Yes, any additional broadcasts will be charged at 50% or 100% of the main rate for commercial music depending on the broadcaster. Please see further details on the IPC Blanket Licence webpage.

The standard terms for MCPS Production Music will cover unlimited transmissions in perpetuity.

8. What about overseas sales of finished programmes?

MCPS can offer a [Programme Sales Blanket Licence](#) to producers and distributors which covers the supply/ sale of UK originating programmes containing MCPS members' music worldwide for all forms of television exploitation, inflight entertainment, mobile TV and VoD platforms.

Note: the Republic of Ireland is considered as "overseas".

In addition, MCPS can offer blanket licensing for IPC's who are reversioning programmes for international distribution, which have had the primary TX within the UK for MCPS Production Music only. We offer competitive rates on a per cue, per song, series or annual basis; more information can be found [here](#).

For further details please discuss your requirements with a member of the General Entertainment Productions team on 0203 741 4101.

9. What is the rate for +1 channels?

MCPS do not charge Production Companies additional fees for broadcast of their programmes on +1 channels

10. What are the rates for Commercial Music under the IPC Blanket Licence?

Please refer to the rate card on our website for details.

11. What is Commercial Music?

Commercial music is any music produced for marketing directly to the general public by any medium (e.g. on CD). All music must be registered with PRS, MCPS and PPL asap.

12. What are the rates for MCPS Production Music?

Please refer to the rate card on our website for details.

13. Are rates fixed?

Yes, rates are fixed each year to enable Production Companies to budget in advance. Current Commercial Music rates are due to increase by 2.1% (RPI for October 2019) for all programmes delivered on or after 1st April 2020 until 31st December 2020.

14. What is MCPS Production Music and what is the difference between the single work and single production rate?

MCPS Production Music is specifically written for inclusion in Television productions and other audio-visual media.

The 'single work' rate is a fixed price option whereby a production company can use a single work as many times as they want in a single production. The 'single production' rate is also a fixed price option; however this is so a production company can use as many works/cues as they want in a single production.

15. Does the blanket agreement cover online rights?

This agreement covers the following rights:

- The provision of the programme for +/- 30 day VOD exploitation
- The provision of Related Programme Material (this is material that although may not have been previously broadcast does relate specifically to a broadcast programme, such as 'best of clips') to a third party for online or mobile exploitation only

The licence does not grant any rights to the broadcaster of your programme, therefore an additional licence will be required by the broadcaster in order to communicate the programme to the public.)

16. Can programming be provided to a commissioning channel for VOD catch-up rights?

Yes, subject to a 30-day exploitation period.

17. Does the IPC Blanket Licence cover works in copyright control (“CC”)?

The blanket does not cover works or copyright shares in CC and such shares must be cleared by the owners of those rights/shares. In the event that the production company cannot contact the owners we would also suggest trying to contact the artist’s management.

18. Does MCPS aggregate the use of production and commercial music under the blanket?

Aggregation does not apply to Commercial Music under the IPC blanket so every individual 30 seconds use, or part thereof will be invoiced.

Regarding Production Music any durations of the same work within the same episode of a programme will be aggregated.

19. Are there any specific restrictions under the IPC Blanket?

The use of Commercial Music for title, end credit and ad-bumper sequences is not permitted. Music used in Pre-title sequences (when titles are not present on-screen at any point) are covered under the Licence.

Unauthorised adaptations, arrangements or lyric changes to musical works are not covered. Derogatory reference to the musical work, the composers, and authors of the musical work or a related performing artist of the work is not permitted.

20. Does the IPC cover karaoke performances of commercial music works?

Karaoke usages are covered provided the work being performed/sung does not alter the lyrics (or have the lyrics visible on screen) or constitute an adaptation or new arrangement which are all standard restriction under the IPC Blanket and other broadcaster blankets.

21. Would the IPC cover reproducing lyrics on screen?

The IPC Blanket Licence would not cover the use of lyrics on screen, additional clearance is required from the copyright owner. The IPC blanket will cover participants singing and/or quoting lyrics from a commercial work.

22. Are there any specific works that are restricted?

There is a published excluded Commercial Music works list that can be located at www.prsformusic.com/ipc. These works are not permitted to be used unless the copyright owner(s) approve the requested usage and agree the work can be licensed under the IPC Blanket Licence. Please see Q1 and Q31 which address the position regarding non-society works.

23. Are there any exemptions in relation to Production Music?

Please refer to the IPC Blanket Licence agreement for the standard exclusions.

Please note, the use of MCPS Production Music within the content of a programme or as title/credit music is covered under the IPC Blanket Licence for UK broadcast. We can also issue a Licence for Worldwide All Media or Worldwide All Media excluding UK.

24. How do we license the uses exempt from the IPC Blanket Licence?

In such circumstances you will have to contact the rightsholders directly to acquire a Licence.

25. Is there a duration limit for the use of a specific work under the blanket?

There is no limit under the IPC Blanket in relation to the duration of use for one specific work. No other restrictions apply to the duration of music used however if a work is used in such a way that it's deemed to be 'associated' with the programme/series i.e. used throughout, it will require copyright owner approval prior to broadcast.

26. Does the IPC Blanket Licence cover works registered with other societies?

MCPS does have reciprocal agreements in place with 100 collecting societies, for instance SACEM, GEMA, SIAE and NCB. Please contact the General Entertainment Productions Team to confirm if a specific piece of music is covered.

27. What does N/S mean on the online database?

This definition of N/S is Non-Society, therefore any work with this information may not be covered under the IPC Blanket Licence.

28. Is there a guide to using the online database?

Guidance notes have been collated to highlight the main sections of the online database Please contact the General Entertainment Productions team who will forward an electronic copy and arrange for your production company to undertake copyright database training, if this is of interest. There is also a video available on YouTube.

29. Who should I contact?

If you have any other queries, please call the General Entertainment Productions Team on 0203 741 4101 (or email tvprogrammes@prsformusic.com) who will confirm who your account manager is. In instances where you are unhappy with anything relating to the IPC Licence please contact George Metaxas, the General Entertainment Productions Manager, at George.Metaxas@prsformusic.com.