

Effective since  
16 July 2010



Intellectual Property Department  
The Government of the Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Region

## Hong Kong's Amended Copyright Law

# Act Now to Strengthen Your Corporate Governance

The new provisions of the respective Copyright (Amendment) Ordinances 2007 and 2009 concerning the “**copying and distribution offence**” have already come into force since **16 July 2010**.

According to the new provisions, an organisation together with its directors/partners/persons responsible for its internal management may be held criminally liable if the following activities frequently or regularly take place in the course of or for the purpose of the organisation's trade or business: -

- ▶ without authorisation of the copyright owner of a copyright work subsisting in a book (including comic book), newspaper, magazine or periodical in a printed form (“printed work”);
- ▶ to make for distribution or to distribute infringing copies of such printed work in excess of the prescribed numeric limits; and
- ▶ which results in financial loss to the copyright owner.

To prevent copyright piracy and possible legal liability, every organisation should act now to strengthen its corporate governance and accountability.

To help organisations better understand the copying and distribution offence, formulate good business practices for proper management of copyright assets and guard against inadvertent piracy, the Government has published the following supplementary information available at [www.copyright.gov.hk/update](http://www.copyright.gov.hk/update) for reference: -

- ▶ “Guidance Note on Prevention of End-User Piracy in Business” (Revised Edition 2010); and
- ▶ frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the offence and other issues on copyright protection under the recently amended Copyright Ordinance.

