

## **Showing Films, Broadcasts or Cable Programmes in Public Places - Points to Note**

- Under the Copyright Ordinance (“Ordinance”), copyright owners have the exclusive right in relation to the performance, playing or showing of copyright works in public. Films, broadcasts and cable programmes are all copyright works protected under the Ordinance.
- To maintain a fair balance between the rights and interests of the copyright owners and users, the Ordinance permits users to use copyright works or to perform, play or show a copyright work in public in certain circumstances without the need to obtain a licence. Users should ensure that the conditions prescribed under the relevant exceptions are met.
- To show respect for intellectual property and to avoid liability for copyright infringement, relevant licences should be obtained from the copyright owners or the relevant copyright licensing bodies for the performance, playing or showing of films or other audio-visual programmes in public places such as shopping malls, retail stores and restaurants.
- Motion Picture Licensing Company (Hong Kong) Limited (MPLC) (<http://www.mplc.com.hk>) is one of the six licensing bodies in Hong Kong registered under the Ordinance<sup>1</sup>. MPLC acts on behalf of various film and television producers by administering public performance rights for their films and cable programmes in various non-theatrical markets and granting licences for public performance. Therefore, if you wish to show or play a film, a broadcast or a cable programme in public places (and if no copyright exception under the Ordinance is applicable), you should enquire with MPLC (for films and other programmes administered by MPLC) or the relevant copyright owners for obtaining a licence to cover the public performance.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/intellectual\\_property/copyright/copyright\\_licensing.htm](https://www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/intellectual_property/copyright/copyright_licensing.htm)