

## Latest Amendments of the Copyright Law in Line with Government Strategies for Intellectual Property

### Digital Contents Committee

This report is written in the form of questions and answers for the purpose of presenting an overview of the outline, key points and current situation of the amendments of the Copyright Law which were made in 2004 as part of efforts to promote government-led strategies for intellectual property.

The outline of the legal amendments is as follows. (1) to (3) are the amendments of substantive law while (4) and (5) are improvements of legal systems for judicial procedure.

- (1) Measure to prevent Japanese phonorecords from returning to Japan  
Considering the parallel import of Japanese phonorecords to be “deemed copyright infringement” under given conditions.
- (2) Grant of the right of lending for books, etc. (abolishment of the temporary measure)  
Measure against comic rental business. Abolishing the temporary exemption from the application of the right of lending for books, magazines, etc.
- (3) Strengthening of criminal penalties for violations of the Copyright Law  
Toughening penalties, including imprisonment, fines and imposition of heavier fines on corporations, and permitting concurrent imposition of imprisonment and fine.
- (4) Improvement of in-camera proceedings concerning the existence of the obligation to submit documents  
Improving the procedure for hearing about the existence of due reasons for refusing to submit documents.
- (5) Introduction of the confidentiality order system  
Permitting the court to issue a “confidentiality order” under given conditions.

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