

1. Is copyright protected in Saudi Arabia?

YES.

2. What types of works are protected as literary or artistic?

- ***Written materials like books, booklets and others.***
- ***Works which are verbally delivered like lectures, speeches, poetry, songs and the like.***
- ***Dramatic works, plays, shows and similar presentations which involve motion, sound or both.***
- ***Works which are especially prepared for broadcasting or are presented through broadcasting.***
- ***Drawings, works of plastic arts, architecture, decorative art and artistic embroidery and the like.***
- ***Sound and audio-visual works.***
- ***Applied art works, whether handcrafted or manufactured.***
- ***Photographic works and the like.***
- ***Illustrations, geographical maps, designs, plans, sketches and sculptured works related to geography, topography, architecture and science.***
- ***Three Dimensional works of geography, topography, architecture or science.***
- ***Computer programs.***
- ***Protection shall include the title of a work, if it is of creative nature, and not a common expression indicating the subject matter of the work.***

3. Are derivative works such as works of translation, abridgement, modification, illustration, editing or any other forms of alteration protectable?

YES.

4. What are the works excluded from protection?

- ***Laws and Judicial judgments, decisions of administrative bodies, international agreements and all official documents, as well as the official documents, as well as the official translations thereof, subject to the provisions concerning the circulation of these documents.***
- ***What is published in newspapers, magazines and periodicals, or broadcasted in daily news or news-like events.***
- ***Ideas, procedures, work methods, concepts of mathematical sciences, axioms and abstract facts.***

5. If the application is filed as joint work, who is entitled to the right of ownership?

When two or more persons participate in the authorship of a work in such a way that the contribution of each in the work cannot be separated, they shall all be considered equal partners in the ownership of the work, and none of them may independently exercise the author's rights prescribed by the Law, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

6. What is the term of protection of a copyright in Bahrain?

The period of copyright for the author of a work shall be for the duration of his life and for a period of 50 years following his death in case of sound works, audio-visual works, films, and collective works and computer programs from the date of the first show or publication of the work, regardless of republication.

Protection period for the producers of sound recordings and performers shall be 50 years from the date of performance or its first recording, as the case may be.

Protection period for applied art (handcrafted or manufactured) and photographs shall be 25 years of the date of publication. Computation of the period starts in this case on the date of the first publication of the work, regardless of republication.

Protection period for broadcasting organizations shall be 20 years from the date of the first transmission of programs or broadcast materials.

7. Are the rights derived from copyright registration transferable?

Yes, in whole or in part, either through inheritance or by lawful disposal.

8. Is it necessary for transfer and license agreements to be recorded?

Yes, in order to be effective against third parties.

9. When can an author circulate printed materials in Saudi Arabia?

Only after receiving the approval from the Ministry of Information.

10. Does the law provide sanctions against the infringers?

Yes, imprisonment and fine.