



# ANNOUNCEMENT

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559

## SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP PROTECTION ACT OF 1984 IMPLEMENTED IN THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE

A ceremony marking the first submission for registration of mask works fixed in semiconductor chips was held on January 7, 1985, in the Copyright Office as the Office began to implement the Semiconductor Chip Protection Act of 1984. Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin, Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier, and Acting Register of Copyrights Donald C. Curran, along with representatives of the semiconductor chip industry, attended the ceremony.

"Because of the enactment of the Semiconductor Chip Protection Act of 1984, we can be more confident that Americans of the distant future will continue to enjoy the fruits of technological progress," said Senator Mathias, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks.

"This is an historic occasion not only for the semiconductor industry but also for the American people," said Rep. Kastenmeier, Chair of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice.

The 98th Congress enacted the Semiconductor Chip Protection Act of 1984 to provide a form of federal statutory protection that may help end the widespread piracy of chip designs. The mask works etched on tiny silicon chips are actually integrated circuits used to operate many of the machines of modern technology from microwave ovens to x-ray scanners.

Under the provisions of the Act, mask works which are original and meet the requirements of the provisions on national origin are eligible for a 10-year term of protection. The term begins when a mask work is registered or from the time when it is first commercially exploited. However, protection will be lost if registration is not made within 2 years after the date of first commercial exploitation. Protection is available to a mask work first commercially exploited on or after July 1, 1983, and before the effective date of the Act if a claim in the mask work is registered with the Copyright Office before July 1, 1985.

The Semiconductor Protection Act grants the owner of a mask work several exclusive rights and also provides for a clearly defined limitation of those rights in the area of reverse engineering.

For further information about the registration of mask works, write or call the Public Information Office, Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559, (202) 287-8700. Information available includes copies of the new Form MW, a circular (R100) on the registration of mask works, and copies of a new regulation promulgated by the Copyright Office, published in the Federal Register on January 3, 1985. These publications may also be ordered by calling the Forms Hotline, (202) 287-9100, and leaving a recorded message.