

ATTENTION

JUKEBOX OPERATORS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AFFECTING

JUKEBOX COPYRIGHT LICENSING

- On March 1, 1989, the United States became a member of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. To comply with Berne Convention obligations, Congress amended the U.S. Copyright Act to encourage jukebox operators to replace the compulsory license administered by the Copyright Office with voluntary licensing agreements.
- Under a voluntary license, the terms and royalty rates are agreed to directly between copyright owners or their representatives and jukebox owners or their representatives. Royalty payments in this case are not made to the Copyright Office.
- The Amusement and Music Operators Association (AMOA) and the performing rights societies (ASCAP, BMI and SESAC) have reached an agreement in principle on the terms of a voluntary license and expect

to sign an agreement in January 1990. Applications for the voluntary license will be mailed to jukebox operators by the parties as soon as a final agreement is signed.

- Sometime after March 1, 1990, the Copyright Royalty Tribunal will examine any agreements that have been finalized to determine whether or not the compulsory license remains in effect in any way. Until that determination is made, jukebox operators should not submit renewal forms, new application forms or licensing fees to the Copyright Office for the jukebox compulsory license for 1990.

For further information contact:

Licensing Division
U.S. Copyright Office
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20557
(202) 707-8150