ARIA REPRODUCTION LICENCE
FOR FORMAT SHIFTING BY DISC JOCKEYS

INFORMATION SHEET

What is this licence for and why do I need it?

The Copyright Act provides that the making of reproductions of copyright sound recordings must be licensed. This includes the reproduction of music from a CD or LP into electronic form (also called format shifting).

While the Copyright Act was amended in 2006 to permit format shifting for private and domestic use, format shifting for commercial purposes still requires a licence from the copyright owner or someone authorised by them.

If you are a professional DJ and you want to copy all your legitimately purchased CDs and LPs for the purpose of storing them in electronic form on a central hard drive database from which they can be played, you can now purchase a licence from ARIA which covers all sound recordings of ARIA licensors as listed on the ARIA website.

What does the licence permit?

The licence permits you, for its duration, to make copies of legitimately purchased music on one central hard drive and one back up hard drive or back up CD for the purpose of providing DJ services.

Once you have maintained a licence for at least two years, you are permitted to keep the music copied during your licence period on your hard drive even if you cancel your licence. If you cancel your licence within two years, you must remove all copies of the music made under this licence from your central hard drive and your backup hard drive.

Do I need this licence if I buy my music in electronic form?

This will depend on the terms and conditions of the supplier of the electronic form of music.

For example, suppliers such as iTunes and Bigpond music have terms and conditions on their website which indicate that music bought from those services can only be used for non-commercial, personal use. Even if you have legitimately purchased music from these services, you will still require a licence to use the reproduction for commercial purposes.

What about music that I have already put on my computer?

ARIA recognises that many DJs have already copied music onto their portable hard drives without an appropriate licence. By purchasing an ARIA licence, all those copies will be deemed to have been made under this licence as long you provide a report of these recordings.

How much is the licence fee?

The licence fee is a flat fee of $800 per annum plus GST, payable in equal quarterly instalments.

How long is the licence term?

Each licence will be for a minimum term of 1 year following which, you can cancel your licence by giving notice in which case your licence will terminate at the end of quarter after which you cancelled it. You will only be required to pay quarterly fees until the end of your licence period.
Do I have to report under this licence?

Yes, there are some basic reporting obligations under this licence including providing a list of tracks you have copied under this licence and a list of customers to whom you have supplied DJ services. You are required to provide your reports quarterly.

Do I require any other licences?

You will also be required to obtain a licence from AMCOS for the reproduction of the musical works. AMCOS can be contacted on (02) 9935 7900.

The reproduction licences offered by ARIA and AMCOS do not cover the public performance of sound recordings. Any public performance of sound recordings will still require a licence.