

China takes strides in copyright protection

19.11.2009 - 09:50

Chinese television and radio stations will start paying royalties on their use of music and other copyrighted audio material from January 1, 2010, CRI reports.

China's State Council announced the implementation of the new legislation, called Interim Measures on TV and Radio Station Fees for Use of Copyrighted Audio Works, on its website yesterday.

As for the exact fees and payment methods, each case will be negotiated separately between television and radio stations and copyright authorities.

The new regulation is based on three separate payment classes, following international practice. Television and radio stations have the option of paying a flat annual fee, other fixed-term fees, or a fee based on a percentage of profits earned, CRI reports.

China has long been criticized for its lack of copyright protection laws. The new policy will help ensure that people in the music industry get remunerated for the use of their works.

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