

Exploitation Regulations of Stichting Stemra

as referred to in article 30, paragraph 2, of the Articles of Association of Stichting Stemra, as adopted by the Board of Directors on 22 April 2024. Approved by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Collective Management Organizations Control Board on 1 August 2024.

Including explanatory notes to the Exploitation Regulations of Stichting Stemra

Definitions

Article 1

In these regulations, the following terms have the following meanings:

- a. **Stemra**: Stichting Stemra, with its registered office in Amstelveen;
- b. **Buma**: Vereniging Buma, with its registered office in Amstelveen;
- c. **mechanical reproduction rights**: the rights and/or entitlements pursuant to law, treaty or statutory provision, anywhere in the world, vested in the author or their successors in title in relation to the recording of works protected by copyright on sound and/or image carriers and/or the reproduction of recorded works on sound and/or image carriers, and/or the distribution of such to third parties, this in the broadest sense of the word and regardless of the way in which the recording and/or the reproduction and/or the distribution is carried out.
- d. **repertoire**: the totality of the works with respect to which, at the time of the conclusion of the exploitation contract, a natural person or a legal entity had either the mechanical reproduction rights, or an entitlement to a distribution pursuant to the mechanical reproduction rights, as well as all works that they shall make during the term of the aforementioned contract, or with respect to which during the term of the aforementioned contract they shall acquire either the mechanical reproduction rights, or an entitlement to a payment pursuant to the mechanical reproduction rights;
- e. **publisher**: a sole proprietor business run by a natural person that fulfils the economic function of a music publisher;
- f. **publishing company**: a business run by and/or for the account of several natural persons, or by a legal entity, that fulfils the economic function of a music publisher;
- g. **participant**: the beneficiary of mechanical reproduction rights, who either in the capacity of author or their successors in title, or in the capacity of publisher or publishing company, has concluded an exploitation contract with Stemra;
- h. **author**: composer, lyricist or any other natural person who is the maker of a work of literature, science or art;
- i. **company**: a Dutch private limited company or public limited company, or foreign company with share capital, that is the successor in title referred to in article 2(u), of the Articles of Association of Stichting Stemra, in which an author or their successor in title holds at least ninety per cent (90%) of the issued registered shares. The articles of association of the abovementioned company must stipulate that the company is the successor in title of the entire repertoire of the author.

Exploitation and enforcement

Article 2

1. The exploitation and enforcement of the mechanical reproduction rights shall be carried out by Stemra for participants in accordance with the statutory regulations that apply in the country where the exploitation and enforcement takes place.
2. In order to safeguard the exploitation and enforcement of the mechanical reproduction rights in foreign countries, Stemra can conclude agreements with foreign organisations that have similar or related objectives.

Article 3

Stemra has the right, at the request of the participant or otherwise, not to undertake or arrange the exploitation and enforcement in certain countries and in certain cases. Stemra shall give timely notification, with reasons, to the relevant participant about this, after which the participant shall acquire the right to undertake or arrange the exploitation and enforcement of the mechanical reproduction rights themselves in the relevant cases.

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Penalty clause

Article 4

1. If a participant, in the binding opinion of the Board of Directors, repeatedly or egregiously acts in contravention of the Articles of Association, regulations, or the contracts concluded with them, or otherwise performs acts that could harm Stemra or participants, the Board of Directors can impose a fine on them of no more than € 2,268.00 payable to Stemra, without prejudice to any other right of claim of Stemra, and without prejudice to the special penalty provisions as stipulated elsewhere in the Articles of Association, regulations, and contracts.
2. The participant shall be obligated to pay a fine imposed on them pursuant to the Articles of Association, regulations or contracts to Stemra within fourteen days after Stemra has issued a demand to that effect to them by registered letter.

Annual contributions

Article 5

The participant shall be obligated to pay the fees, annual contributions, or other charges that are set pursuant to article 22, paragraph 3, of the Articles of Association. Notwithstanding that provided for in the Articles of Association, regulations or contracts concluded with the participant, the Board of Directors has the right to take appropriate measures if the participant does not satisfy this obligation. These appropriate measures can include amongst other things means: the freezing of the money to be paid out to the participant and the termination of the exploitation contract concluded with the participant.

Royalty distributions

Article 6

1. Stemra obligates itself to pay out to the rightsholder participants all the monies received by Stemra in accordance with the provisions of the Distribution Rules as referred to in article 30, paragraph 4, of the Articles of Association. The Board of Directors has the right to set minimum amounts, below which no payments shall be made. The participants will be given timely notification of these decisions.
2. All payments by Stemra shall be made in Dutch currency.
3. The cost of payments to participants shall at no time be at the expense of Stemra.

The exploitation contract

Article 7

1. An exploitation contract, as referred to in article 2(m) of Articles of Association, between Stemra and separate authors or their successors in title, publishers or publishing companies, shall consist of a model contract to be adopted by the Board of Directors, which shall be subject to the Indexation Regulations, Exploitation Regulations, and the Distribution Rules.
2. The Board of Directors has the right to stipulate in the model contract concluded with separate authors or their successors in title, publishers or publishing companies, that the contract shall not apply to certain countries that are named in that contract.
3. The Board of Directors, in consultation with the Supervisory Board, has the right to conclude with an author or their successor in title, a publisher or a publishing company, an agreement that is different than the model contract referred to in paragraph 1, this in the sense of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Articles of Association.

Moral rights

Article 8

In relation to works in its repertoire, Stemra shall only grant permission for communication to the public under the express condition that the moral rights of the author, as laid down in Article 25 of the Dutch Copyright Act 1912, are respected.

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Plagiarism

Article 9

1. If a dispute about plagiarism arises between participants, this dispute shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on the handling of plagiarism disputes between participants of Buma and Stemra.
2. That provided for in paragraph 1 is without prejudice to the right of all participants to apply for injunctive relief in preliminary relief proceedings or to institute a civil claim in the ordinary courts in the event of plagiarism.
3. The Board of Directors has the right to publish adjudications of the Permanent Committee on Plagiarism, as referred to in the Regulations on the handling of plagiarism disputes between participants of Buma and Stemra, in a way to be determined by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board of Directors can publicly reprimand the party found to be in the wrong.
4. Furthermore, the Board of Directors can impose a fine on the party found to be in the wrong, as referred to in the previous paragraph, of no more than € 2,268.00 payable to Stemra, without prejudice to the obligation of the party found to be in the wrong to pay compensation for costs, damages and interest.

Death of the participant

Article 10

1. If the exploitation contract ends due to the death of the participant or one of their principals, or of the author of the company that has acquired the right, and Stemra exercises the right to extend the contract as described in the termination clause of the relevant exploitation contract, the provisions of the exploitation contract shall continue to remain in force between Stemra and the principals, heirs, beneficiaries of the participant, and the company if the company is a participant.
2. In the event that due to the death of the participant or a principal or of the author of the company that has acquired the right, more persons shall be entitled to the repertoire of the deceased participant or principal, or to the shares in the company that has acquired the right, in respect of whom or of which Stemra exploits and enforces the mechanical reproduction rights, a new exploitation contract can only be concluded after all the relevant persons, as well as, in case of a company, the authorised representative of the company that has acquired the right, have jointly appointed an authorised representative to act on their behalf, or on behalf of the company, to handle the affairs with Stemra; as long as this has not happened, Stemra shall not be obligated to make any payments.

Assignment of claims

Article 11

Except with the express written permission of Stemra, a participant shall not have the right to assign existing or future claims against Stemra to third parties.

Regulations

Article 12

1. The following regulations are applicable to, and form an integral part of, the legal relationship between Stemra and the participant:
 - a. the Distribution Rules referred to in the Articles of Association;
 - b. the Indexation Regulations referred to in the Articles of Association;
 - c. the Regulations on the handling of plagiarism disputes referred to in article 9 of these Exploitation Regulations.
2. Any amendments of the regulations referred to in paragraph 1, enacted in the future pursuant to a legally valid foundation decision of Stemra, shall apply to, and be deemed to form a part of, all ongoing exploitation contracts.

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3. Future regulations that pertain to participants, and which have been enacted pursuant to a legally valid foundation decision of Stemra, shall apply to, and be deemed to form a part of, all ongoing exploitation contracts.
4. Stemra obligates itself to inform the participant in writing about amendments of the regulations referred to in paragraph 2, of the new regulations referred to in paragraph 3, and about amendments of the Articles of Association.

Special provisions

Article 13

1. Stemra has the right to set off any monies that it owes to a participant, whether or not due and payable, against all monies that the relevant participant owes to Stemra, whether or not due and payable, in the event:
 - a. the relevant participant fails to comply with the provisions of the exploitation contract in any way whatsoever;
 - b. the exploitation contract is terminated for any reason whatsoever;
 - c. the relevant participant is declared bankrupt or applies for their own bankruptcy;
 - d. the relevant participant applies for a suspension of payments;
 - e. an attachment is imposed on the goods or the assets of the relevant participant.
2. In the event of an attachment on a claim of a participant against Stemra, the costs that arise out of the imposition of the attachment and the subsequent legal proceedings, such to include the judicial and extrajudicial costs of the lawyer of Stemra, must be paid by the participant to Stemra.

Article 14

1. In exceptional cases, when registering a work that has not appeared in print or been published in some other way, the participant can stipulate that the work which the registration relates to must not be reproduced and distributed, in any way whatsoever, for a period, commencing as of the date of the registration, to be agreed with Stemra.
2. Stemra shall notify the stipulation referred to in paragraph 1 to the producers of sound and/or image carriers to whom Stemra has given general permission for the recording and reproduction of works in the Stemra repertoire so that these carriers can be put on the market under the brand name or names of the producer.
3. Stemra accepts no liability whatsoever for any damages that might arise out of a recording or distribution of a work with respect to which the condition referred to in paragraph 1 of this article has been stipulated.

Transitional provisions

Article 15

1. The provisions of these regulations, except the provisions of paragraph 2, shall replace the provisions of the Regulations on the Exploitation, as adopted by the management board of Stemra at the recommendation of the Board of Directors on 8 March 1976 and ratified by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra on 3 May 1976 and by the Board of Trustees of Vereniging Buma on 4 June 1976.
2. Articles 3, 4.1, 16, and 17 of the Regulations on the Exploitation referred to in paragraph 1 shall continue to remain in force in respect of exploitation contracts concluded before 1 January 1987, unless such a contract has been replaced since then by a different exploitation contract with Stemra.

The articles referred to in paragraph 2 read as follows:

Article 3

Everyone who either gives an irrevocable mandate and power of attorney to Stemra to represent them in respect of their mechanical reproduction rights, or who transfers these rights to Stemra, is obligated to do such, taking into account the contract concluded between him/her and Stemra as referred to in article 9 of these regulations, for all works in respect of which they held the mechanical reproduction rights at the time of the conclusion of the exploitation

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contract, and for all works that they shall make during the term of the aforementioned contract, or with respect to which during the term of the aforementioned contract they either acquire the mechanical reproduction rights or an entitlement to a distribution pursuant to mechanical reproduction rights.

Article 4 paragraph 1

Stemra, to the exclusion of all others, unless it concerns a foreign organisation in the sense of article 1, paragraph 2, of these regulations, can give or refuse permission for the mechanical reproduction of the works in its repertoire, set the conditions for such permission, take legal action against any infringements, and furthermore do all that, both judicially and extrajudicially, which under the law the contractants themselves would be entitled to do, all this insofar as the law of the country where Stemra exploits its repertoire allows such.

Article 16

If as a result of any agreement Stemra has rights transferred to it, Stemra binds itself to legally transfer these rights back as soon as the agreement ends.

Article 17

1. *The contractant is obligated to immediately notify Stemra in writing of any change of address or change of nationality, registered office or legal capacity.*
2. *If Stemra has to make a written notification to the contractant, Stemra shall be discharged of this obligation by the sending of the notification to the address of the contractant that was last notified to it.*

Article 16

If amounts are owed to a (former) participant¹ by Stemra for exploitation activities that took place before the exploitation contract had been terminated, or pursuant to a licence that was granted before the termination became effective, the (former) participant shall retain their rights pursuant to Articles 2(h), 2(i), 2(m), 2(o), 5(f) and 22 of the Collective Management Organizations for Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights and Dispute Settlement (Supervision) Act.

Entry into force

Article 17

1. These regulations enter into force on 1 January 1987. Thus adopted by the Board of Directors of Stichting Stemra on 6 November 1986 and approved by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra on 15 December 1986.
2. These regulations were amended by the Board of Directors of Stichting Stemra on 11 May 2016 and approved by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra on 15 June 2016, which amendment (discontinuation of graphic reproduction rights) entered into force as of the date of approval by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra.
3. These regulations were amended (article 14 former participant and alignment with Supervisory Board model) by the Board of Directors of Stichting Stemra on 24 January 2018 and approved by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra on 22 May 2018, and approved by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Collective Management Organizations Control Board on 1 May 2018.
4. These regulations were last amended (addition of foreign companies with share capital) by the Board of Directors of Stichting Stemra on 22 April 2024 and approved by the Meeting of Affiliates of Stichting Stemra on 15 May 2024, and approved by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Collective Management Organizations Control Board on 1 August 2024.
5. The amendments referred to in paragraph 4 enter into force as of the date of approval by the Meeting of Affiliates and the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Collective Management Organizations Control Board.

¹ a former participant is defined in article 1(c) of the dispute settlement regulations of BumaStemra
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Article 25 of the Dutch Copyright Act

1. The author of a work has, even after they have transferred their copyrights, the following rights:
 - a. the right to object to the publication of the work without the crediting of their name or some other designation as the maker, unless the objection is contrary to the principle of reasonableness and fairness;
 - b. the right to object to the public release of the work under some other name than their own, as well as the making of any changes in the title of the work, or in the designation of the maker, this insofar as such appears on or in the work and/or is communicated to the public in connection with such;
 - c. the right to object to the making of any other changes to the work, unless the changes are of such a nature that the objection would be contrary to the principle of reasonableness and fairness;
 - d. the right to object to any distortion, mutilation, or other corruption of the work, which would be detrimental to the name and reputation of the maker, or to their value in this capacity.
2. After the death of the maker and up to the expiry of the copyrights, the rights referred to in paragraph 1 shall be conferred on those persons named by the maker in their last will and testament.
3. The right referred to in paragraph 1(a) can be relinquished. The rights referred to in (b) and (c) can be relinquished insofar as it concerns changes to the work or the title of the work.
4. If the author of the work has transferred the copyrights, then they will still have the right to make such changes to the work that are permissible in good faith in accordance with generally accepted standards. As long as the copyrights are in effect, an identical right will be conferred on those persons designated by the maker in their last will and testament, if it is reasonably plausible that the maker would have also approved of such changes.

Explanatory notes to the Exploitation Regulations of Stichting Stemra

The Exploitation Regulations contain provisions on the exploitation and enforcement of the mechanical reproduction rights and on the legal relationship between affiliates and Stemra.

The Exploitation Regulations lay down rules for a number of specific subjects, such as exploitation in foreign countries (articles 2 and 3), the respecting of moral rights (article 8), and what to do in the event of plagiarism (article 9) or the death of a rightsholder (article 10).

The discretionary freedom of Stemra in connection with the exploitation of the copyrights is related amongst other things to the cost of exploitation and enforcement, whereby a balance has to be found between the cost of exploitation and enforcement of the copyrights of all affiliates on the one hand, and the withholding percentage agreed with the affiliates on the other.

BumaStemra strives to conclude a licence with every music user in the Netherlands who needs to have permission for the use of music. BumaStemra has concluded continuous agreements with a large number of music users. New music users are identified and approached in various ways. Employees of BumaStemra visit new businesses and BumaStemra uses smart technologies to detect music use. One example is the webcrawler for the detection of music use online and music during events. How the money that is collected by BumaStemra is then paid out is regulated in the Distribution Rules of Buma and Stemra.

Works of participants of BumaStemra are often exploited in the territories of our sister societies. These sister societies do everything that can reasonably be expected of them to collect the royalties for this music use in foreign countries. This arrangement ensues amongst other things from the reciprocal contracts that BumaStemra has concluded with sister societies. In addition, sister societies have agreed with each other to treat foreign rightsholders in the same way as their own rightsholders. This is moreover laid down in the 'Professional Rules for Musical Societies', Cisac article 9b.

However, sister societies are independent organisations and work in accordance with local laws and regulations (articles of association and regulations). This means the legal situation and the exploitation policy varies in each country. BumaStemra does not have the power to influence the royalty collection and distribution policy of its sister societies. There can be differences in the way representation takes place, or in the percentages charged, as well as the way in which music users are detected. Furthermore, sister societies might have a different policy concerning the use of certain (coercive) measures, such as the collection of evidence and the taking legal action. BumaStemra provides information about the sister societies it has concluded a reciprocal agreement with via its regular channels (website and portal) so that users and participants know about this.

This best efforts obligation was adopted at the meeting of the Board of Directors on 1 May 2013.

Company (Dutch private limited company (BV)/public limited company (NV) of authors + foreign company with share capital)

The **private limited company (BV)/public limited company (NV) of authors** was introduced at the Meeting of Affiliates (VVA) on 14 May 2007, which made it possible (under certain conditions) to become an affiliate of Stemra via a legal entity. On 15 May 2024, the Meeting of Affiliates agreed to the proposal to expand the author's BV/NV regulation to include foreign companies with share capital.

The reason why the designation "company with share capital" was chosen is because this designation clarifies that it has to concern an entity with capital divided into shares. On the one hand this can help with the commercial objective of attracting foreign authors, and on the other hand, from a legal perspective, BumaStemra cannot arbitrarily exclude the participation of parties that want to have their repertoire exploited by BumaStemra. As a result of the amendment in 2024, foreign companies with share capital are no longer excluded from participation. The same conditions apply for the participation of foreign companies with share capital as those that apply for author's BVs and NVs.

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Description in article 1(i) ((foreign companies with share capital)

According to the Articles of Association, in the case of a company it concerns an exploitation contract with a Dutch BV/NV, or a foreign company with share capital, that is the successor in title of the repertoire of the author or their successor in title who holds at least 90% of the shares in that company.

Below are a number of examples that were written to explain eligibility criteria for the author's BV/NV. These examples are equally applicable to a foreign company with share capital.

- *A private limited company (BV) with the repertoire of two authors does not satisfy the definition of a participant and will not get an exploitation contract: 2 x 90% shares in the same BV is not possible.*
- *Similarly, author-A cannot acquire the repertoire of author-B, and then transfer their own A-repertoire and that of author-B to the BV, and then have that BV conclude an exploitation contract with Stemra. This is not allowed because the BV – with respect to author-B – is not a successor in title of a maker/author; in this situation the BV is only the successor in title of a buyer of another author's repertoire. The BV does not satisfy the definition of a participant in the Articles of Association and will not get an exploitation contract.*
- *Furthermore, the exploitation contract with an author applies for the entire repertoire of the author. An author cannot divide up their repertoire in such a way that they can conclude an exploitation contract with Stemra both as an author and as a BV, or divide up their repertoire between two Bvs and then with one of them, or both of them, conclude an exploitation contract with Stemra. An author cannot conclude two different exploitation contracts with Stemra, and thus cannot divide up their repertoire between two contracts. Similarly, a BV cannot spread out the repertoire over several contracts.*

The legal systems are different in each country. It is not feasible to map out the legal systems of every single country in advance. If a legal system with a corporate structure that BumaStemra is not familiar with, or which cannot be verified or traced, then BumaStemra can ask for a signed declaration from a civil-law notary or lawyer in that country. In this declaration, the lawyer or civil-law notary has to certify that the company with share capital satisfies the conditions stipulated by BumaStemra.

Article 10 (death of the participant)

The old article 10 already included a provision regulating what would happen in the event of the death of the author-participant. The current article 10 has been supplemented to include a provision regulating what will happen in the event of the death of an author-non-participant, whose company has concluded an exploitation contract with Stemra. In article 11 of the exploitation contract (author) it states:

The agreement shall end:

- as a result of the death of the author: with immediate effect;*
- by the issuing of a notice of termination of this agreement by the one party to the other. The termination shall be effective as of 31 December of any year.*

Notice of termination must be given in writing with the observance of a period of notice of at least three months.

In the event of the death of the author/maker, the company must appoint one of the heirs in the place of the author/maker as the holder of a mandate and power of attorney so that they can handle the affairs with Stemra. In the event of the death of the author who holds 90% of the shares, the company can only conclude an heir contract if the heirs also (continue to) hold at least 90% of the shares. In the same way as with the ordinary heir contract, the heirs have to appoint a single representative who can handle the affairs with Stemra. Why was an heir-company contract chosen? Stichting Stemra does not want to be a representative of, for example, large music users that buy up the shares of repertoire BVs of deceased authors. Stemra is only allowed to conclude exploitation contracts with companies of which at least 90% of the shares are held by the author or their heirs (article 2(z), Articles of Association Stichting Stemra).

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Article 16

As such, the amendment can enter into force immediately. However, in order to determine the moment when a transition from an author's contract to a company contract will take effect, and the conditions that will apply to such, detailed consultations will still have to take place between all the parties involved (e.g., the author, publisher, bank, tax department) and BumaStemra.

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