



# **SOUTHERN FEDERATION of MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES**

## **INFORMATION SHEET No. 7**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 2008**

### **SUBJECT: PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETY (PRS) LICENCES**

The Performing Rights Society (PRS) collects fees from music users, and distributes royalties to writers and publishers of music.

In their own words from a letter recently received by the Federation, "If you play music in your business to employees or customers, a PRS Music Licence is legally required.

A further communication from them includes this statement: "...PRS do from time to time visit premises in order to assess what if any licensing requirements there may be. Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, you may be liable for infringement of copyright if without our licence you are found to be performing or authorising the performance of our repertoire in public on your premises."

As far as affiliated societies are concerned, this could apply to, say, Christmas or birthday parties where recorded music is being played. The cost of the licence depends on the frequency and the number of people present. By way of an example, consultation with PRS revealed that a licence for a club for such events with fifty attendees, and of which there are no more than three a year, would cost in the order of £35 per function.

Further information on PRS may be found on [www.prs.co.uk](http://www.prs.co.uk) , and information on licensing requirements and copyright law may be found on [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk) or [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk) . Alternatively, PRS may be contacted direct on 01294 475 237.

Please note that this is not a Federation requirement, but one by law, detail of which is being passed on for information.

This information first appeared in the *Southern Federation News* dated September 2008.