

## How long does copyright protection last?

Copyright does not last forever. The New Zealand time limit will depend on the original work involved and when it was either created, published, performed and in the case of product designs - commercialised. Below is a quick reference guide:

Copyright work	New Zealand time limit
Literary, dramatic, musical and artistic* works	50 years beyond the death of the author
Publisher's copyright (typographical layout of a published edition)	25 years from publication
Sound recordings and film	50 years from the year in which the work was made
Communication works including repeats	50 years from the initial broadcast or transmission.
*Commercialised product designs (Artistic work that has been applied industrially)	
- product designs and casting moulds	16 years
- works of craftsmanship	25 years

This guide is not exhaustive and time limits are subject to legislative changes. You can download current Acts and Regulations from [New Zealand legislation](#) and check on the status of Bills at [New Zealand Bills](#).