

“The Industrial Property Rights System in Japan”
Chapter 1. The Role of the Industrial Property Rights System

Copyright Law

Next, let's take a look at the Copyright Law.

The Industrial Property Rights System, including the Patent Law, the Trademark Law, and the Design Law, mainly aims at “industrial development”. However, the purpose of the Copyright Law is to contribute to “the development of culture”.

The main feature of the Copyright Law is that, unlike in the case of Industrial Property Rights, it does not require the procedures of “application” and “registration”. A work automatically has copyright protection the moment it is created.

Let's look at works that are protected by the Copyright Law.

The term “work” means “a production in which thoughts or sentiments are expressed in a creative way” and “which falls within the literary, scientific, artistic, or musical domain”.

As the work must fall "within the literary, scientific, artistic, or musical domain", industrial products are basically *not* protected under Copyright Law.

Works that *are* protected under Copyright Law include novels, comics, paintings, cinematographic works, animation, musical works, and computer programs.

This has been a general explanation of the role of the Intellectual Property Rights System. From Chapter 2, we'll introduce each of the industrial property rights.

End of Chapter 1