

Table of Contents

The Author	3
List of Abbreviations	21
General Introduction	23
Chapter 1. General Background	23
§1. GEOGRAPHY	23
§2. POLITICAL SYSTEM	23
I. The Legislative Power	23
II. The Executive Power	24
III. The Judicial Power	24
§3. SOURCES OF FRENCH LAW	25
I. Written Sources	25
II. Unwritten Sources	26
§4. STRUCTURE OF THE FRENCH LAW	28
I. Private law	28
II. Public Law	29
Chapter 2. Introduction to Intellectual Property Law	30
Selected Bibliography	33
Part I. Copyright and Neighbouring Rights	47
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	47
Chapter 2. Subject Matter of Protection	48

Table of Contents

§1. DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PROTECTED WORKS	48
I. Literary Works	48
A. Written Works	48
B. Oral Works	48
II. Musical Works	49
III. Art Works	50
A. Architecture Works	50
B. Copies of Art Works	50
C. Photographs	50
D. Designs and Models	51
E. Fashion Creations	51
IV. Audiovisual Works	51
§2. WORKS EXCLUDED OF PROTECTION	51
§3. SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF WORKS	52
I. Computer Software	52
A. Conditions of Protection	52
B. Ownership	53
C. Scope of Protection	53
1. Exploitation Right	53
2. Moral Right	54
D. Infringement and Remedies	54
II. Databases	55
A. Protection by Copyright	55
1. Databases as Derived Works	56
2. Exceptions to Copyright Protection	56
3. Evidence of Infringement	56
B. Sui Generis Protection	56
1. Subject Matter of Protection	57
2. Beneficiaries of Protection	57
3. Scope of the Protection	57
4. Provisional Measures (Article L. 343-2)	59
5. Sanctions	60
6. Criminal Sanctions	60
7. Civil Sanctions	61
8. Evidence of Infringement	61
III. Others	62
Chapter 3. Conditions of Protection	63
§1. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS	63
§2. SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS	63
I. Work of the Mind	64
II. Requirement of Originality	64

Table of Contents

III. No Other Requirements	65
A. The Type and Form of the Work are Meaningless	65
B. The Merit of the Work is Meaningless	66
C. The Purpose of the Work is Meaningless	66
 Chapter 4. Ownership	 67
§1. THE AUTHOR (INITIAL AUTHORSHIP)	67
§2. JOINT WORKS/WORKS CREATED BY SEVERAL PERSONS	68
I. Joint Works	68
II. Composite (or Derived) Works	70
III. Collective Works	70
§3. WORKS MADE FOR HIRE	71
 Chapter 5. Transfer	 73
§1. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS	73
I. Evidence	73
II. Listing of Transferred Rights	73
§2. SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS	74
I. Prohibition of Global Assignment	74
II. Author's Remuneration	75
§3. COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS	76
 Chapter 6. Scope of Exclusive Rights	 78
§1. MORAL RIGHT (DROIT MORAL)	78
I. The Components of the Moral Right	78
II. The Characteristics of the Moral Right	82
III. Moral Right on Works Created by Several Persons	84
A. Moral Right on Joint Works	84
B. Moral Right on Composite Works	85
C. Moral Right on Collective Works	86
§2. EXPLOITATION RIGHTS	86
I. Reproduction Right	86
II. Performing Right	88
III. Adaptation and Translation Rights	89
IV. Other Rights	89
A. 'Droit de suite' or Resale Right	89
B. Right of Destination	90
C. Public Lending Right	91

Table of Contents

Chapter 7. Exemptions or Limitations to the Scope of Copyright Protection	92
§1. EXCEPTIONS TO REPRODUCTION RIGHT	92
I. Private Copies	92
II. Exceptions for Public Use	94
III. Technical Copies	95
IV. Safeguard Copies	96
§2. EXCEPTIONS TO PERFORMING RIGHT	96
§3. EXCEPTIONS TO BOTH REPRODUCTION RIGHT AND PERFORMING RIGHT	96
I. For Purpose of Illustration for Teaching or Scientific Research	96
II. For the Benefit of People with a Disability	97
III. For Purpose of News Reporting	97
Chapter 8. Duration of Protection	98
Chapter 9. Neighbouring Rights	101
§1. COMMON PROVISIONS	101
§2. RIGHTS OF PERFORMING ARTISTS	103
I. Exploitation Rights	103
II. Moral Rights	104
III. Transfer of Rights	105
A. General Rules	105
B. Rules Specific to the Contract for Production of an Audiovisual Work	105
§3. RIGHTS OF PRODUCERS OF PHONOGRAMS AND VIDEOGRAMS	106
I. Definitions	106
A. Definition of Producers of Phonograms	106
B. Definition of Producers of Videograms	106
II. Content of Rights	106
A. Principles	106
B. The Legal License Relating to Phonograms Published for Commerce	107
III. Transfer of Rights	108
§4. RIGHTS OF AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION FIRMS	108
Chapter 10. Infringement, Procedure and Remedies	110

Table of Contents

§1. INFRINGEMENT	110
I. Violation of the Reproduction Right	110
II. Violation of the Performing Right	111
III. Violation of the 'droit de suite'	111
IV. Violation of Moral Right	111
V. Offer to the Public, Export and Import	112
VI. Violation of the Neighbouring Rights	112
§2. PROCEDURE	113
§3. REMEDIES	117
I. Criminal Sanctions	117
A. Principal Remedies	117
B. Supplementary Sanctions	118
C. Criminal Protection of Technological Measures and Rights-Management Information	119
II. Civil Remedies	120
III. Customs Measures	121
Chapter 11. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Laws	122
§1. COPYRIGHT AND REGISTERED DESIGNS AND MODELS	122
§2. COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS	122
§3. COPYRIGHT AND PATENTS	122
Part II. Patents	123
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	124
Chapter 2. Patentable Subject Matter	125
§1. CREATIONS NOT DEEMED AS INVENTIONS	125
I. Discoveries, Scientific Theories and Mathematical Methods	125
II. Aesthetic Creations	125
III. Plans, Principles and Methods as well as Presentation of Information	125
IV. Computer Software	125
V. Presentation of Information	126
§2. INVENTIONS CONTRARY TO PUBLIC ORDER OR GOOD MORALS	126
§3. MEDICINE	126

Table of Contents

§4. BIOTECHNOLOGIES	126
§5. THE SECOND THERAPEUTIC APPLICATION	128
§6. INVENTIONS MADE OR USED IN OUTER SPACE	128
Chapter 3. Conditions of Patentability	129
§1. NOVELTY	129
I. The Invention Must be Compared to the State of the Art	129
A. Abusive Disclosure	130
B. Disclosure at a Public Exhibition (Article L. 611-13, b)	131
C. Disclosure Covered by a Priority Right	131
II. The Invention Must be External to the State of the Art	132
§2. INVENTIVE STEP (NON-OBVIOUSNESS)	132
I. The Invention Must be Compared to the State of the Art	132
II. The Invention Must not be Obvious as Compared to the State of the Art	133
§3. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION	134
Chapter 4. Formalities (Procedure for Grant and Obtaining Patent Protection)	135
§1. FILING OF A FRENCH PATENT APPLICATION	135
I. The Applicant	135
II. The Place of the Application	135
III. The Content of the Application	136
A. General Rules	136
B. The Request	136
C. The Description	137
1. The Physical Requirements	137
2. Characters of the Description	138
D. The Claims	138
1. Formal Requirements (Article L. 612-6)	139
2. Substantive Requirements	139
3. Adaptation of the Claims	140
E. The Drawings	140
F. The Abstract	140
G. Justification of Payment of Fees	141
§2. PROCESSING OF A FRENCH PATENT APPLICATION	141
I. Examination	141
A. Examination by the Ministry of Defense	141
B. Examination by the INPI	142

Table of Contents

II. Documentary Search	143
III. Publication of the Application	144
IV. Grant of the Patent	144
 Chapter 5. Scope of Exclusive Rights	 145
§1. ACTS PROHIBITED WITHOUT CONDITION OF THE INFRINGER'S BAD FAITH	145
§2. ACTS PROHIBITED UNDER CONDITION OF THE INFRINGER'S BAD FAITH	146
 Chapter 6. Ownership and Transfer	 147
§1. OWNERSHIP	147
I. General Rules	147
II. Joint Ownership	147
III. Ownership in Employees' Inventions	148
A. Classification of Employees' Inventions	148
1. Criteria of Classification	148
2. Procedure of Classification	149
B. Dispute Resolution	149
IV. Ownership in Officials' or Public Servants' Inventions	150
§2. TRANSFERS	151
I. Assignment of a French Patent	151
A. Conditions of the Assignment	151
1. Formal Conditions	151
2. Substantive Conditions	151
B. Effects of the Assignment	152
1. Transfer of Rights	152
2. Parties' Obligations	152
a. The Transferor's Obligations	152
b. The Transferee's Obligations	154
II. French Patent License	154
A. Conditions of the Patent License	154
1. Formal Conditions	154
2. Substantive Conditions	154
a. Conditions Relating to the Parties	154
b. Conditions Relating to the Object	155
B. Effects of the Patent License	155
1. The Licensor's Obligations	155
a. Delivery	155
b. Warranty	156
c. Other Obligations	157
2. The Licensee's Obligations	158
a. Obligation to Pay the Price	158
b. Obligation to Exploit the Patent	158
c. Other Obligations	158

Table of Contents

Chapter 7. Limitations and Exceptions: Compulsory Licenses	159
§1. LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SCOPE OF PATENT PROTECTION	159
§2. COMPULSORY LICENSES	160
I. Expropriation	160
II. Compulsory Licenses	160
A. Compulsory Licenses of Judicial Origin	160
1. Compulsory License for Lack of Exploitation (Articles L. 613-11 to L. 613-14)	160
2. Compulsory License for Dependency (Article L. 613-15)	161
B. Compulsory Licenses of Administrative Origin	162
1. Automatic License in the Interest of Public Health (Article L. 613-16 and L. 613-17-1)	162
2. Automatic License in the Interest of Economic Development (Article L. 613-18)	163
3. Automatic License in the Interest of National Defense (Article L. 613-19)	163
4. Automatic or Compulsory License in the Interest of Competition	164
Chapter 8. Duration of Protection: Maintaining and Termination of Patent Protection	165
§1. DATE OF COMING INTO FORCE OF PATENT RIGHTS	165
§2. DATE OF TERMINATION OF PATENT RIGHTS	165
I. Total Termination of Rights	165
II. Partial Termination of Rights (Exhaustion)	167
Chapter 9. Infringement and Remedies	168
§1. ACTION FOR DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT	168
§2. ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	168
I. The Starting of the Action	168
II. The Development of the Action	169
A. The Plaintiff's Arguments	169
1. Determination of the Protected Technique	169
2. Determination of the Infringing Technique	170
3. Comparisons between the Protected and the Infringing Techniques	171
B. The Defendant's Arguments	171
III. The Outcome of the Action	173
A. Temporary Injunction (Article L. 615-3)	173
B. Dismissal of the Action	174

Table of Contents

C. Success of the Action	174
1. Civil Sanctions	174
2. Criminal Sanctions	176
Chapter 10. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Laws	177
Part III. Utility Models	179
Chapter 1. Sources and Legislation Relating to ‘Certificates of Utility’	180
§1. SUBSTANTIVE CONDITIONS OF PROTECTION	180
§2. FORMAL CONDITIONS OF PROTECTION	180
Chapter 2. The Protection of Utility Models (‘Certificates of Utility’)	181
Part IV. Trademarks	183
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	184
Chapter 2. Subject Matter of Protection	185
§1. SIGNS WHICH MAY NOT SERVE AS TRADEMARKS	185
§2. SIGNS WHICH MAY SERVE AS TRADEMARKS	186
I. Denominations	186
A. Current Words	186
B. Fantasy Words	187
C. Letters, Numerals, Acronyms	187
D. Surnames and Pseudonyms	187
1. The Trademark Owner’s Name	187
2. A Third Person’s Name	188
E. Geographical Names	188
II. Audible Signs	188
III. Figurative Signs	188
§3. COLLECTIVE TRADEMARKS	189
I. ‘Ordinary Collective Trademarks’	189
II. ‘Collective Trademarks of Certification’	189

Table of Contents

Chapter 3. Conditions of Protection of Trademarks	191
§1. THE SIGN MUST BE DISTINGUISHING	191
I. Criteria of the Distinguishing Character	191
A. The Sign Must not Consist of the Common Designation of the Object	191
1. Generic or Necessary Signs	191
2. Usual Signs	192
B. The Sign Must not Consist of the Necessary or Essential Shape of the Product	192
II. Date of Evaluation of the Distinguishing Character	193
§2. THE SIGN MUST BE VACANT	193
I. Conflict with an Earlier Trademark (Article L. 711-4, a)	193
II. Conflict with the Name or Style of a Company (Article L. 711-4, b)	195
III. Conflict with a Geographical Name (Article L. 711-4, d)	195
IV. Conflict with Tradenames or Shop Signs (Article L. 711-4, c)	196
V. Conflict with a Right on a Design or Model (Article L. 711-4, f)	196
VI. Conflict with Copyright (Article L. 711-4, e)	196
VII. Conflict with Personal Rights (Article L. 711-4, g and h)	197
Chapter 4. Formalities	198
§1. FILING OF APPLICATIONS	198
§2. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS	199
I. Examination	199
II. Publication	199
III. Observations and Oppositions by Third Parties	200
A. Observations	200
B. Oppositions	200
IV. Registration	201
Chapter 5. Scope of Exclusive Rights	202
§1. INFRINGEMENT WITHOUT LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION	202
I. Reproduction	202
II. Use	204
III. Affixing	205
IV. Suppression or Modification	206
§2. INFRINGEMENT WITH LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION	206
I. Use for Similar Goods or Services	206
II. Use of an Imitated Trademark	207
III. Condition of Likelihood of Confusion	207
IV. Protection of Well-Known Trademarks	207

Table of Contents

Chapter 6. Ownership and Transfer	209
§1. OWNERSHIP	209
§2. TRANSFER	209
I. Assignment of Trademark	209
A. Conditions of Assignment	209
1. Substantial Conditions	210
2. Formal Conditions	210
B. Effects of the Assignment	211
II. License	211
A. Conditions of the License	212
1. Substantial Conditions	212
2. Formal Conditions	212
B. Effects of the License	213
1. The Licensor's Obligations	213
a. Warranty of Hidden Defects	213
b. Warranty of Eviction (or of Peaceful Enjoyment)	213
c. Other Obligations	214
2. The Licensee's Obligations	214
Chapter 7. Exceptions and Limitations	215
§1. THE USE BY THE OWNER OF AN EARLIER RIGHT	215
§2. THE USE AS A NECESSARY REFERENCE	215
§3. THE USE IN 'COMPARATIVE ADVERTISING'	215
Chapter 8. Use Requirements	216
Chapter 9. Duration of Protection	217
§1. DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	217
§2. DATE OF EXTINGUISHMENT	217
I. Normal Date of Extinguishment	217
II. Anticipated Date of Extinguishment	217
Chapter 10. Infringement and Remedies	220
§1. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS	220
§2. THE STARTING OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	220

Table of Contents

§3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	222
I. The Plaintiff's Arguments	222
II. The Defendant's Arguments	223
§4. THE OUTCOME OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	225
I. Temporary Measures	225
II. Definitive Measures	226
A. Civil Sanctions of Infringement	226
1. Injunction	226
2. Recall, Removal, Confiscation, Destruction or Publicity Measures	227
3. Damages	227
B. Criminal Sanctions of Infringement	228
C. Customs Sanctions of Infringement	229
 Chapter 11. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Laws	 230
§1. TRADEMARKS AND PATENTS	230
§2. TRADEMARKS, DESIGNS AND MODELS AND COPYRIGHT	230
§3. TRADEMARKS AND TRADE NAMES	230
§4. TRADEMARKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES	231
 Part V. Trade Names	 233
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	234
Chapter 2. The Protection of Trade Names	235
§1. ACQUISITION	235
§2. TRANSFER	235
§3. PROTECTION	235
 Part VI. Industrial Designs	 237
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	238
Chapter 2. Conditions of Protection	239
§1. THE SHAPE SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT FROM ITS FUNCTION	239

Table of Contents

§2. THE SHAPE SHOULD BE VISIBLE	240
§3. THE SHAPE SHOULD BE NEW	240
§4. THE SHAPE SHOULD BE INDIVIDUAL	242
Chapter 3. Formalities	243
§1. THE ORDINARY REGISTRATION	243
§2. THE SIMPLIFIED REGISTRATION (ARTICLE L. 512-2)	244
Chapter 4. Ownership and Transfer	245
§1. OWNERSHIP	245
§2. TRANSFER	245
Chapter 5. Scope of Exclusive Rights	246
§1. GENERAL RULES	246
§2. THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE	246
§3. THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO OFFER TO SELL	247
§4. THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO IMPORT	247
Chapter 6. Limitation of the Scope of Protection	248
Chapter 7. Duration of Protection	249
Chapter 8. Infringement and Remedies	250
§1. STARTING OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	250
§2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	251
I. The Plaintiff's Arguments	251
II. The Defendant's Arguments	253
§3. OUTCOME OF THE ACTION FOR INFRINGEMENT	254
I. Dismissal of the Action	254
II. Success of the Action	254
A. Success of the Criminal Action	254
B. Success of the Civil Action	255

Table of Contents

Chapter 9. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Rights	257
§1. RELATIONS WITH PATENTS	257
§2. RELATIONS WITH COPYRIGHT	258
§3. RELATIONS WITH TRADEMARKS	258
Part VII. Plant Variety Protection	259
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	259
Chapter 2. Subject Matter of Protection	260
Chapter 3. Conditions of Protection	261
§1. NOVELTY	261
§2. DISTINCTION	261
§3. UNIFORMITY	262
§4. STABILITY	262
Chapter 4. Formalities	263
Chapter 5. Scope of Exclusive Rights	265
Chapter 6. Ownership and Transfer	266
§1. CONTRACTUAL TRANSFERS	266
§2. AUTHORITATIVE TRANSFERS	266
Chapter 7. Limitations of the Scope of Protection	268
Chapter 8. Duration of Protection	269
Chapter 9. Infringement and Remedies	270

Table of Contents

Chapter 10. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Laws	274
§1. RELATIONS TO PATENTS	274
§2. RELATIONS TO TRADEMARKS	274
Part VIII. Chip Protection	277
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	277
Chapter 2. Subject Matter of Protection	278
Chapter 3. Conditions of Protection	279
Chapter 4. Formalities	280
Chapter 5. Ownership and Transfer	281
§1. OWNERSHIP	281
§2. TRANSFER	281
Chapter 6. Scope of Exclusive Rights	282
Chapter 7. Limitations of the Scope of Protection	283
Chapter 8. Duration of Protection	284
Chapter 9. Infringement and Remedies	285
Chapter 10. Overlapping and Relation to Other Intellectual Property Laws	289
Part IX. Trade Secrets/Confidential Information	291
Chapter 1. Sources: Legislation	291

Table of Contents

Chapter 2. The Protection of Trade Secrets/Confidential Information	293
§1. CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR USURPATION OF KNOW-HOW	293
§2. CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DISCLOSURE OF KNOW-HOW	294
§3. LIABILITY IN CONTRACTS	295
Index	297