

PERIODIC REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MLC

Under the Music Modernization Act (MMA) of 2018, the Register of Copyrights conducts a review of The MLC's designation every five years. At the same time, the Register conducts a review of the Digital Licensee Coordinator (DLC), also established under the MMA to serve as the representative of digital service providers in matters related to the administration of the blanket license.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PERIODIC REVIEW OF DESIGNATION

In 2019, The MLC was designated by the Register of Copyrights to administer the blanket license. The MMA requires that the Register review that designation every five years to ensure that The MLC continues to meet all of the criteria established in the MMA.

DESIGNATION CRITERIA UNDER THE MMA

The MMA established three key criteria that any entity seeking to be the mechanical licensing collective must meet. These criteria ensure that the collective:

- Is a nonprofit created by copyright owners and independent of any other entity
- Is endorsed by and receives substantial support from musical work copyright owners that together represent the majority of the market
- Demonstrates the technical capabilities necessary to perform the collective's key functions

The MLC was the only entity that met all three criteria — and it continues to not only meet but exceed them today.

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE PERIODIC REVIEW PROCESS

The Register of Copyrights can continue the designation of The MLC or make a new designation.

The Register cannot change the provisions of the MMA, the structure of The MLC's governance, or the blanket license royalty rates or terms.

KEY MILESTONES IN THE MLC'S FIRST PERIODIC REVIEW PROCESS

- **January 30, 2024:** The Register of Copyrights began the periodic review of the designation of The MLC and DLC.
- **April 1, 2024:** The MLC and DLC each filed submissions supporting the continuation of their designations.
- **May 29, 2024:** The public filed initial comments on the submissions.
- **June 28, 2024:** The public filed replies to other initial comments.
- **July 29, 2024:** The MLC and DLC each filed replies to the public comments.
- **Throughout 2025 and 2026:** Ongoing meetings took place with the Register of Copyrights.
- **June 3, 2026:** The Register of Copyrights continued the designation of The MLC by publishing the decision in the Federal Register.

LOOKING AHEAD

The MLC continues to strive to ensure songwriters, composers, lyricists, and music publishers receive the royalties they earn from streaming and download services in the U.S. — accurately and on time. The next periodic review process is expected to begin in January 2029.

You can find additional information at themlc.com/designation.