

# General Licensing

## How Do CC Licenses Operate?

CC licenses are operative only when applied to material in which a [copyright](#) exists, and even then only when a particular use would otherwise not be permitted by copyright. Note that the latest version of CC licenses also applies to rights similar to copyright, such as [neighboring rights](#) and [sui generis database rights](#). [Learn more about the scope of the licenses](#). This means that CC license terms and conditions are not triggered by [uses permitted under any applicable exceptions and limitations to copyright](#), nor do license terms and conditions apply to elements of a licensed work that are in the public domain. This also means that CC licenses do not contractually impose restrictions on uses of a work where there is no underlying copyright. This feature (and others) [distinguish CC licenses from some other open licenses](#) like the [ODbL](#) and [ODC-BY](#), both of which are intended to [impose contractual conditions and restrictions](#) on the reuse of databases in jurisdictions where there is no underlying copyright or sui generis database right.

All CC licenses are non-exclusive: [creators and owners can enter into additional, different licensing arrangements](#) for the same material at any time (often referred to as “dual-licensing” or “multi-licensing”). However, [CC licenses are not revocable](#) once granted unless there has been a breach, and even then the license is terminated only for the breaching licensee.

There are also [videos and comics](#) that offer visual descriptions of how CC licenses work.

Unique solution ID: #1003

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Last update: 2019-10-02 17:52