

Legal basics of synch licensing

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Expiration of rights

Copyright side: 70 years after death of last author

Master side: 70 years after publication (used to be 50 years)

After expiration it enters public domain.

The duration actually differs from country to country, but 70 years is the one applying to most of them. To get an overview you can also check: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_copyright_terms_of_countries

As the term for masters was increased from 50 to 70 years, there are recordings that were public domain before the change (and therefore kept being public domain/PD). Due to that constellation, remasters exist (remaster = existing recording that entered public domain, was a bit polished on the sound level and then re-released as digital remaster).