**TOPIC: Copyright**

**Module 1: Background**

**Information:**

Under the Copyright Act of 1976, copyright protection is afforded to the creator of an original work of authorship as soon as it is fixed in a tangible medium. In other words, copyright protects an expression, rather than an idea, when it is expressed in a “fixed” medium. Just like the other subjects of Intellectual Property, copyright law grants a limited monopoly over original works of authorship.

What does copyright law cover?

1. Literary works
2. Musical works
3. Dramatic works
4. Pantomimes and choreographic works
5. Pictorial, graphic and sculptural works
6. Motion pictures, video games and other audiovisual works
7. Sound recordings
8. Architectural works

What does copyright law NOT cover?

1. Words and short phrases
2. Familiar symbols or designs
3. Mere listing of ingredients or contents
4. Ideas, plans, methods
5. Blank forms
6. Typeface as typeface

**Module 2: Formalities**

**Information:**

An author receives a copyright in an original work as soon as it is “fixed in a tangible medium.” However, in order to commence an infringement action against another party, registration of the copyright with the United States Patent and Trademark Office is required. Furthermore, registration of a copyrighted work allows the owner of the copyright to seek the assistance of the Customs and Board Protection agents to seize infringing works entering the country.