

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY VIOLATIONS

What should exhibitors do about trademark or other intellectual property violations?

The IHA Board of Directors and staff recognize the importance of trademarks, copyrights, patents, exclusive distribution rights and other such valuable business assets, and the legitimate efforts to protect and enforce such rights. However, IHA is not a judge, jury, regulator or police officer, and its enforcement or protection options are limited.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

1. First and foremost, consult with your own attorney as soon as possible regarding your enforcement options. If you do not have an attorney, IHA staff will work with you to find an intellectual property attorney in Chicago who can help you, but the legal assistance will be at your expense.
2. Information of a violation or suspected violation should be brought to the attention of IHA staff as early as possible, including notification before the Show begins.
3. Provide as much detail as possible about the violation, including who, what, where, when and why.
4. To assist IHA staff, fill out, in detail, the standard IHA intellectual property complaint form. This form can be obtained on-site in the Show Office located in room N426ab.
5. Attach to the complaint form any documentary proof, e.g., court or regulatory order or decision, contract, photographs, patented trademark registration, or domain name registration. Without such documentary proof, IHA staff may not be able to assist you.
6. Do not engage in self-help, such as: physical confrontation, removal of product from the booth of another, or verbally arguing on the Show floor or premises. Bring the problem to the attention of IHA staff or security for assistance.

IHA STAFF ASSISTANCE

1. IHA staff will review your violation claim and attempt to help you resolve it; however, **IHA staff is not a legal enforcement body**. Ownership disputes of trademarks, copyrights and patents are personal rights issues and are handled in courts of law.
2. IHA staff will work with you to find a lawyer, if necessary, to provide you with legal assistance. However, IHA staff recommends that you seek legal counsel in proximity to your office so that you can easily continue working with them after the Show. IHA staff will help security, law enforcement, process-servers or other legal authorities enforce your court or regulatory orders or decisions on site. Such enforcement may include removing a product or literature from a booth, closing down an exhibitor's booth or taking the necessary action to enforce a court/regulatory order or decision.
3. In some circumstances, IHA staff may refer a violation to IHA's Board of Directors, who may suspend or cancel an exhibitor's Show privileges.

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MARCH 10 - 13 • MCCORMICK PLACE, CHICAGO

Saturday, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Sunday and Monday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Tuesday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Soft-close on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm



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