

Subject: Sample letter UrhG1371

Date:

From:

To:
(Publisher)

Dear Sir or Madam:

According to the German Copyright Act (Urheberrechtsgesetz UrhG) the author was banned from granting licenses to a publisher for "unknown exploitation methods" (unknown at the time of the copyright transfer). Any such agreement was inoperative by law (Sec.31a UrhG old version). This applies even if a German author granted licenses to a foreign publisher, at least in the area of applicability of the German Copyright Act. This regulation was valid from January 1, 1966 to December 31, 2007. On January 1, 2008 an amended Copyright Act came into effect. In Sec. 1371 para.1 UrhG the above mentioned forbidden transfer of rights for unknown exploitation methods is legalized, but the authors are allowed to file an objection against that transfer.

Herewith I exercise this right of objection. This objection applies to all my publications between January 1, 1966 and December 31, 2007 for which I transferred to you the copyright to publish.

(optional: Simultaneously, I grant you a non-exclusive license to use these works on the internet. This license does not include other exploitation methods which are unknown even today.)

In case you transferred all rights (or parts of the rights including the use on the internet) to a third party I ask you to communicate the name and address of that third party to me (see Sec. 1371 para.2 UrhG).

Sincerely