Press Release, 23.12.2002

From 1.1.2003, blank sound carrier royalties will also be charged on CD-R data and playable DVDs.

Following a decision of the Federal Arbitration Commission responsible for royalties on authors' and performers' copyrights, a blank carrier royalty will be charged from 1.1.2003 in respect of blank CD-R/RW data and playable DVDs. The blank carrier charge is of 6 centimes pro 525 MB or one hour's recording time for CD-R data or CHF 1.84 per DVD with 4.7 Gigabyte memory.

The royalties are payable by importers and producers of blank carriers to SUISA, the Swiss Society for musical copyrights. The corresponding tariff rates (Common Tariffs 4c and 4b) were published in the Schweizerischen Handelsblatt on 2.12. and 30.12.2002. Importers and producers have already been paying blank sound carrier royalties in respect of blank music and videocassettes, minidiscs, DAT and audio CD-R/RWs since 1993. The 1992 Copyright Act (Articles 19 and 20) constitutes the legal basis both for the existing and the new blank sound carrier tariff.

While legal prescriptions authorise duplication for personal use, copyright holders are by law entitled to reasonable remuneration. SUISA pays out the royalties on blank cassettes following a statistical distribution key and ensures that the proceeds go to the appropriate composers and publishers. Other beneficiaries receive their share of royalties via SUISSIMAGE, the society for audiovisual works, Prolitteris, the society for literary works, SSA the society for dramatic works and SWISSPERFORM, the society for performers, sound carrier producers and broadcasters.

For further information, please contact:
Andreas Wegelin
SUISA, Tel. 01 485 66 66
andreas.wegelin@suisa.ch