

AAWS Translation & Licensing Request FAQ



How do I apply for permission to translate and publish AA literature?

Please submit your request through the form on the AA Translations and Licensing portal. We accept requests through this online form only.

Please be prepared with the following details:

- The title of the conference-approved literature items you wish to publish
- The language you wish to publish in
- The formats you wish to publish the content
- If you intend to translate existing content into a new language or license content that is already available in the language(s) relevant to your region

What do I do if I don't know those details?

You can request a meeting asking for guidance with the process. Please send us an email to TL@aa.org if you do not have access to the portal or if you do, submit all inquiries to the TL@aa.org portal with as many details as possible.

Can permission be granted for multiple formats for a piece of literature?

Yes. If you wish to license rights for a print book and an e-book edition of the same piece of literature, please indicate your intention on the AAWS Translation and Licensing request form.

Can I request permission for multiple pieces of literature at the same time? Yes, but each must be submitted individually through the AAWS Translation and License portal.

How long is the standard term of a license to translate AA literature?

The standard term of license is 10 years.

What if I am not affiliated with an AA General Service Office (GSO)?

Your request can still be submitted, but it may require a longer timeline.

Do I need to have the piece(s) of literature translated before I start the request process?

No, having a completed translation is not required when you submit your request.

What if I want to request a license renewal, but cannot find the original contract

We can still work with you. A new license can be drafted once a review of the translation has been completed.

What happens after the request is submitted?

Your request will be reviewed by the TLIP (Translations and Licensing and Intellectual Property) department to ensure that all necessary information has been submitted. You will be contacted by email if additional information is required. AA World Services, Inc. reviews your translated content to ensure that the translation is true, maintains appropriate voices, and meets established requirements.

Check the AA Translations and Licensing portal if no answer is received to your request within 4 weeks of original submission.

If you have not received a response, do not assume that rights have been granted. Rights are granted only when a formal, fully executed license is received by the requestor.

When and how is the license received?

When your request for translation has been approved, you will receive an email attachment or link to electronically sign the licensing agreement. This may be 4 to 6 weeks from the date your request was received. Your patience is appreciated.

How can I check on the status of my request?

By accessing the AA Translations and Licensing portal, you can see and manage all requests and licensing records for your country or territory.

How do I know if the AA literature I am interested in has already been translated into a specific language?

You may request this information from us.

Which formats can I publish translations of AA literature in?

Print (books or pamphlets), ebooks, audiobooks, and video.

If a license to translate a piece of literature is granted, can I offer that content for sale in my country or territory?

AA World Services, Inc. literature can only be offered for sale by an official General Service Office (GSO). If no GSO is present in your territory, a one-time print authorization may be granted, but requires an official request.

Are there fees for translation licenses?

No. AA World Services, Inc. does not charge for translation rights to the literature they publish.

Do I need to register a copyright for the literature I license from AA World Services, Inc.?

The General Service Office in New York handles the registration within the U.S.

What do I do if the item of literature I want to license and /or translate isn't in the dropdown?

Please send an email to TL@aa.org with as many details as possible.

How can I get my request expedited?

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of requests, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. receives on a daily basis, requests cannot be expedited. We process requests in the order in which they were received and make every effort to do so in a timely manner.

What if I want to publish an excerpt from a book published by AA World Services, Inc.?

You will have to request permission from the Intellectual Properties administrator from the TLIP Department who can be reached by email at IPPOLICY@aa.org.

What if I have a question about licensing that has not been addressed here? Please send an email to TL@aa.org with as many details as possible.

1/19/2023