

Should You Use Proprietary Legends?

It is common for technology-based businesses to put a proprietary legend on their documents and drawings to warn recipients that the contents may be protected. These legends typically include a warning that the contents may be confidential, as well as a purported restriction that the contents may not be reproduced, used, or disclosed to others without permission of the owner. The legend may include a claim of copyright in the materials, as well.

A proprietary legend should ideally be customized to the specific content and the particular application.

A PROPRIETARY LEGEND SHOULD IDEALLY BE CUSTOMIZED TO THE SPECIFIC CONTENT AND THE PARTICULAR APPLICATION. AN EXAMPLE OF A BROADLY APPLICABLE LEGEND FOR MOST DRAWINGS AND DOCUMENTS, HOWEVER, WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

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Using a proprietary legend on all documents, regardless of their content, can detract from the impact of the legend on truly important documents. This risk, however, is usually outweighed by the importance of ensuring that proprietary information is not disseminated without proper markings.