

Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

Accession to the 1999 Act: Japan

1. On February 13, 2015, the Government of Japan deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) its instrument of accession to the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.
2. The instrument of accession was accompanied by the following declarations:
 - the declaration referred to in Article 7(2) of the 1999 Act, that, in connection with an international application in which Japan is designated, and in connection with the renewal of any international registration resulting from such an international application, the prescribed designation fee shall be replaced by an individual designation fee. The details of the declaration and the amount of the individual designation fee will be the subject of a further information notice;
 - the declaration referred to in Article 13(1) of the 1999 Act that Article 7 of the Design Act of Japan requires that only one independent and distinct design may be included in a single application;
 - the declaration required under Article 17(3)(c) of the 1999 Act, specifying that the maximum duration of protection provided by the Design Act of Japan is 20 years from the date of the registration of the establishment of a design right in Japan;
 - the declaration referred to in Rule 9(3)(a) of the Common Regulations under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement, whereby, where the product which constitutes the industrial design is three-dimensional, a front view, a back view, a top view, a bottom view, a left side view and a right side view, each made in compliance with the method of orthographic projection, are required;
 - the declaration referred to in Rule 18(1)(b) of the Common Regulations, whereby the prescribed period of six months for notifying a refusal of the effects of an international registration is replaced by a period of 12 months; and,

– the declaration referred to in Rule 18(1)(c)(ii), where a decision regarding the grant of protection was unintentionally not communicated within the period of 12 months from the publication of the international registration, the international registration shall produce the effect referred to in Article 14(2)(a) of the 1999 Act at a time at which protection is granted according to the Design Act of Japan.

3. In accordance with Article 28(3)(b) of the 1999 Act, the 1999 Act and the declarations made will enter into force with respect to Japan on May 13, 2015.

4. The accession of Japan to the 1999 Act brings the number of Contracting Parties to this Act to 49. Therefore, the total number of Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement is 64. A list of the Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement is available on the WIPO web site at the following address:

<http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/treaties/en/documents/pdf/hague.pdf>.

March 23, 2015