

Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

New participating Offices in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Digital Access Service (DAS) for industrial design applications: International Bureau of WIPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO)

1. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Digital Access Service (DAS) is an electronic system allowing priority documents to be securely exchanged between participating Intellectual Property Offices. Two developments in the network of DAS participating Offices are of particular relevance to users of the Hague System:
 - since January 1, 2020, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), has become both a “depositing Office” and an “accessing Office” in respect of industrial design applications (see [official notification](#) dated December 12, 2019). For Hague applicants particularly, JPO becoming a DAS “accessing Office” is a welcome alternative to the need to file the original priority document through a local representative, so as to satisfy the substantive requirements under the Japanese Design Act^{*}; and
 - from January 15, 2020, the International Bureau of WIPO will be a “depositing Office” in respect of international applications filed under the Hague System (see [official notification](#) dated January 7, 2020). Concretely, where an applicant or holder requests the International Bureau to provide a certified copy of an international application filed under the Hague System (“priority document”), the International Bureau will, in its new capacity as a “depositing Office”, also provide a DAS access code in addition to providing the priority document. That DAS code could then be relied on to claim priority in further filings with Offices outside the Hague membership that are participating in the DAS network.
2. For more information about DAS and its participating Offices, refer to the [WIPO website](#).

January 14, 2020

^{*} It is recalled that pursuant to Section 408(a) of the Administrative Instructions for the Application of the Hague Agreement, a DAS access code may be provided in an international application (refer to [Information Notice No. 5/2018](#)).