

Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

Accession to the 1999 Act: Morocco

1. On April 22, 2022, the Government of Morocco deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (“1999 Act”).
2. It is recalled that Morocco has been a Contracting Party to the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (“1960 Act”) since October 13, 1999¹. In this regard, Morocco made a declaration in accordance with Rule 36(2) of the Common Regulations under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement (“Common Regulations”), specifying that the maximum duration of protection provided for by the legislation of Morocco in respect of industrial designs is 25 years². In addition, Morocco made a declaration under Rule 12(1)(c)(i) of the Common Regulations for the application of level two of the standard designation fee to international applications designating Morocco³. Accordingly, the maximum duration of protection of 25 years as well as level two of the standard designation fee will continue to apply in respect of a designation of Morocco irrespective of the applicable Act, pursuant to Article 11(2) of the 1960 Act, Article 17(3)(b) of the 1999 Act and Rule 12(1)(b)(ii) and (c) of the Common Regulations, respectively.
3. On the other hand, the maximum 30-month period for deferment of publication counted from the filing date or, where priority is claimed, from the priority date shall apply where Morocco is designated under the 1999 Act, pursuant to Rule 16(1)(a) of the Common Regulations. In this regard, it is to be noted that the 1999 Act shall be applicable as regards the mutual relations of States party to both the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the 1999 Act.
4. In accordance with Article 28(3)(b) of the 1999 Act, the 1999 Act will enter into force with respect to Morocco on July 22, 2022.

¹ Refer to Information Notice No. 1/1999.
² Refer to Information Notice No. 10/2018.
³ Refer to Information Notice No. 4/2008.

5. The accession of Morocco to the 1999 Act brings the number of Contracting Parties to this Act to 69; the total number of Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement remains at 77. A list of the Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement is available on the WIPO website at <https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/treaties/en/documents/pdf/hague.pdf>.

May 25, 2022