



## 1 What is protectable as a design?

The outward appearance of the whole or a part of a product particularly resulting from the features of, in particular, the lines, contours, colours, shape, texture and/or materials of the product itself and/or its ornamentation.

Novelty and originality are the two requirements for designs to be registered. A design is considered to be novel if it has not been disclosed to the public previously and it may be considered original if it significantly differs from known designs or combinations of known design features.

### How do I check novelty?

Searches for earlier designs can be performed using the [WIPO Hague Express](#) or [DesignView](#) databases. For more information on how to search for designs, you can refer to the [European IPR Helpdesk fact sheet on design searching](#).



## 2 Where can I obtain design protection?

The Hague system provides for international design registration. It offers the possibility of having protection in several territories which are part of the system ([Contracting Parties](#)) through a single international application in one language and payment of one set of fees, which saves time and resources. For more information on the Hague system please click [here](#).

## 3 Who can file the application?

Being a national of or having a domicile in a Contracting Party or having a real commercial/ industrial establishment in a Contracting Party is required in order to file an international design application.



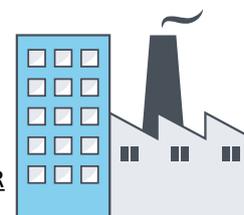
Contracting Party  
nationals

OR

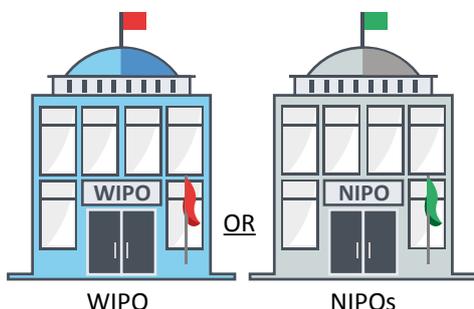


residents in a  
Contracting Party

OR



industrial/commercial  
establishment



## 4 Where do I file the application?

Applications can be filed either online or on paper at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) or National IP Offices (NIPOs) of Contracting Parties, where permitted.

## 5 When should I file the application?

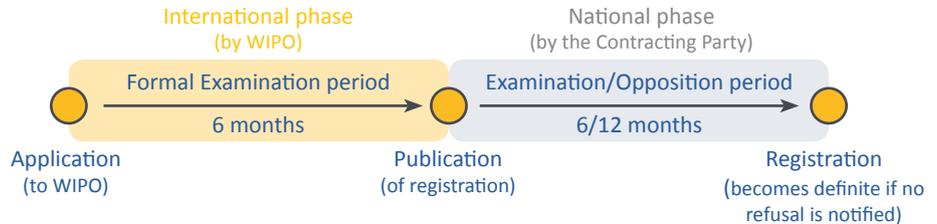
No prior national design application or registration is required under the Hague System. However, if an industrial design has been disclosed, it may no longer be considered new and original, and may become part of the public domain. In countries allowing a grace period, during which disclosures are not prejudicial, the application must necessarily be filed before the end of the grace period - usually 6 or 12 months preceding the date of filing. The priority of an earlier filing may be claimed within 6 months from the date of the earlier filing.



## 6 What happens after filing the application?

Upon receipt of an international application, WIPO checks the formal requirements.

If the application complies with the requirements, the registration is published and the certificate of the international registration is sent to the holder.



In the next step, each designated party has 6/12 months to carry out substantive examination and/or handle oppositions according to their national legislations. If there is a refusal, the applicant will be informed.

## 7 What are the registration fees?

Detailed information on the fee structure – basic fee, publication fee, standard designation fee, description fee, and amounts – is available on the WIPO website in the [Schedule of Fees](#) section.

[WIPO's fees calculator](#) can also be used as an estimation tool for the application or renewal of fees.

## 8 How do I manage post registration?

The international registration allows easy management for renewal requests, changes in the ownership or a change in the name/address of the holder. These requests can simply be recorded to the international register with just one submission, having an effect in all countries where the design protection is recorded in the international register.

## 9 How long is the term of protection?

The term of protection is five years counted from the date of the international registration.

The registration may be renewed for one or more additional terms of five years, in respect of each designated contracting party, up to the expiry of the total term of protection allowed by the contracting parties' respective laws.



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