



WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

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MADRID AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS AND PROTOCOL RELATING THERETO

Publication of Information Relating to International Registrations that Have Been Renewed

1. At present, in certificates of renewal of international registrations, in the publication of renewals in the *WIPO Gazette of International Marks* and in notifications issued by the International Bureau concerning the renewal of international registrations, the number of the international registration concerned is preceded by the prefix R (where the registration has been renewed once) or 2R (where it has been renewed twice) and the only date cited is the date of the last renewal.
2. With effect from January 1, 2002, this practice will be changed. The prefixes R and 2R will no longer be used and three dates will be cited, namely the date of international registration, the date of the last renewal and the date when the next payment is due.
3. The prefixes R and 2R have no legal or other significance. They are not used in the International Register and are not needed in order to identify the international registration, since the number itself is unique. The present practice results in effect from a historical accident. Before the entry into force in 1966 of the Nice Act of the Madrid Agreement, an international registration expired after 20 years but could not be renewed. Instead, upon expiry, it could be replaced by a new international registration, with a new number and a new date. With the entry into force of the Nice Act, it became possible to renew an international registration upon expiry, the registration keeping the same number and the same date of registration. However, instead of citing this latter date on the renewal certificate and in other publications, the practice was continued of giving prominence to the date of last renewal. The prefixes R and 2R were therefore introduced in order to enable the reader to deduce the date of international registration. Thus, where the number was preceded by R, the date of international registration was 20 years before the cited date; where the prefix 2R appeared, the date of registration was 40 years before the cited date.
4. Under the Madrid Protocol, the term of an international registration is 10 years, while under the Madrid Agreement it remains 20 years. In all cases however, fees must be paid every 10 years in order to maintain an international registration in force (see Rule 10 and Rule 30(4) of the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol). It will therefore be impossible to continue to infer the date of the international registration from the prefixes R, 2R, etc., once international registrations effected under the Protocol or containing designations under the Protocol become due for renewal in 2006.