

## Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

### Change to the format of international registrations structured data

1. In 2016, the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), in close collaboration with Offices of Contracting Parties to the Hague System, started the development of a new Standard ST.96 compliant data format (the ST.96 format) for the exchange of structured data in respect of international applications and registrations between the International Bureau of WIPO and Intellectual Property Offices. This new ST.96 format addressed limitations in the legacy format, commonly referred to as “DTD”, in particular the inability to scale to new non-Latin languages and the inability to represent certain design-specific information at the right level of detail.
2. At the end of 2018, the ST.96 format, in its version 3.0, started being used in production for bilateral exchange of structured data with Intellectual Property Offices and grew in usage with each new Contracting Party to the Hague System.
3. Since January 2019, the structured data of the *International Designs Bulletin* has been made available to interested Intellectual Property Offices in two parallel formats:
  - (a) the legacy DTD format; and
  - (b) the ST.96 format (version 3.2).
4. Maintaining two data formats in parallel is costly and WIPO anticipated that the DTD format would eventually become obsolete. Reference is made to item 11 of document CWS/5/5, and items 157 to 160 of document H/LD/WG/7, announcing that the legacy DTD format would be subject to a transition period before being discontinued and officially replaced by the new ST.96 standard format.
5. Users who consume the structured data are hereby informed that as of March 31, 2021, the ST.96 format (version 4.0 onwards) will be the only authoritative and supported source of structured data. The legacy DTD format will no longer be supported. As a convenience to Offices, the data stream will continue to be made available on a best-effort basis using existing processes already in place, but with no guarantee of equivalence with the published information of the Bulletin. No further development of the DTD format will be undertaken. The continuous DTD data stream will stop as soon as a new development of the Hague System renders the format obsolete or unreliable.
6. Additional technical details are provided in the attached Annex.

## **TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE TRANSITION FROM THE LEGACY DTD FORMAT TO THE ST.96 FORMAT**

### **INTERNATIONAL DESIGNS BULLETIN**

The Bulletin edition **12/2021** to be published on **Friday March 26, 2021** will be the last Bulletin where the DTD is considered an authoritative format.

The new version 4.0 stream will be available at the following location:

`ftp://ftpird.wipo.int/wipo/hague/ST96_V_4_0`

Test files for version 4.0 will be available from December 1, 2020 until March 26, 2021 at the following address:

`ftp://ftpird.wipo.int/wipo/hague/ST96_V_4_0_test`

The file naming and file packaging conventions are unchanged.

### **INFORMATION FOR THIRD PARTIES**

For third parties who consume the Bulletin data, a copy of this Information Notice will be stored in PDF format in the main repository where the DTD data feed is located:

`ftp://ftpird.wipo.int/wipo/hague/`

[End of Annex]