Specific information on “compliant views” required in China

1. Reference is made to Information Notice No. 6/2022, announcing the accession of China to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (“1999 Act”). This Information Notice stated that China made a declaration under Rule 9(3) of the Common Regulations Under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement whereby “for each international application designating China, so far as a product with a three-dimensional design is concerned, or the essential features of the design of the product concern a Graphical User Interface (GUI) only, the applicant shall submit the compliant view(s) of the product” and that specific information on “compliant view(s)” would be made available in due course.

2. On April 20, 2022, the International Bureau received from the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) the following specific information:

   – In terms of three-dimensional designs, if the essential features of the design involve six sides of the product, the applicant shall submit six orthographic views; if the essential features of the design involve merely one or more of the six sides, the applicant shall submit the orthographic view(s) involved, and for the remaining side(s), the applicant shall submit either orthographic view(s) or perspective view(s), unless the side(s) cannot be seen easily or cannot be seen at all when the product is in use; if the application is filed for a partial design, the perspective view(s) of the whole product including the partial design shall be submitted in addition;

   – In terms of Graphic User Interface (GUI) design, the applicant may file a patent application for either the whole design or partial design of the product. If an application is filed for the whole design and the essential features of the design involve merely the GUI, the applicant shall submit at least the orthographic view(s) of the physical product, which involves the GUI. If an application is filed for partial design of the product with GUI, the applicant shall submit the orthographic view(s) of the physical product which involves the GUI; as for the GUI that can be applied to any electronic device, the applicant may submit merely the view(s) of the GUI without showing any physical product; and

   – In terms of dynamic GUI, the applicant shall submit the orthographic view showing the initial state of the GUI as the front view; and for the remaining states, the applicant may submit the views of the key frames of the GUI as the views on states of variation; the views submitted shall be sufficient to define the complete variation process of the dynamic GUI.

April 29, 2022