

Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, October 6 to 8, 2025

ANALYSIS OF THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON FORMATS OF REPRESENTATION OF DESIGNS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

BACKGROUND

1. At its thirteenth session, held from October 21 to 23, 2024, the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) discussed document [H/LD/WG/13/3](#), entitled “Topical Aspects Relating to the Development of the Hague System”.
2. Following an exchange of views on Topic 4 of the document, which addressed emerging issues related to formats of design representation, the Working Group requested the International Bureau to conduct a study on new formats of design representation, in particular 3D and/or video file formats, to be discussed at a future session¹.
3. Such a study should assist the Working Group to review reproduction requirements in the Hague System, taking into account, *inter alia*, operational and technical interoperability, any experience of jurisdictions that accept 3D and video file formats as reproductions, developments in other jurisdictions, and any changes in application behavior of Hague users².
4. Following the Working Group’s request and with the aim of collecting relevant data on this matter, the International Bureau prepared an online *Questionnaire on Formats of Representation of Designs* (hereinafter referred to as the “Questionnaire”), which was brought to the attention of all Hague System Contracting Parties.

¹ See document [H/LD/WG/13/6](#) “Summary by the Acting Chair”, paragraph 11(iv).

² See document [H/LD/WG/13/3](#), paragraph 50.

5. Concurrently, the International Bureau conducted a *User Survey on the Adoption of New Reproduction Formats* (hereinafter referred to as the “User Survey”) to gauge the users’ interest in the potential adoption of new reproduction formats for design representation within the Hague System.

6. By the closing date, replies to the Questionnaire had been received from 48 Intellectual Property Offices of the Hague System Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as “Offices”). These included 46 Offices of the following Member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America and Viet Nam; and two intergovernmental organizations (IGOs): Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

7. The User Survey received 224 responses in total. Most responses came from Intellectual Property representatives (49.1 per cent), followed by large companies (18.8 per cent), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (16.1 per cent), and individual designers or entrepreneurs (12.1 per cent).

8. In addition to questions related to new reproduction formats, both the Questionnaire and the User Survey also contained questions regarding possible enhancement of 2D image representations, aiming to improve the quality of reproductions filed and published in the Hague System.

9. Based on the returns, the International Bureau prepared the following analysis of the replies to the Questionnaire by Hague System Contracting Parties. Where relevant, the analysis also integrates insights from the User Survey.

ANALYSIS OF THE REPLIES

10. The analysis of the responses follows the structure of the Questionnaire and is presented in the subsequent order:

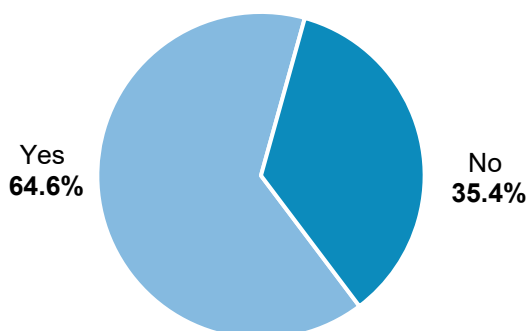
- Introductory Questions
- 2D Image Formats
 - (a) *Increasing the maximum resolution of JPEG reproductions*
 - (b) *Adopting new image formats*
 - (i) PNG
 - (ii) SVG
- 3D File Formats
 - (a) *Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats*
 - (b) *3D file formats in the Hague System*
- Video File Formats
 - (a) *Offices that currently accept or plan to accept video file formats*
 - (b) *Video file formats in the Hague System*
- Further Input and Comments
- Summary of the Findings
 - (a) *Questionnaire*
 - (b) *User Survey*

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

11. Some Offices download data from the *International Design Bulletin* (hereinafter referred to as “Bulletin”) for internal purposes, such as substantive examination and republication. The “Introductory Questions” in the Questionnaire aimed to identify which Contracting Parties engage in this practice and what their views were on the potential enhancement of image resolution and the introduction of new image formats for design reproductions.

12. The returns showed that 31³ out of 48 Offices (64.6 per cent) that replied to the Questionnaire download the Bulletin data and/or receive a confidential copy⁴ of the corresponding data.

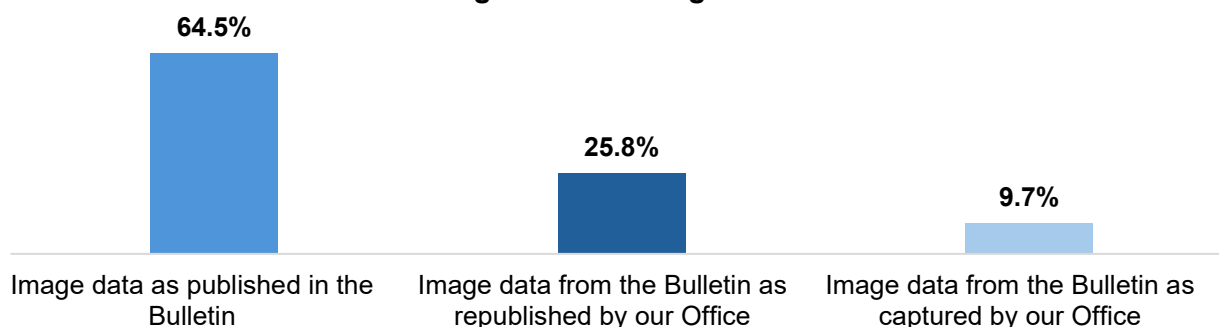
Downloading Bulletin Data for Internal Use



13. In their respective jurisdictions, the following types of image data are considered to have legal effect (i.e., to be authoritative for the scope of a design right granted):

- Image data as published in the Bulletin, as indicated by 20 out of 31 Offices (64.5 per cent);
- Image data from the Bulletin as republished by their Office, whether or not converted from the Bulletin data captured by their Office, as reported by eight out of 31 Offices (25.8 per cent); and
- Image data from the Bulletin as captured by their Office, whether or not converted from the image data as filed and/or published in the Bulletin, as indicated by three out of 31 Offices (9.7 per cent).

Image Data with Legal Effect



³ Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye, United States of America and Viet Nam.

⁴ In accordance with Article 10(5) of the Geneva Act (1999).

2D IMAGE FORMATS

14. The 31 Offices that download Bulletin data for internal use were further asked additional questions about potential changes to the current technical requirements for 2D images, as well as their views on the potential adoption of new 2D image formats.

15. It is recalled that, under the current system, reproductions accompanying an international application filed via the e-Filing interface must be in JPEG or TIFF format, with a resolution of 300 x 300 dots per inch (dpi). If a reproduction is uploaded at a different resolution, it is automatically adjusted to 300 x 300 dpi. This automatic conversion may occasionally lead to alterations in the image dimensions.

16. In light of this, the International Bureau sought to gauge interest in enhancing 2D image representations. To improve the quality of reproductions filed and published through the Hague System, the International Bureau considers the following options:

- (a) Increasing the maximum resolution of JPEG reproductions to 3,777 × 3,777 pixels and raising the image density to 600 DPI;
- (b) Adopting new image formats, such as Portable Network Graphics (PNG) and Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG).

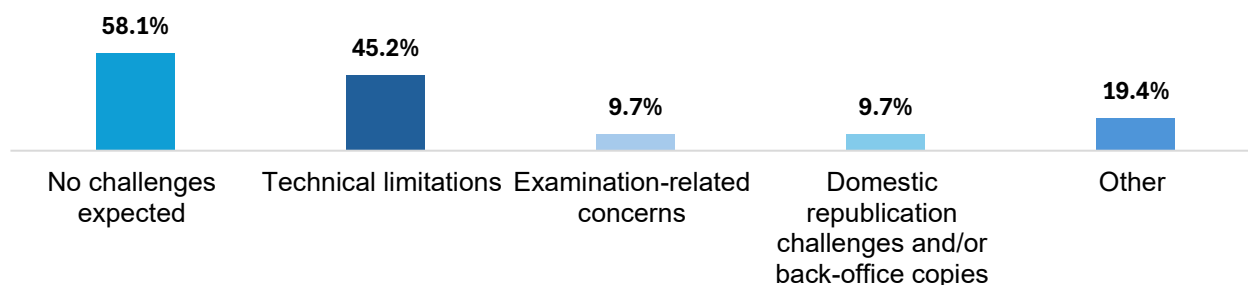
(a) *Increasing the maximum resolution of JPEG reproductions*

17. In relation to the potential increase in the resolution of JPEG reproductions in the Hague System, 18 out of 31 Offices that download Bulletin data (58.1 per cent) do not anticipate challenges, as they already accept and process high-resolution JPEG images.

18. At the same time, although indicating “no challenges expected”, three IP Offices still selected additional items from the list of challenges. Therefore, 15 out of 31 Offices (48.4 per cent) identified one or more challenges, as follows:

- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility, storage capacity, rendering issues, and potential inconsistencies in PDF rendering): 14 out of 31 Offices (45.2 per cent);
- Examination-related concerns (e.g., compatibility of new resolution standards with existing review tools): three out of 31 Offices (9.7 per cent); and
- Domestic republication challenges and/or back-office copies: three out of 31 Offices (9.7 per cent).

Expected Challenges with High-Resolution JPEG Reproductions in the Hague System



19. Six out of 31 Offices (19.4 per cent) provided responses or additional comments under the “Other” category, indicating the following:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Azerbaijan	PDFs up to 5 MB are accepted.
Bulgaria	Our Office currently accepts up to 300dpi, 24x24, 2,830x2,830 pixels. The mentioned amount of 3777x3777 could introduce potential technical challenges.
Hungary	Our Office can accept images with the following dimensions and resolutions: 1) maximum image size: 2835 x 2010 pixels; 2) Print resolution: minimum 96, maximum 300 DPI; 3) Color mode: RGB (red/green/blue), greyscale, black and white, CMYK (cyan/purple/yellow/black).
Lithuania	File size cannot be bigger than 2 MB.
Republic of Korea	300 dpi (recommended) – up to 400 dpi permitted / Enforcement Rule of the Design Protection Act [Form 3].
Türkiye	Our internal application systems may experience issues with displaying the files and during the publication of the official bulletin.

(b) *Adopting new image formats*

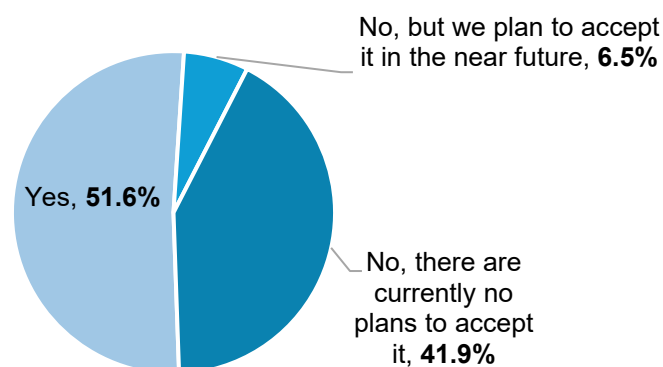
(i) *PNG*

20. The PNG format has been recommended as a preferred electronic 2D image format for industrial designs under WIPO Standard ST.88⁵. In line with this, the International Bureau is considering accepting PNG as an additional format option for applicants, with the intention to convert submitted PNG images into JPEG format and publish both versions.

21. To support this initiative, the International Bureau sought to determine whether IP Offices currently accept PNG image formats, or plan to do so in the future. Offices were further invited to describe any challenges they might anticipate in processing reproductions in PNG format, should this format be introduced within the Hague System.

22. The responses to the Questionnaire revealed that 16 out of 31 Offices that download Bulletin data (51.6 per cent) currently accept PNG file formats, while another two Offices (6.5 per cent) plan to accept them in the near future. Thirteen out of 31 Offices (41.9%) currently do not have plans to accept PNG file formats for the representation of designs.

Acceptance of PNG File Format



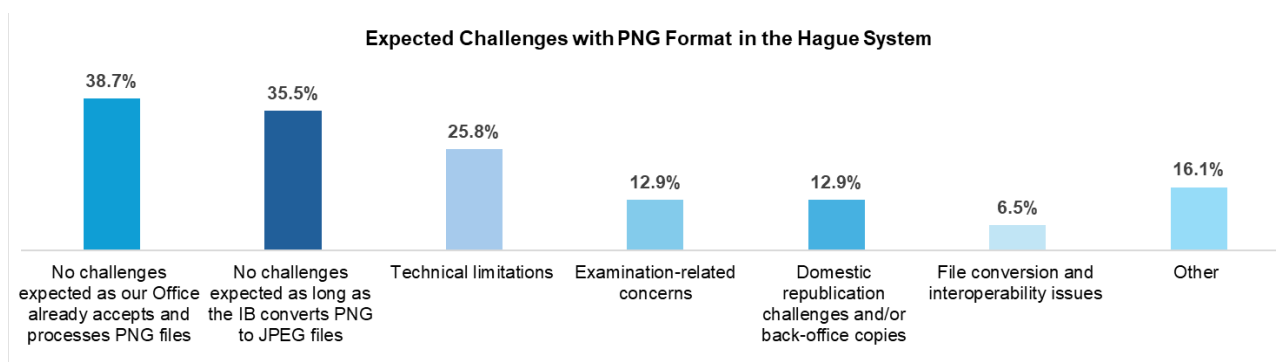
⁵ See WIPO [Standard ST.88](#), as revised on December 8, 2023.

23. Notably, 22 out of 31 Offices⁶ (71 per cent) indicated that they do not anticipate challenges in processing reproductions in PNG format should this new format be accepted in the Hague System, as:

- 12 out of 31 Offices (38.7 per cent) already accept and process high-resolution PNG images;
- 11 out of 31 Offices (35.5 per cent) would not face challenges, provided that the International Bureau converts PNG to JPEG files and the latter files remain available in the Bulletin data for downloading.

24. At the same time, although indicating “no challenges expected”, two IP Offices still selected additional items from the list of challenges. Therefore, 10 out of 31 Offices (32.3 per cent) identified one or more challenges, as follows:

- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility with existing tools, storage capacity, potential inconsistencies in PDF rendering): eight out of 31 Offices (25.8 per cent);
- Examination-related concerns (e.g., impact on image analysis tools, zooming, or detail verification): four out of 31 Offices (12.9 per cent);
- Domestic republication challenges and/or back-office copies: four out of 31 Offices (12.9 per cent); and
- File conversion and interoperability issues (e.g., compatibility between PNG and other existing formats such as JPEG or PDF): two out of 31 Offices (6.5 per cent).



⁶ Please note that one Office selected both options for “no challenges expected as [...]”.

25. Five out of 31 Offices (16.1 per cent) submitted responses or additional comments under the “Other” category, as follows:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Japan	Our computer system is built on the premise that the bulletins issued by the International Bureau include only JPEG as image data format. Changes to the file format included in the bulletins will require us some updates or changes to the system, which will be quite cost and time-consuming.
Mexico	The Office could process JPEG or PNG without technological limitations, but could not manage both formats simultaneously, it would have to be one or the other.
Norway	Potential inconsistencies in rendering of transparent background.
Russian Federation	If the IP Office begins accepting this format, an IT system will be required to enable database searches for similar PNG representations and prepare PDF files for publication. Such a system should also integrate with other IT tools used by the Office for examination purposes.
Tunisia	Format not accepted by the IPAS system used by our Office.

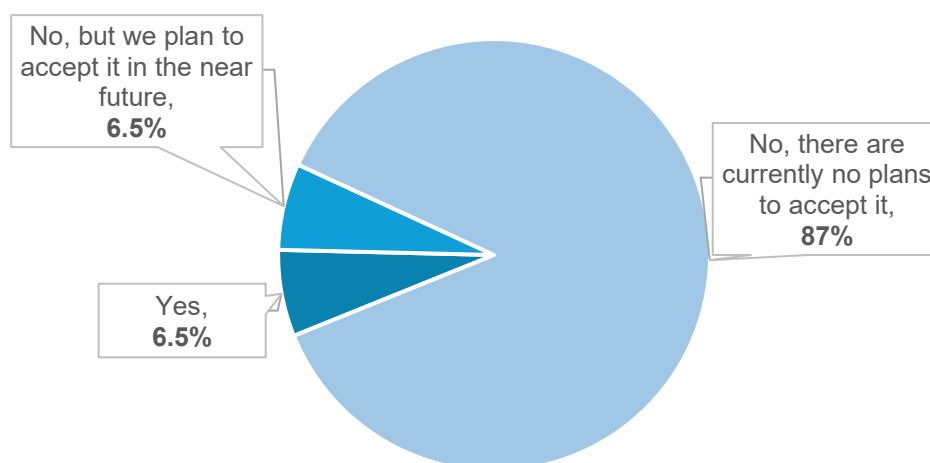
(ii) SVG

26. Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) is an image file that is composed of shapes formed of mathematical formulas and coordinates on a 2D plane. Vector graphics have the property of scaling infinitely without any degradation of quality. Where supported by the Office, SVG is listed as an alternative format by WIPO Standard ST.88⁷.

27. The International Bureau is considering accepting SVG files as a possible new option for applicants, with the intention to convert such images into JPEG format and publish both versions.

28. As part of this exploration, the International Bureau sought to determine whether IP Offices currently accept SVG image formats, or plan to do so in the future. Offices were further invited to describe any challenges they might anticipate in processing reproductions in SVG format, should this format be introduced within the Hague System.

Acceptance of SVG File Format



⁷ See WIPO [Standard ST.88](#), as revised on December 8, 2023.

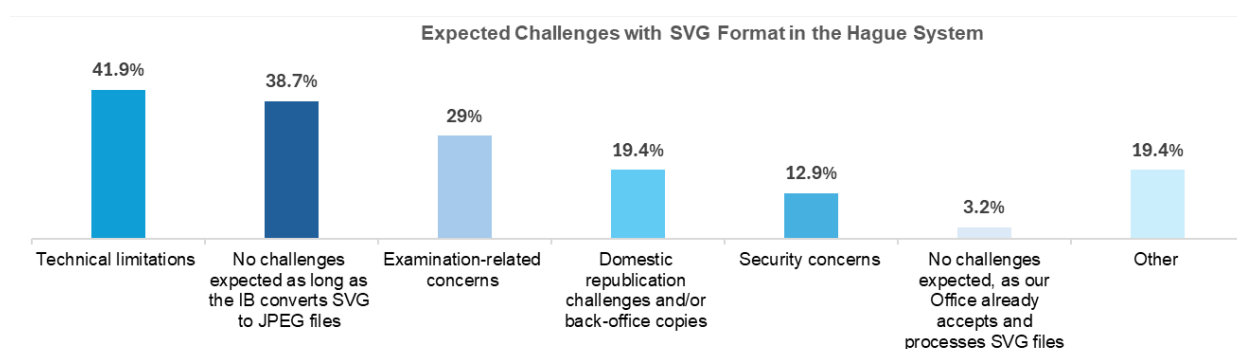
29. The responses to the Questionnaire revealed that two out of 31 Offices that download Bulletin data (6.5 per cent) currently accept SVG files, while another two (6.5 per cent) plan to accept them in the near future. Twenty-seven out of 31 Offices (87 per cent) currently do not have plans to accept SVG file formats.

30. Although only a few Offices currently accept or plan to accept SVG files, 12 out of 31 Offices⁸ (38.7 per cent) do not anticipate challenges in processing reproductions in this format should it be adopted in the Hague System. Specifically:

- 12 out of 31 Offices (38.7 per cent) indicated they would not face challenges, provided the International Bureau converts SVG files to JPEG and the latter files remain available in the Bulletin data for download.
- one out of 31 Offices (3.2 per cent) already accepts and processes SVG files without issue (it is noted that another Office currently accepting SVG files has not yet received any applications containing this file format).

31. At the same time, although indicating “no challenges expected”, six IP Offices still selected additional items from the list of challenges. Therefore, 19 out of 31 Offices (61.3 per cent) identified one or more challenges, as follows:

- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility with existing tools, storage capacity, potential inconsistencies in PDF rendering: 13 out of 31 Offices (41.9 per cent);
- Examination-related concerns (e.g., need for new tools or guidelines to process vector graphics or to generate examination outputs): nine out of 31 Offices (29 per cent);
- Domestic republication challenges and/or back-office copies: six out of 31 Offices (19.4 per cent); and
- Security concerns (e.g., embedded scripts): four out of 31 Offices (12.9 per cent).



⁸ Please note that one Office selected both options for “no challenges expected as [...]”.

32. Six out of 31 Offices (19.4 per cent) provided responses or additional comments under the “Other” category, indicating the following:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Azerbaijan	The Office doesn't accept SVG file formats.
Japan	Our computer system is built on the premise that the Bulletins issued by the International Bureau include only JPEG as image data format. Changes to the file format included in the Bulletins will require us some updates or changes to the system, which will be quite cost and time-consuming.
Poland	Our IT system supports SVG format, but we didn't receive applications containing SVG files.
Russian Federation	If the IP Office begins accepting this format, an IT system will be required to enable database searches for similar SVG representations and to prepare PDF files for publication. Such a system should also integrate with other IT tools used by the Office for examination purposes.
Spain	It has not been studied.
Tunisia	Format not accepted by the IPAS system used by our Office.

User Survey

33. The User Survey results highlighted a clear and compelling interest in improving image quality: overall, 94.7 per cent of respondents expressed some level of interest, ranging from “slightly interested” to “very interested”, in the possibility of submitting PNG and JPEG files at a resolution of 600 DPI or higher. Notably, 53.6 per cent indicated they were “very interested”.

34. As for the SVG format, the User Survey results were also highly encouraging: overall, 78.6 per cent of respondents expressed some level of interest in its potential use in the Hague System, with 28.6 per cent indicating they were “very interested”.

35. Both findings demonstrate meaningful user support for enhancing the image quality of JPEG files and for adopting PNG and SVG as additional formats within the Hague System.

3D FILE FORMATS

36. The following sections of the Questionnaire – 3D File Formats, Video File Formats, and Further Input and Comments – were addressed to all Hague Contracting Parties (regardless of whether they download Bulletin data: 48 respondents).

37. “3D file format” is an electronic file format that is created by a specialized software, for mathematically representing the surface of an object's visual representation in three dimensions⁹. The WIPO Standard ST. 91 recommends that 3D visual representation of an industrial design should preferably be formatted as at least one of the formats: STEP, IGES, U3D, OBJ or STL.

38. In this context, the International Bureau aimed to gather information from:

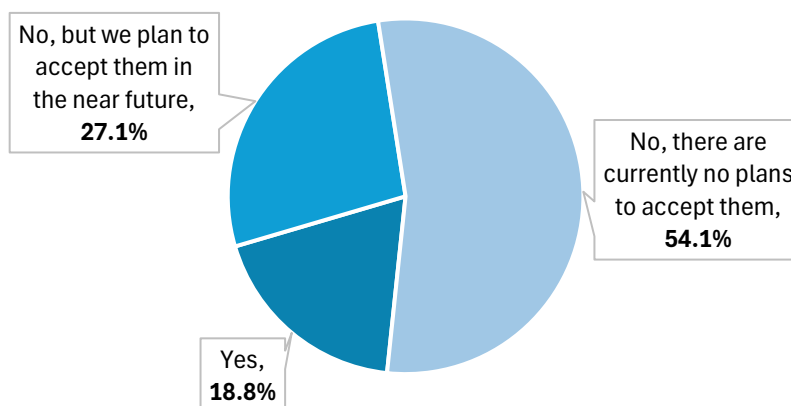
- (a) Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats for design representations, specifically regarding the types of formats, their treatment, any related challenges, and the tools for examination, and
- (b) all Offices to assess their interest in accepting 3D file formats in the Hague System.

⁹ See WIPO [Standard ST.88](#), as revised on December 8, 2023, and [Standard ST.91](#), as revised on September 19, 2024.

(a) *Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats*

39. The returns show encouraging progress in the acceptance of 3D file formats for design representation among jurisdictions. While nine¹⁰ out of 48 Offices (18.8 per cent) already accept 3D file formats, a further 13 out of 48 Offices (27.1 per cent) plan to introduce this capability in the near future. Notably, 11 of these are EU Member States, reflecting their commitment to align with the EU design law reform. The remaining 26 out of 48 Offices (54.1 per cent) currently do not have plans to accept them.

Acceptance of 3D File Formats

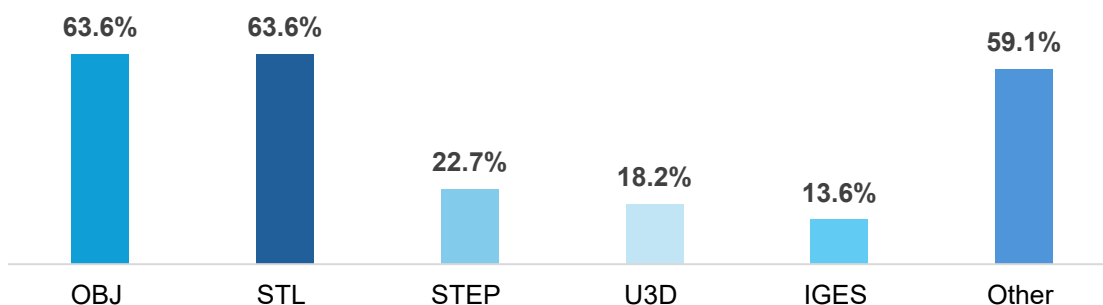


40. As to the types of 3D formats, the returns revealed that among the 22 Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats, support was expressed for:

- OBJ and STL formats, by 14 Offices (63.6 per cent);
- STEP, by five Offices (22.7 per cent);
- U3D, by four Offices (18.2 per cent); and
- IGES, by three Offices (13.6 per cent).

41. It is noteworthy that the responses indicate a strong level of flexibility among Offices, with most either already offering or planning to offer applicants the option to choose from two or more types of 3D file formats.

3D File Formats Accepted or Planned to be Accepted by IP Offices



¹⁰ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, European Union, Namibia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

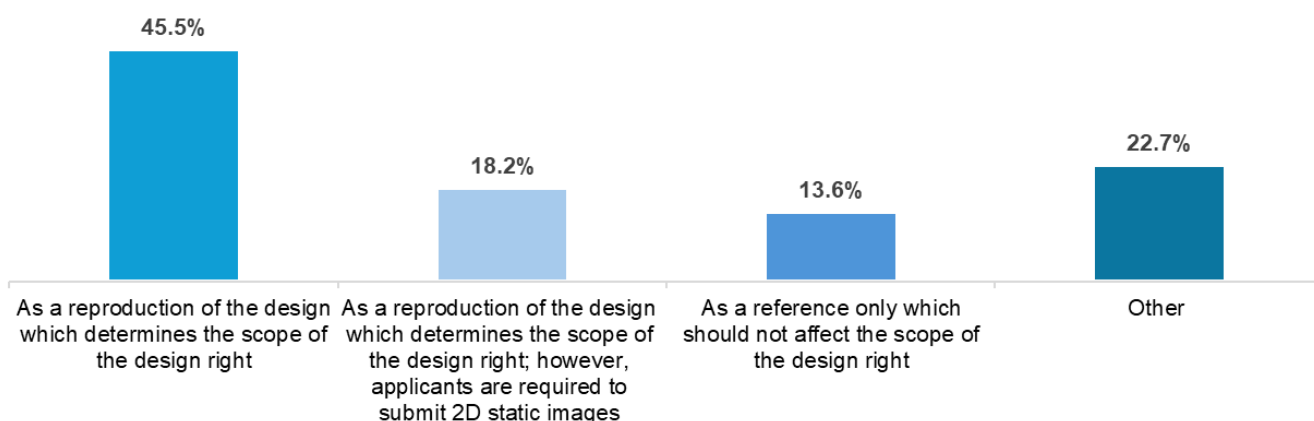
42. Thirteen out of 22 Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats (59.1 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, as follows:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure, but probably OBJ + STL. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Estonia	X3D
EUIPO	X3D but may be discarded because it is not used frequently.
Finland	To be decided later.
France	gLFT, Collada (.dae)
Germany	Our Office is currently planning to implement 3D models in the transposition of the Design Directive until December 2027. It is not yet possible to provide any details on the implementation at this stage.
Hungary	MP4, MPEG
Latvia	X3D
Namibia	PDF OR JPEG, JPG
North Macedonia	To be confirmed in near future.
Poland	According to art. 108.2. of Polish Industrial Property Act, a design can be illustrated in particular by drawings and photographs. The catalogue of possible representations is therefore open ("in particular"). We are planning to accept abovementioned formats in the future. However, we haven't carried out technical analysis with our IT specialists yet.
Russian Federation	PRC (Product Representation Compact) The file size for all mentioned formats should be less or equal to 50 MB.
United Kingdom	Over the next few years, the UK IPO's Designs systems and processes will be subject to a digital transformation process. As part of this ongoing process, we will be investigating user and technical requirements, WIPO standards and other metrics to determine which further file formats to introduce.

43. As to the current or planned approach for the treatment of 3D file formats among the Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats, the returns revealed that the 3D file format is or will be considered as:

- a reproduction of the design that determines the scope of the design right, and as such, applicants are not required to submit additional selected 2D static images additionally, by 10 out of 22 Offices (45.5 per cent);
- a reproduction of the design that determines the scope of the design right; however, applicants are required to submit selected 2D static images additionally, for example, for the purposes of publication in the official bulletin, by four out of 22 Offices (18.2 per cent);
- a reference only which should not affect the scope of the design right; as such, applicants are always required to submit selected 2D static images, by three out of 22 Offices (13.6 per cent).

Treatment of 3D File Formats: Current and Planned Approach



44. Five out of 22 Offices (22.7 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, as follows:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Finland	To be decided later.
Germany	Our Office is currently planning to implement 3D models in the transposition of the Design Directive until December 2027. It is not yet possible to provide any details on the implementation at this stage.
Poland	Our legislation supports 3D designs, but we don't provide technical possibilities for filing 3D file formats. However, in hypothetical case of lack of clarity of the 3D view, the applicant could be asked to provide additional views, which can be also static.
Romania	This is still under review.
Spain	Under study.

45. With regard to the challenges anticipated or encountered in handling and using 3D files, the following graphic presents a breakdown of the challenges reported by the nine Offices that currently accept 3D file formats and those anticipated by the 13 Offices that plan to accept them in the near future.

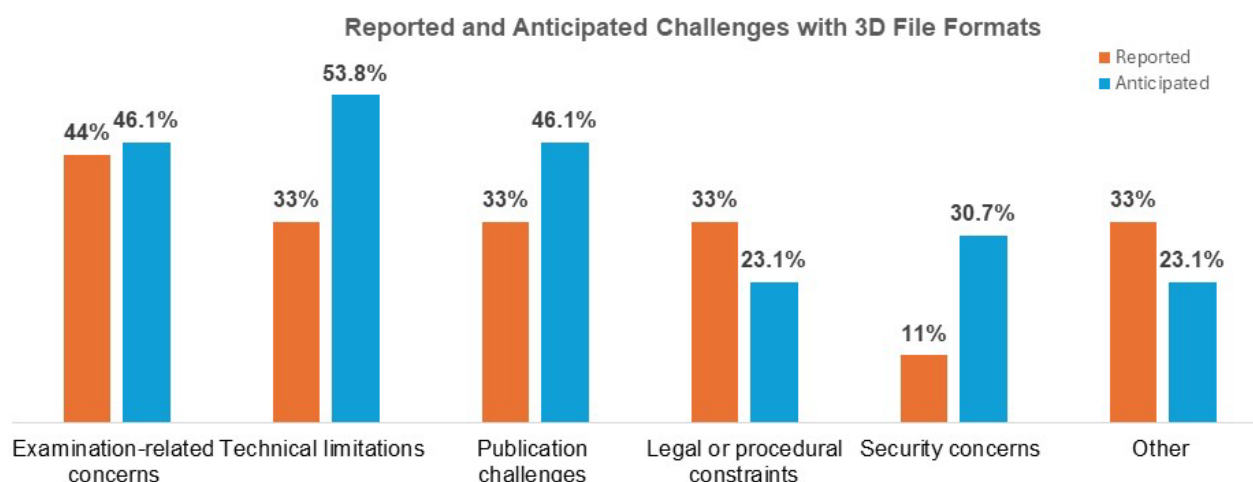
46. Overall, the most common challenges reported or anticipated are:

- Examination-related concerns (e.g., need for new tools or guidelines to process 3D files or to generate examination outputs), reported by four out of nine Offices (44 per cent) and anticipated by six out of 13 Offices (46.1 per cent);
- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility, storage capacity, rendering issues), reported by three out of nine Offices (33 per cent) and anticipated by seven out of 13 Offices (53.8 per cent); and
- Publication challenges (e.g., displaying 3D files in official bulletins or online databases), reported by three out of nine Offices (33 per cent) and anticipated by six out of 13 Offices (46.1 per cent).

47. Interestingly, the percentage of challenges reported is lower than anticipated, suggesting that while some challenges are experienced, Offices are proactively identifying potential issues to ensure the smooth introduction and use of 3D file formats.

48. Legal or procedural constraints (e.g., regulatory framework, examination guidelines) were reported by three out of nine Offices (33 per cent) that currently accept 3D file formats, and are anticipated by three out of 13 Offices (23.1 per cent) planning to accept them.

49. Security concerns (e.g., embedded scripts, ensuring file integrity, preventing unauthorized modifications) appear to be well managed, with only one out of nine Offices (11 per cent) reporting them as a challenge. Nonetheless, four out of 13 Offices (30.7 per cent) planning to adopt 3D file formats anticipate them. The gap between reported and anticipated security concerns may suggest that Offices are taking effective preparatory measures ahead of integrating 3D file formats.



50. Three out of nine Offices (33 per cent) that accept 3D file formats and three out of 13 Offices (23.1 per cent) that plan to accept them in the near future provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category. Noteworthy, two Offices that currently accept 3D file formats expressly indicated that they faced no challenge in implementing 3D file formats.

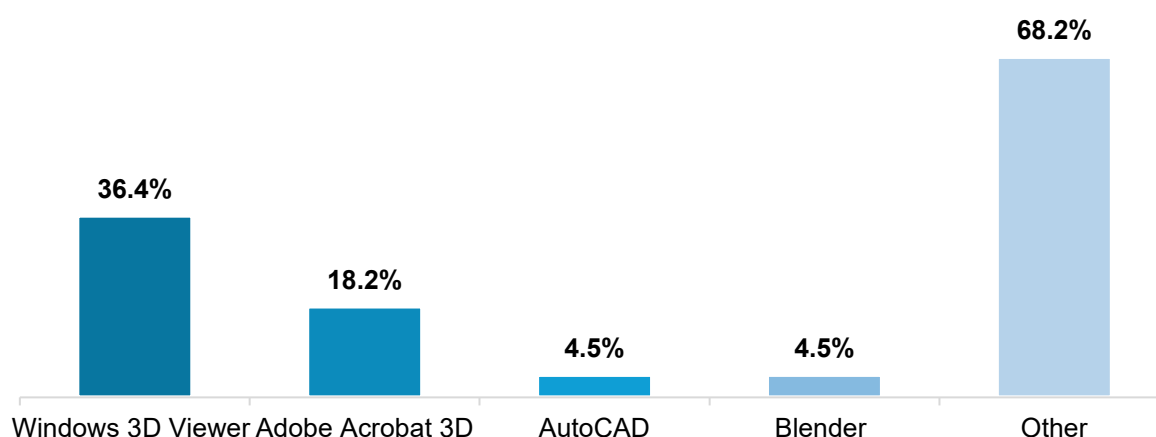
Country	Other - (Please specify)
Azerbaijan ¹¹	There was no problem.
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Germany	The issuing and exchange of priority documents for applications with 3D files, especially if Offices do not yet accept electronic priority certificates.
Republic of Korea ¹¹	For the purpose of substantive examination (search), the Office extracts and utilizes perspective views and six-side views from the 3D modeling file. In addition, if the 3D modeling file cannot be embedded in the PDF publication of the design gazette, the previously extracted perspective and six-side views are used as a substitute in the publication.
Russian Federation ¹¹	ROSPATENT does not have any challenges in this regard.
Spain	Under study.

51. As for the examination tools of 3D file formats among the Offices that currently accept or plan to accept 3D file formats, the replies revealed that:

- Windows 3D Viewer is used or planned to be used by eight out of 22 Offices (36.4 per cent).
- Adobe Acrobat 3D is used or planned to be used by four out of 22 Offices (18.2 per cent).
- AutoCAD and Blender are each used or planned to be used by one out of 22 Offices (4.5 per cent).

¹¹ Office accepts 3D file formats.

Current and Planned Tools for 3D File Examination



52. Fifteen out of 22 Offices (68.2 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, reflecting a wide range of tools, including in-house solutions and specialized software designed to simplify and optimize prior art searches that were not listed among the predefined options.

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Azerbaijan	ABV view
Belarus	STEP VIEWER
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
EUIPO	Currently, the EUIPO does not examine 3D objects. However, the examiner can open the file, if needed, in Windows 3D Viewer. On the EUIPO's online platform, jsc3d is used for OBJ and STL, and x3dom for X3D. The EUIPO will probably use the same in its back-office tool for the examination (however, X3D will be discarded)
Finland	To be decided later.
Germany	We are currently planning to show 3D models in a browser using a plugin.
Greece	The issue is still under consideration.
Namibia	None.
North Macedonia	None.
Norway	Accepto Design supplied by Choexya SAS.
Poland	We are planning to accept selected formats in the future. However, we haven't carried out technical analysis with our IT specialists yet.
Republic of Korea	Cadian 3D Viewer(domestic S/W) or Rhino3D.
Russian Federation	Rospatent has developed a dedicated system to address its operational needs in this area. The system supports the following functionalities: viewing 3D models in formats accepted by the IP Office, conducting database searches for similar 3D models, generating 3D PDF files for publication. The system is also integrated with other core platforms used for examination.
Spain	3D files will be converted into different views, which will be displayed as JPG images. As a result, each rotation will appear as a separate JPG.
United Kingdom	Over the next few years, the UK IPO's Designs systems and processes will be subject to a digital transformation process. As part of this ongoing process, we will be investigating user and technical requirements, WIPO standards and other metrics to determine which further file formats to introduce.

(b) *3D file formats in the Hague System*

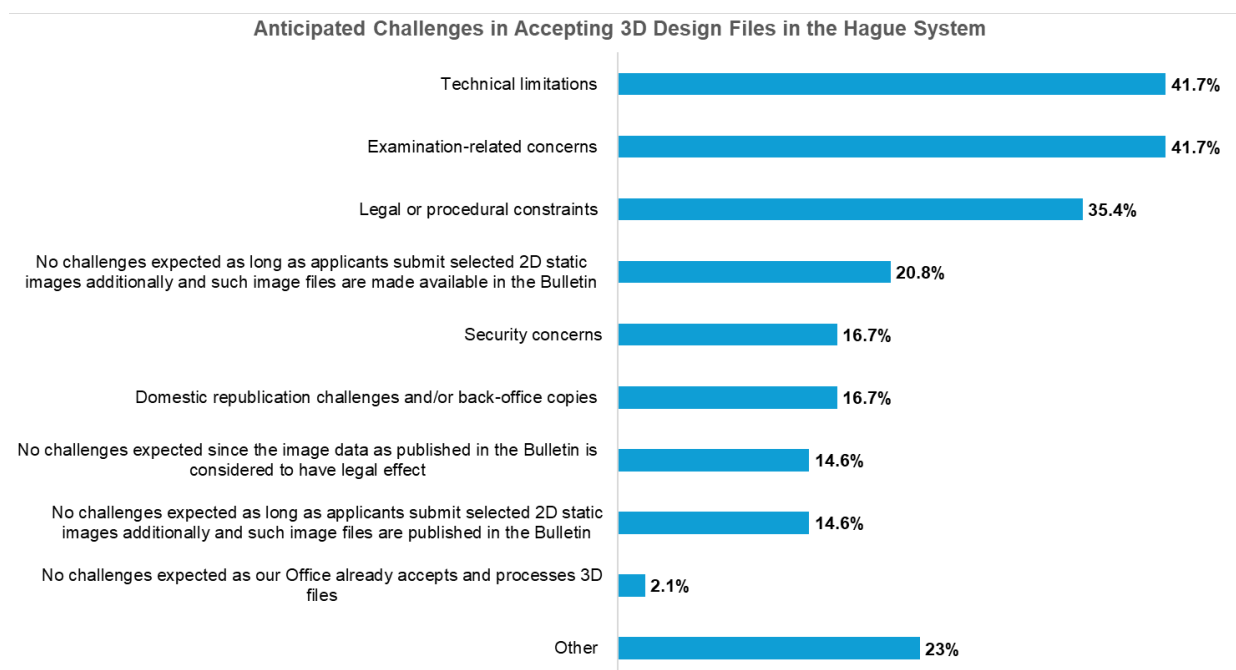
53. As for the interest of Contracting Parties in accepting 3D file formats in the Hague System, 20 out of 48 Offices¹² (42 per cent) do not foresee challenges in accepting and/or processing such files, should this new format for representing designs be adopted, as:

- 10 out of 48 Offices (20.8 per cent) do not anticipate any challenges, as long as applicants submit selected 2D static images additionally and such image files are made available in the Bulletin data for downloading;
- seven out of 48 Offices (14.6 per cent) do not anticipate any challenges because the image data as published in the Bulletin is considered to have legal effect (i.e., to be authoritative for the scope of a design right granted) under their jurisdiction;
- seven out of 48 Offices (14.6 per cent) do not anticipate any challenges as long as applicants submit selected 2D static images additionally and such image files are published in the Bulletin. Although the image data as published in the Bulletin is considered to have legal effect (i.e., to be authoritative for the scope of a design right granted), their jurisdiction requires the submission of 2D static images; and
- one out of 48 Offices (2.1 per cent) anticipates no challenges at all, as it already accepts and processes 3D files without issues.

54. At the same time, although indicating “no challenges expected”, nine IP Offices still selected additional items from the list of challenges. Therefore, 30 out of 48 Offices (62.5 per cent) identified one or more challenges, as follows:

- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility, storage capacity, rendering issues) and examination-related concerns (e.g., need for new tools or guidelines to process 3D files or to generate examination outputs), each anticipated by 20 out of 48 Offices (41.7 per cent);
- Legal or procedural constraints (e.g., regulatory framework, examination guidelines), foreseen by 17 out of 48 Offices (35.4 per cent);
- Security concerns (e.g., embedded scripts, ensuring file integrity, preventing unauthorized modifications) as well as domestic republication challenges and/or back-office copies, each anticipated by eight out of 48 Offices (16.7 per cent).

¹² Please note that a few Offices selected multiple response options for “no challenges expected as [...]”.



55. The “Other” category highlights that 11 out of 48 Offices (23 per cent) identified unique or context-specific challenges not captured by the predefined options or have not yet considered the issue. The comments are reproduced below:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Bulgaria	Our Judicial System does not accept electronic files, and does (currently) work only with paper-based documentation.
China	No, there are currently no plan to accept them.
Iceland	Have not looked into it yet.
Israel	This subject has not been examined by the Israel Patent Office
Japan	Our computer system is built on the premise that the bulletins issued by the International Bureau include only JPEG as image data format. Changes to the file format included in the bulletins will require us some updates or changes to the system, which will be quite cost- and time-consuming.
Norway	Need to adapt our MECA- Hague upload tool
Republic of Korea	Occasionally, errors occur where the final output appears different depending on the viewer used to open the 3D modeling file. In addition, discrepancies may arise when the version of the 3D modeling software used by the applicant is not compatible with the viewer used by the Office, causing certain design components to appear differently.
Russian Federation	Integrating 3D files into the Hague System would require both technical upgrades and regulatory adjustments, which aligns with the standard modernization efforts undertaken by the IP Office.
Spain	Under study.
Tunisia	Format not accepted by the IPAS system used by our office.

User Survey

56. The User Survey results revealed an exceptionally encouraging finding: overall, 86 per cent of respondents expressed some level of interest, ranging from “slightly interested” to “very interested”, in the possibility of submitting 3D file formats as a standard reproduction format in the Hague international application. Notably, 33 per cent indicated they were “very

interested". This demonstrates widespread support for adopting innovative formats to enhance design representation in the Hague System.

VIDEO FILE FORMATS

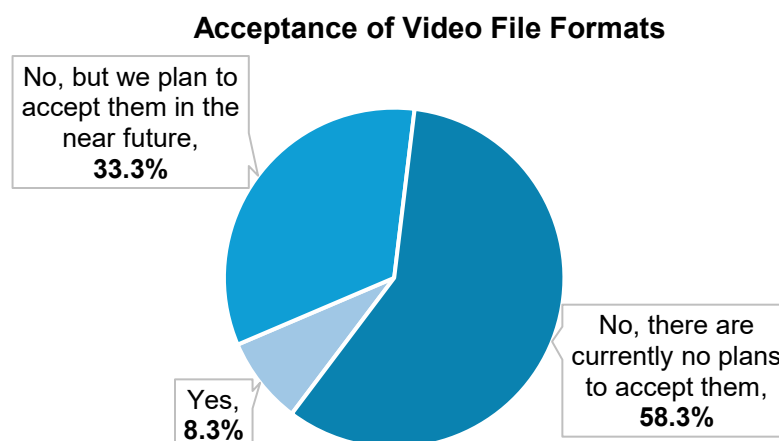
57. WIPO Standard ST.88 recommends that files containing video or multimedia should use MP4 container files (.mp4) with one of the following video codecs: AVC/H.264 or MPEG-2/H.262. Where supported by the Office, design applications containing video or multimedia may use one of these alternative formats instead: WebM9 or MP4 container files with one of the following video codecs: VP9 or AV1¹³.

58. In this context, by analogy with the questions on 3D file formats, the International Bureau aimed to gather information from:

- (a) Offices that currently accept or plan to accept video file formats for design representations, specifically regarding the types of formats, their treatment, any related challenges, and the tools for examination; and from
- (b) all Offices to assess their interest in accepting video file formats in the Hague System.

(a) Offices that currently accept or plan to accept video file formats

59. The returns show encouraging developments as to the acceptance of video file formats for design representation among jurisdictions. While four¹⁴ out of 48 Offices (8.3 per cent) already accept video file formats, a further 16 out of 48 Offices (33 per cent) plan to introduce this capability in the near future. This group includes the EUIPO and 12 other Offices from EU Member States. As with 3D file formats, this trend likely reflects obligations to implement the EU design law reform, which aims to accommodate new means of representing designs. The remaining 28 out of 48 Offices (58.3 per cent) currently do not have plans to accept them.

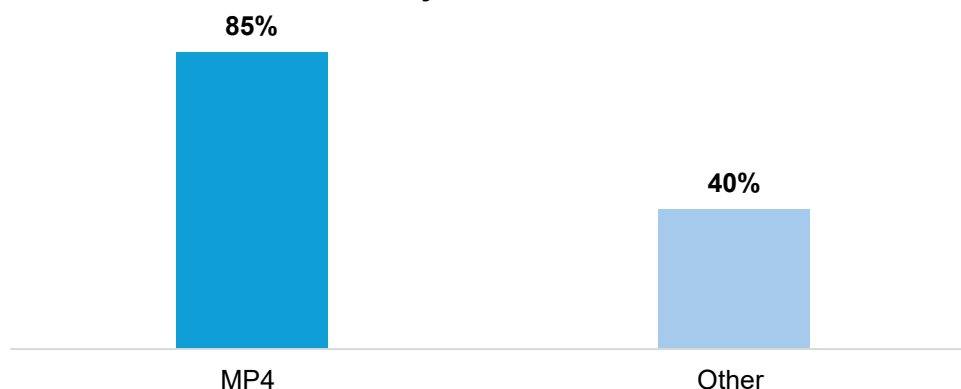


60. Regarding video file formats, the results show that the vast majority of Offices, 17 out of 20 that currently accept or plan to accept video files (85 per cent), support the MP4 format. Notably, all four Offices that currently accept video files indicated MP4 as either the only format they accept or one of their accepted formats. However, unlike the flexible approach for 3D file formats, where applicants can choose from a range of formats, most Offices plan to allow only a single format for video files.

¹³ See WIPO [Standard ST.88](#), as revised on December 8, 2023.

¹⁴ China, Norway, Poland and the Republic of Korea.

Video File Formats Accepted or Planned to be Accepted by IP Offices



61. Eight out of 20 Offices (40 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category. Those are reproduced below:

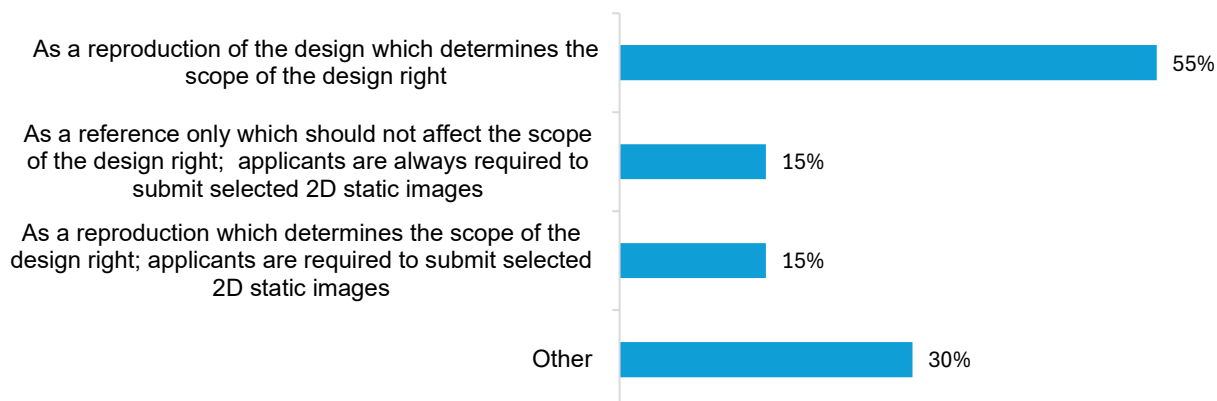
Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure, but probably MP4. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Germany	Our Office is currently planning to implement video files in the transposition of the Design Directive until December 2027. It is not yet possible to provide any details on the implementation at this stage.
Hungary	MPEG.
Israel	This subject has not yet been examined by the Israel Patent Office.
Latvia ¹⁵	WMV, MPG, MPEG, AVI, MKV, MOV, M4V.
Poland ¹⁵	avi, mpeg, ogg.
Republic of Korea ¹⁵	AVI, Animated GIF, WMV, SWF.
United Kingdom	Over the next few years, the UK IPO's Designs systems and processes will be subject to a digital transformation process. As part of this ongoing process, we will be investigating user and technical requirements, WIPO standards and other metrics to determine which further file formats to introduce.

62. As to the current or planned approach for the treatment of video file formats, the returns among Offices that currently accept or plan to accept video files revealed that the video file format is or will be considered as:

- a reproduction of the design which determines the scope of the design right; as such, applicants are not required to submit selected 2D static images showing a sequence, by 11 out of 20 Offices (55 per cent);
- a reference only which should not affect the scope of the design right; as such, applicants are always required to submit selected 2D static images showing a sequence, by three out of 20 Offices (15 per cent);
- a reproduction of the design which determines the scope of the design right; however, applicants are required to submit selected 2D static images showing a sequence, for example for the purposes of publication in the official bulletin, by three out of 20 Offices (15 per cent).

¹⁵ Video file formats accepted or planned to be accepted, in addition to MP4.

Treatment of Video File Formats: Current and Planned Approach



63. Six out of 20 Offices (30 per cent) provided additional comments under “Other” category, as follows:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Finland	To be decided later.
Germany	Our Office is currently planning to implement 3D models in the transposition of the Design Directive until December 2027. It is not yet possible to provide any details on the implementation at this stage.
Poland	We haven't received any such applications yet. In case of lack of clarity of the video file, the applicant can be asked to provide additional views, which can be also static.
Romania	Currently we don't accept such format.
Spain	Under study.

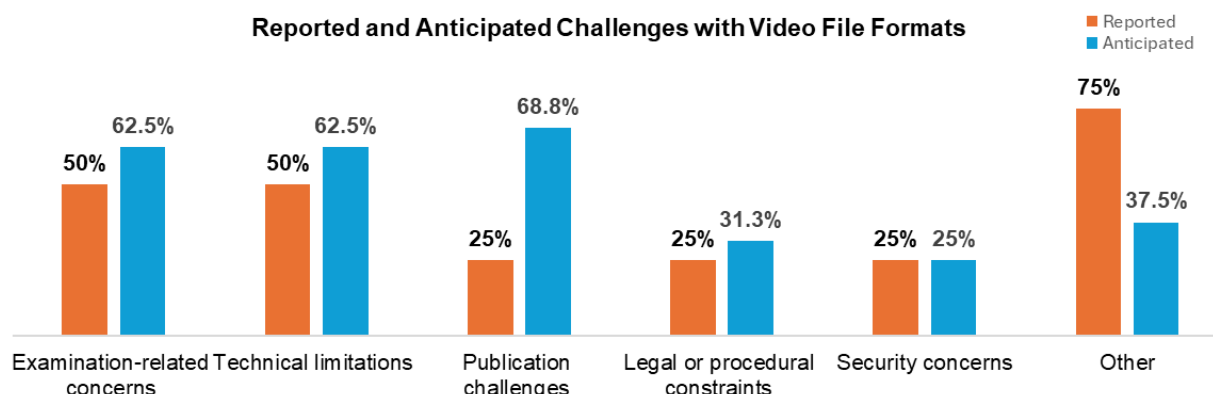
64. With regard to the challenges anticipated or encountered by the 20 Offices in handling and using video files, the following graphic presents a breakdown of the challenges reported by the four Offices that currently accept video file formats and those anticipated by the 16 Offices that plan to accept them in the near future.

65. Overall, the most common challenges reported or anticipated are:

- Examination-related concerns (e.g., need for new tools or guidelines to process video files or to generate examination outputs) and technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility, storage capacity, playback issues), each reported by two out of four Offices (50 per cent) and anticipated by 10 out of 16 Offices (62.5 per cent);
- Publication challenges (e.g., displaying video files in official bulletins or online databases), reported by one out of four Offices (25 per cent) and anticipated by 11 out of 16 Offices (68.8 per cent); and
- Legal or procedural constraints (e.g., regulatory framework, examination guidelines), reported by one out of four Offices (25 per cent) and anticipated by five out of 16 Offices (31.3 per cent).

66. As with 3D file formats, the data shows that the percentage of challenges currently encountered is lower than what some Offices anticipate facing in the future.

67. Security concerns appear to be well managed overall, as only one out of four Offices currently using video file formats (25 per cent) reported them as a challenge, and four out of 16 Offices planning to adopt video formats (25 per cent) anticipate such concerns.



68. Three out of four Offices that currently accept video files (75 per cent), and six out of 16 Offices planning to accept them in the near future (37.5 per cent), provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, as follows:

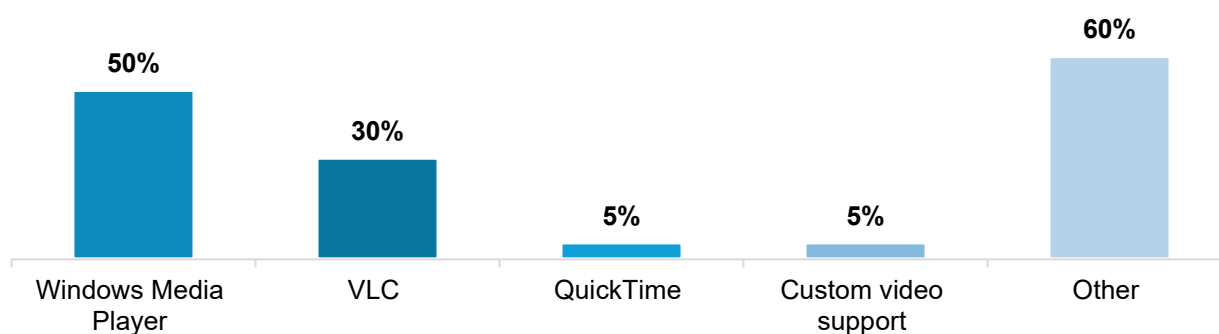
Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
China ¹⁶	No challenges since video files work as a reference only.
EUIPO	In accordance with the current plans regarding 3D files, for publication purposes a link to download the MP4 file may be provided.
France	Digital imprint, as the representation may change following examination.
Germany	The issuing and exchange of priority documents for applications with video file formats, especially if Offices do not yet accept electronic priority certificates.
Lithuania	The file size cannot be bigger than 50 MB in the Back Office. Front Office allows up to 20 MB MP4 files.
Poland ¹⁶	In our Office it's possible to file the national design in the video format. However, we haven't received such applications yet.
Republic of Korea ¹⁶	Resolution(640x480), maximum 200Mbyte.
Spain	Under study.

69. As for the examination tools of video file formats, the replies revealed that:

- Windows Media Player is used or planned to be used by ten out of 20 Offices (50 per cent).
- VLC Media Player is used or planned to be used by six out of 20 Offices (30 per cent).
- QuickTime and Custom Video Support are each used or planned to be used by one out of 20 Offices (five per cent).

¹⁶ Office accepts video files.

Current and Planned Tools for Video File Examination



70. Twelve out of 20 Offices that currently accept or plan to accept video files (60 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, reflecting a wide range of tools, including in-house solutions and specialized software designed to simplify and optimize prior art searches that were not listed among the predefined options. Some Offices also used this space to indicate that they have not yet selected a tool, as the matter is still under consideration. The replies and comments are reproduced below:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
EUIPO	Currently, this depends on the native video reproduction capabilities of each browser
Finland	To be decided later.
France	Direct playback in the browser.
Germany	We are currently planning to show videos in a browser using a plugin.
Greece	The issue is still under consideration.
Israel	As for the other formats, we need to examine them further.
Lithuania	Our Back Office has a Built-in video player for Trademarks. We plan to use it for designs in the future.
Norway	Accepto Design supplied by Choexya SAS.
Romania	Currently we don't accept such format.
Spain	Under study.
United Kingdom	Over the next few years, the UK IPO's Designs systems and processes will be subject to a digital transformation process. As part of this ongoing process, we will be investigating user and technical requirements, WIPO standards and other metrics to determine which further file formats to introduce.

(b) Video file formats in the Hague System

71. As for the interest of Contracting Parties in accepting video file formats in the Hague System, 16 out of 48 Offices¹⁷ (33 per cent) do not foresee challenges in accepting and/or processing such files, should this new format for representing designs be adopted, as:

- eight out of 48 Offices (17.5 per cent) would not face challenges, provided applicants also submit 2D static images showing a sequence additionally and such image files are published in the Bulletin. Although the image data as published in the Bulletin is considered to have legal effect (i.e., to be authoritative for the scope of a design right granted), their jurisdiction requires the submission of 2D static images showing a sequence;

¹⁷ Please note that a few Offices selected multiple response options for “no challenges expected as [...]”.

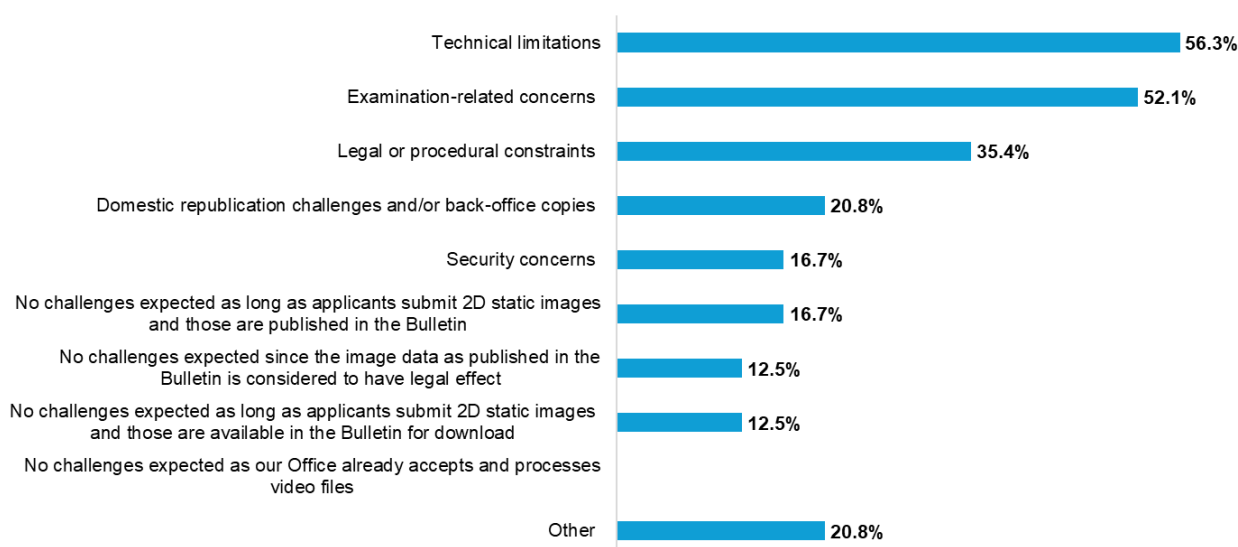
- six out of 48 Offices (12.5 per cent) do not anticipate any challenges because the image data as published in the Bulletin is considered to have legal effect (i.e., to be authoritative for the scope of a design right granted), under their jurisdiction; and
- six out of 48 Offices (12.5 per cent) do not anticipate any challenges as long as applicants submit selected 2D static images showing a sequence additionally and such image files are made available in the Bulletin data for download.

72. Regarding potential challenges, the questionnaire results indicate that Offices identified the same top three challenges for both 3D and video file formats in the Hague System: technical limitations, examination-related concerns and legal or procedural issues.

73. At the same time, although indicating “no challenges expected”, 10 IP Offices still selected additional items from the list of challenges. Therefore, 33 out of 48 Offices (68.7 per cent) identified one or more challenges, as follows:

- Technical limitations (e.g., file format compatibility, storage capacity, playback issues), anticipated by 27 out of 48 Offices (56.3 per cent);
- Examination-related concerns (e.g., need for new tools or guidelines to process video files or to generate examination outputs), foreseen by 25 out of 48 Offices (52.1 per cent);
- Legal or procedural constraints (e.g., regulatory framework, examination guidelines), anticipated by 17 out of 48 Offices (35.4 per cent);
- Domestic republication challenges and/or back-office copies, anticipated by 10 out of 48 Offices (20.8 per cent); and
- Security concerns (e.g., embedded scripts, ensuring file integrity, preventing unauthorized modifications), foreseen by eight out of 48 Offices (16.7 per cent).

Anticipated Challenges in Accepting Video Files in the Hague System



74. Ten out of 48 Offices (20.8 per cent) provided replies or additional comments under the “Other” category, which are reproduced below:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
France	Time coordination (getting our Office ready).
Tunisia	This format is not accepted by the IPAS system used by our office.
Norway	Need to update MECA-Hague upload tool supplied by Choexya AS
China	No challenges since video files work as a reference only.
BOIP	Not yet sure. We are working on a Common Practice in the EUIPN.
Bulgaria	Our Judicial System does not accept electronic files and does (currently) work only with paper-based documentation.
Japan	Our computer system is built on the premise that the bulletins issued by the International Bureau include only JPEG as image data format. Changes to the file format included in the bulletins will require us some updates or changes to the system, which will be quite cost- and time-consuming.
Russian Federation	Should video files be incorporated into applications filed under the Hague System, technical upgrades to the IP Office's existing IT systems would likely be necessary. Modifications to the examination procedure used by the Office would also require further clarifications.
Spain	Under study.
Iceland	Have not looked into it yet.

User Survey

75. Finally, the User Survey revealed a highly promising finding: overall, 80 per cent of users expressed some level of interest, ranging from “slightly interested” to “very interested” in the possibility of submitting video file formats as a standard reproduction format in the Hague international application. Notably, 22.3 per cent indicated they were “very interested”. This reflects significant support for adopting new formats of representation of designs in the Hague System.

FURTHER INPUTS AND COMMENTS

76. As a concluding item of the questionnaire, Offices have been asked to share any comments they may have regarding the questions, as well as any additional relevant information not captured in the Questionnaire.

77. Those comments are reproduced below:

Country	Other - (Please specify)
BOIP	All EU Offices and EUIPO are working on a Common Practice within the EUIPN. In the interest of users, it would be preferable if the Hague system evolves along similar lines.
Bulgaria	Our system supports the MP4 (up to 20 MB) for the multimedia trademarks, so in theory it can be implemented for designs as well, but, firstly the national law and regulations need to be adapted for this. This process is in the making considering the transposition of the new Design Directive 2024/2823.
EUIPO	Please note that the EUIPO's legal and technical framework for the graphical representation of designs is currently under review as part of the ongoing legal reform. Regarding technical specifications, the implementation of the reform's second phase -scheduled for 1 July 2026 - is expected to bring changes that cannot be reliably anticipated at this stage (May 2025).

Country	Other - (Please specify)
Ghana	The questionnaire is good and identifies the image and video file types required for the registration of an industrial design application. Our office now plans to upgrade the IPAS system to ensure it can accept future upgrades in image and video formats. Our laws have not yet been amended to cover these image and video types.
Iceland	We expect a reform of our legislation and internal processes following the implementation of the new EU design reform in the next 2-3 years. Will have a fuller picture in 1-2 years.
Israel	<p>1. Handling video file formats represents a new field for the Israel Patent Office. Currently, we have not yet begun the examination and development processes required for implementing this format. Given the technical and operational complexity involved, we anticipate that the development and implementation process may take several years.</p> <p>2. From our perspective, consideration should be given to limiting the ability to submit video files to specific and defined cases only, in order to prevent excessive burden on IT and operational systems. For example: designs that include dynamic screen displays or animation components that cannot be adequately represented through static images.</p> <p>3. Establishing a framework of uniform technical standards for video files is essential, including: file size limitations, permitted resolution, frame rate, maximum duration, and accepted file formats. Setting clear guidelines will ensure consistency and efficiency in examination and handling processes.</p>
Lithuania	Our Design law and Regulations are about to be changed based on the new EU Design Directive. The Office is planning to allow MP4 formats following this change.
North Macedonia	Currently, we are using IPAS as a back office solution deployed by WIPO at our Office. The back-office is quite old technology and we plan to migrate to a newer version of IPAS which technically should support the new file formats. Having said this we need to implement the WIPO Front Office through which the applicants will deposit their designs in 2D, 3D format and the file format is not yet know to us. If there are additional questions or details that are needed from use to provide please, reach us out on the email indicated in the questionnaire.
Russian Federation	As the CWS 3D Task Force Leader, we would greatly appreciate the Hague Secretariat's participation in updating Standard ST.91, including the upcoming Workshop on IP Data in 3D Models and Images (May 14, 2025). Member States' responses to this Questionnaire related to 3D would also contribute to the Task Force's work.
United Kingdom	Over the next few years, the UK IPO's Designs systems and processes will be subject to a digital transformation process. As part of this ongoing process, we will be investigating user and technical requirements, WIPO standards and other metrics to determine which further file formats to introduce.
United States of America	We note that ample and sufficient time will be necessary to test any potential change in the format(s) of representations of designs.

78. The following key issues emerged from the comments on 3D and video file formats throughout the entire Questionnaire:

- *Technical capability of the Offices:* several comments indicate that existing IT systems must be upgraded and re-configured to accommodate the new formats of representation of designs.

- *Legal reform is an essential prerequisite:* it transpires from the comments that accepting new formats for design representation will first require amending domestic legal instruments. Until those amendments enter into force, technical upgrades alone are not enough.
- *Timelines are medium and long-term:* many respondents foresee two to three years of legislative and IT work once the legal reform is final.

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

79. The main findings in relation to potential changes to the current technical requirements for 2D images, and the adoption of new 2D image formats as well as 3D and video files in Hague international applications, can be summarized as follows:

(a) Questionnaire

80. For the respondents that download Bulletin data (31 Offices):

- **JPEG:** the majority of Offices (18 Offices, 58.1 per cent) do not anticipate challenges with the potential increase in the resolution of JPEG reproductions, since they already accept and process high-resolution JPEG images.
- **PNG:** a promising number of Offices (22 Offices, 71 per cent) foresee no issues with PNG files, either because they already accept and process high-resolution PNG images, or because the International Bureau would convert PNG files to JPEG and the latter files would remain available in the Bulletin for download.
- **SVG:** a noteworthy number of Offices (19 Offices, 61.9 per cent) do not anticipate challenges with SVG file format, either because they already accept and process SVG files or because the International Bureau would convert SVG to JPEG files and the latter files would remain available in the Bulletin for download.

81. For all Hague Contracting Parties that replied to the Questionnaire (48 Offices):

- **3D Files:** an encouraging number of respondents (20 Offices, 42 per cent) do not foresee any challenges in accepting and/or processing such files, should this new format for representing designs be adopted in the Hague System. This is mainly because applicants would also submit selected 2D static images additionally, or because the image data published in the Bulletin is considered legally effective in their jurisdiction, or simply because they already accept and process 3D files without any issues.
- **Video Files:** an appreciable number of respondents (16 Offices, 33 per cent) do not foresee any challenges in accepting and/or processing such files, should this new format for representing designs be adopted in the Hague System. This is mainly because applicants would also submit selected 2D static images additionally, or because the image data published in the Bulletin is considered legally effective in their jurisdiction.

(b) User Survey

82. The User Survey results revealed strong interest in improving JPEG image quality and allowing PNG and JPEG submissions at 600 DPI or higher. Results were also encouraging for adopting the SVG format. Overall, the findings show meaningful user support for enhancing image quality and adding PNG and SVG as formats in the Hague System.

83. The User Survey results also revealed encouraging interest in the possibility of submitting both 3D and video file formats as standard reproduction formats in Hague international applications, demonstrating widespread support for adopting innovative formats to enhance design representation in the Hague System.

CONCLUSION

84. The analysis of the questionnaire reveals a broadly positive outlook among both Offices and users regarding the enhancement of image quality and the adoption of new file formats within the Hague System.

85. A significant number of Offices expressed support for increasing the resolution of JPEG reproductions, and a majority signaled readiness to accommodate additional 2D image formats such as PNG and SVG, particularly where the International Bureau facilitates the conversion of files to the standard JPEG format. Among users, the level of interest in these improvements was even more pronounced, indicating a strong demand for higher-quality design representations. With respect to the increase in the resolution of JPEG reproductions, considering that some Offices download Bulletin data for internal use, its implementation plan as well as technical details should be consulted and determined with all those interested among the Offices concerned.

86. In parallel, while fewer Offices currently accept or are ready to implement 3D and video file formats, the feedback suggests a growing recognition of their importance, especially in light of evolving design practices and the increasing complexity of modern industrial designs. However, unlike merely increasing the quality of 2D design reproductions, introducing 3D and video files formats in the Hague System may have an impact on the scope of a design right, particularly in jurisdictions where the image data as published in the Bulletin is considered to have legal effect.

87. Therefore, while the overall findings underscore a shared willingness to modernize the Hague System and enhance its capabilities, they also highlight the necessity for a phased and collaborative approach. This should include close consultations with Offices of interested Contracting Parties to ensure that the integration of new formats is both technically feasible and legally sound across jurisdictions.

88. It should be recalled, however, that the Hague Agreement is a procedural arrangement and, therefore, the adoption of these new design representations by the International Bureau does not automatically oblige the Offices of all Contracting Parties to accept them. In other words, the acceptance of new file formats in the Hague System is intended to ensure that users at least have the same filing opportunities as they would if filing directly with the Office concerned.

89. *The Working Group is invited to:*

(i) consider and comment on the contents of this document; and

(ii) indicate a way forward to proceed with additional formats for representation of designs as well as the enhancement of 2D image representations.

[End of document]