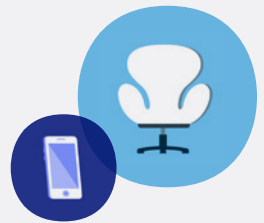
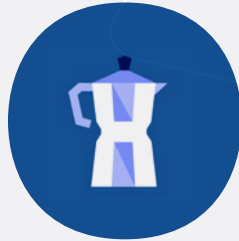
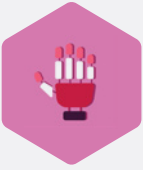



# Hague System Information Kit

Secure protection for up to 100 designs, in over 90 countries, through one international application.





The Hague System provides a unique international mechanism for securing and managing design rights simultaneously in multiple jurisdictions, including:

Nine out of ten of the world's top economic markets  
(2020 World Bank rankings)

The whole of Europe

And many more

## Who can use the Hague System?



Nationals of ...



Anyone with a domicile or habitual residence in ...



Anyone with a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in ...

... any Hague System member (referred to as "Contracting Party"), including any country of the European Union (EU) or the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

# How it works

The Hague System provides a straightforward solution to international design protection that eliminates the need to file separate and multiple applications in individual countries or regions.



## **File**

File one online international application through our eHague platform to register up to 100 designs in more than 90 countries.



## **Manage**

Keep your international registration up-to-date, record a change in ownership or limit/renounce protection centrally through WIPO.



## **Renew**

Renew your international registration directly through eHague for as many of the designs and as many of the Contracting Parties as you wish.

Intellectual property (IP) rights are territorial in character – the domestic laws of each Contracting Party govern the protection resulting from international registrations.

# What are the benefits for you?



## Minimal paperwork

File one international application, with one set of formal requirements and in one language to secure protection for up to 100 designs in more than 90 countries, following a simple online process.



## Cost and time effective

Enjoy significant time and cost savings thanks to our single application framework. Decide for yourself whether to use legal representation in the international arena.



## Centralized management

Manage and renew your international registrations directly with WIPO.



## Global coverage

Protect your designs in over 90 countries.

# Applying for international design protection

Step one

## File

Go to the eHague platform and file your international application to secure protection of up to 100 designs in the same class (Locarno Classification).

## What is eHague?

**eHague** is a secure, intuitive, real-time platform that lets you digitally file your international design applications and renew your registrations. You can view and download your applications, make payments and reply to communications from WIPO directly through eHague. Don't worry about which forms you need to fill out, what documents you need to provide or what the costs are – eHague will do this for you.

Step two  
**Formality  
examination  
by WIPO**

We will check your international application to ensure it complies with formalities and other requirements, including the quality of reproductions.

If the necessary  
requirements  
ARE MET...

You will receive  
a certificate of  
international  
registration.

If the necessary  
requirements  
ARE NOT MET...

You will receive an  
irregularity letter  
explaining what is  
missing or faulty;  
you have three  
months to fix  
the irregularities.

Step three  
**Publish**

We will publish your international registration in the **International Designs Bulletin**.

**When?** Standard publication takes place 12 months after the date of international registration – normally the date on which you filed your application.

You can also request immediate publication or publication at a chosen time (up to 30 months from the filing date, subject to domestic laws) in order to time public disclosure of your designs based on your market needs.

### **What is the International Designs Bulletin?**

An official publication, released weekly, that contains all data related to new international registrations. **It is the official data reference for everyone: holders of international registrations, IP offices and the public at large.**

Step four

## Substantive examination

The IP offices of some designated Contracting Parties may perform further substantive review of your registration in accordance with their own domestic law. For example, are the designs morally acceptable? Note: only a handful of offices perform full examination on novelty (these are called “Examining Offices”).

**What if protection is refused?** You can contest refusals at the domestic level. Any office that refuses protection will inform you – through WIPO – of the substantive reasons for, and the procedure to contest, refusal.

**IP rights are territorial so refusal by one office does not affect your international registration in other designated jurisdictions.**

If no refusal is issued within six months of publication of an international registration – 12 months for examining offices and those with opposition procedures – protection is deemed to be granted under domestic laws.

# Duration of protection

How long are international design registrations valid?

## **Five years**

The initial period of protection under the Hague System is five years.

## **Renew twice or more**

The quickest way to renew your registration is through eHague.

## **15 years or more**

If the domestic law of designated Contracting Parties allows for a longer term of protection, your international registration will also benefit!

The Hague System guarantees at least 15 years of protection.

# Fees

How much does it cost?

The cost of filing an international application varies according to the number of designs covered, the number of reproductions included, the Contracting Parties you designate, etc. All fees are payable in Swiss francs.

You can quickly estimate the fees for filing an international application or renewing a registration using the Hague System Fee Calculator.

# Hague System tools

Our complimentary informational tools and guides make filing an international application even easier for you:

## Hague System Member Profiles

Our **Hague System Member Profiles** provide you with all the country-specific general and legal information you need.



## Guide to the Hague System

The **Guide to the Hague System** is a comprehensive manual that explains the Hague System in detail. It combines legal and procedural information with cross references to all relevant legal citations.

## Guidance on reproductions and multiple designs

Consult our **Guidance on reproductions** and **Guidance on multiple designs** to avoid common pitfalls when preparing reproductions and including multiple designs in an international application.





# Resources

Find out more about the multitude of designs registered under the Hague System and in other data collections.



## Global Design Database

Browse through the millions of designs that exist under the Hague System and in the collections of participating offices, including China, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

## Hague Express

Search our weekly updated database of all international registrations.

## Hague System Statistics

Access all the latest information on which countries are the biggest users of the Hague System, who are the top filers, which are the top industry sectors, and more.

# Designs in action

The Hague System has helped countless companies of all sizes to protect and leverage their creative assets. Through our series of Hague System stories you can gain insights into how designs work in the real world and how they can help you obtain wider market recognition and increase your global competitiveness.

## Featured companies include:



Japanese corporation Kubota – an industry leader in agricultural and small construction machinery; engine design and production – uses design as a means to strengthen the value of its brand, adopting a ‘family look’ strategy with a unified design and color palette applied to all of its products.



For almost a century, snorkeling masks have remained essentially the same, with limited design innovation. Although full-face snorkeling masks started to appear on the market, they were heavy, cumbersome and unappealing. Seacsub came up with such a game-changing design with their Unica full face mask, that they completely revolutionized snorkeling.



“SunScreen” is a road-side wall that acts as an extremely effective noise barrier and generates solar power. With aesthetics a major concern surrounding most renewable energy technologies, TechSafe had to ensure that SunScreen could easily blend into its surroundings. The solution: a simple and clean design, with a neutral and muted earth-tone color palette.



Neofect design and create smart gloves and boards for use in rehabilitation following injury or illness, helping people regain independence. Their award-winning 'Neomano' – a three-digit leather robo-glove, protected through WIPO's Hague System – is designed for comfort, strength, durability and naturally blends with the user.

## Find out more

Do you want to know more about the Hague System and how you can leverage it to protect your designs internationally? Do you have any specific questions about the international application or registration process? **Contact Hague!**



Our Customer Service team is available to assist you throughout the lifecycle of your international design applications and registrations.

### Hague System webinars

We offer free interactive webinars on the Hague System, providing practical information on a wide range of topics related to international design protection and giving you the opportunity to interact directly with Hague System experts.



# WIPO Hague System: Securing your designs since 1925.



[www.wipo.int/hague](http://www.wipo.int/hague)

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Illustrations: Ekanodda / WIPO Reference RN2022-25EN; DOI: 10.34667/tind.46965