

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE





INTERNATIONAL DESIGN FORUM

Riyadh
Design Law
Treaty

A Delegate's View of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty

May 7, 2025



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Overview

- Diplomatic Conference
- Overview of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (RDLT)
- Next steps

Logo



uspto®

Venue



Venue



Venue



Venue



Venue



uspto®

People



People



People



Plenary



Plenary



Informals



Informals



Informals



Group B coordination



Group B coordination



Group B coordination



Bilateral Coordination



Closing



Closing

Time	Speaker
04:09	United States of America (the)
04:13	Djibouti
04:15	Fiji
04:17	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
04:23	Bahrain
04:25	Observers
04:27	IPPA
04:28	African Union
04:29	JPAA
04:30	AIPPI



Riyadh Design Law Treaty



Riyadh Design Law Treaty

- **Riyadh Design Law Treaty (RDLT)**
 - WIPO administered treaty regarding formalities of industrial design applications
- **Objective of RDLT**
 - Streamline the international design system and make it easier and more cost efficient for designers to pursue industrial design protection in jurisdictions across the globe
- **Similar Treaties**
 - Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
 - Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)

Riyadh Design Law Treaty

Article/Rule	Title	Key Provision(s)
Article 2	General Principles	Most Favorable Requirements
Article 4	Application	Contents of Application; Indication of Information
Article 6	Filing Date	
Article 7	Grace Period	
Article 11	Electronic Industrial Design System	

Riyadh Design Law Treaty

Article/Rule	Title	Key Provision(s)
Article 14	Relief in Respect of Time Limits	Extension of Time Limits; Continued Processing
Article 15		
Article 16		
Article 31	Reservations	
Rule 2	Details Concerning the Application	Partial Designs
Rule 3		

Article 2: General Principles

(1) *[No Regulation of Substantive Industrial Design Law]* Nothing in this Treaty or the Regulations is intended to be construed as prescribing anything that would limit the freedom of a Contracting Party to prescribe such requirements of the applicable substantive law relating to industrial designs as it desires.

(2) *[Relation to Other Treaties]* Nothing in this Treaty shall derogate from any obligations that Contracting Parties have to each other under any other treaties.

(3) *[More Favorable Requirements]* A Contracting Party shall be free to provide for requirements which, from the viewpoint of applicants and holders, are more favorable than the requirements referred to in this Treaty and the Regulations, other than Article 6.

Article 4: Application

(1) *[Contents of Application; Fee]* (a) A Contracting Party may require that an application contain some, or all, of the following indications or elements:

- (i) a request for registration;
 - (ii) the name and address of the applicant;
 - (iii) where the applicant has a representative, the name and address of that representative;
 - (iv) where an address for service or an address for correspondence is required under Article 5(3), such address;
 - (v) a representation of the industrial design, as prescribed in the Regulations;
 - (vi) an indication of the product or products which incorporate the industrial design, or in relation to which the industrial design is to be used;
 - (vii) where the applicant wishes to take advantage of the priority of an earlier application, a declaration claiming the priority of that earlier application, together with indications and evidence in support of the declaration that may be required pursuant to Article 4 of the Paris Convention;
 - (viii) where the applicant wishes to take advantage of Article 11 of the Paris Convention, evidence that the product or products which incorporate the industrial design or in relation to which the industrial design is to be used have been shown at an official, or officially recognized, international exhibition;
 - (ix) any further indication or element prescribed in the Regulations.
- (b) In respect of the application, the payment of a fee may be required.

* * *



Article 4: Application

* * *

(2) [Indication of Information] A Contracting Party may require, where permitted under the applicable law, that an application contain an indication of any prior application or registration, or of other information, including information on traditional cultural expressions and traditional knowledge, of which the applicant is aware, that is relevant to the eligibility for registration of the industrial design.

(3) *[Prohibition of Other Requirements]* No indication or element, other than those referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) and in Article 12, may be required in respect of the application.

* * *

Article 7: Grace Period

A disclosure of the industrial design during a period of [six or] 12 months preceding the date of filing of the application or, if priority is claimed, the date of priority, shall be without prejudice to the novelty and/or originality, and as the case may be, individual character or non-obviousness, of the industrial design, where [it] the disclosure was made:

- (i) by the creator or his/her successor in title; or
- (ii) by a person who obtained the disclosed information directly or indirectly, including as a result of an abuse, from the creator or his/her successor in title.

Article 11: Electronic Industrial Design System

A Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its applicable law, endeavor to provide a system for electronic applications and is encouraged to provide for the electronic exchange of priority documents.

Articles 14-16 – Relief in Respect of Time Limits; Reinstatement of Rights; Correction or Addition of a Priority Claim

Treaty	Relief for Time Limits	Reinstatement of Rights	Correction/Addition of Priority Claim
PLT	<p>Article 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May provide for extension of time limit: (i) before expiration of time limit; or (ii) after expiration of time limit• Shall provide for continued processing, if no provision for extension of time limit	<p>Article 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall provide for reinstatement of rights	<p>Article 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall provide for correction or additional of a priority claim• Shall provide for restoration of the right of priority for a delayed subsequent application

Articles 14-16 – Relief in Respect of Time Limits; Reinstatement of Rights; Correction or Addition of a Priority Claim

Treaty	Relief for Time Limits	Reinstatement of Rights	Correction/Addition of Priority Claim
STLT	<p>Article 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before expiration of time limit: may provide for extension • After expiration of time limit: shall provide for one or more: (i) extension of time; (ii) continued processing; (iii) reinstatement of rights 	N/A	N/A

Articles 14-16 – Relief in Respect of Time Limits; Reinstatement of Rights; Correction or Addition of a Priority Claim

Treaty	Relief for Time Limits	Reinstatement of Rights	Correction/Addition of Priority Claim
RDLT	<p>Article 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall provide for extension of time limit: (i) before expiration of time limit; or (ii) after expiration of time limit • Shall provide for continued processing, if no provision for extension of time 	<p>Article 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall provide for reinstatement of rights, <u>if no provision of extension of time after expiration of time limit or continued processing</u> 	<p>Article 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall provide for correction or additional of a priority claim • Shall provide for restoration of the right of priority for a delayed subsequent application

Article 31: Reservations

- Certain exceptions to mandatory representation – Article 5(2)(b)
- Grace period – Article 7
- Deferred publication – Article 10(1)
- Restoration of priority right for delayed subsequent application – Article 16(2)
- Prohibition of any recording conditions on rights licensee may have regarding infringement proceedings – Article 19(2)

Rules 2 & 3: Partial designs & disclaimers

Rule 2

* * *

(3) *[Partial Design]* A Contracting Party shall, if the applicable law allows, permit the application to be directed to a design embodied in a part of an article or product.

Rule 3

* * *

(2) *[Particulars Concerning Representation]* Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(c), the representation of the industrial design may include:

(i) matter that does not form part of the claimed design if it is [identified as such in the description and/or it is shown by means of dotted or broken lines] shown by visual means such as dotted or broken lines and/or, if permitted under the applicable law, identified as such in the description;

(ii) shading, to show the contours or volume of a three-dimensional design.

* * *



Rule 3: Representations

Rule 3

(1) *[Form of Representation of the Industrial Design]* (a) The representation of the industrial design shall, at the option of the applicant, be in the form of:

- (i) photographs;
- (ii) graphic reproductions;
- (iii) any other visual representation admitted by the Office;
- (iv) a combination of any of the above, where permitted under the applicable law.

(b) The representation of the industrial design may, at the option of the applicant, be in color or in black and white.

(c) The industrial design shall be represented alone, to the exclusion of any other matter.

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Riyadh Design Law Treaty: Next Steps

- Open for signature for one year after its adoption
 - I.e., up to November 21, 2025
 - As of May 1, 2025, 19 WIPO Member States have signed the RDLT
- Will enter into force three months after it is ratified or acceded to by 15 eligible parties
 - As of May 1, 2025, no ratifications or accessions

Riyadh Design Law Treaty: Next Steps

- The U.S. government will make decision on signature and/or accession
- Additional thoughts on moving forward?
 - Changes in applicant practice or use of global system once RDLT implemented in jurisdictions?
 - Ability to take advantage of convergence?

