THE HAGUE AGREEMENT OVERVIEW

The Hague Agreement establishes an international registration system which facilitates protection of industrial designs in member countries and intergovernmental organizations (also referred to as “Contracting Parties”) by means of a single international application filed either directly with the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) or indirectly through the applicant’s Contracting Party.

Information concerning the Hague system, including geographic coverage and a guide for users, is available at WIPO’s Web site http://www.wipo.int/hague/en/.

SEARCHING INTERNATIONAL DESIGN (HAGUE) APPLICATIONS IN PAIR

An international design application satisfying the requirements under the Hague Agreement for international registration will be assigned an international registration number by WIPO, which begins with the series code “DM/nnnnnn”. Thereafter, the international design application will be published by WIPO. Published international design applications designating the United States are assigned an application number by the USPTO beginning with the series code “35/nnn,nnn”.

PAIR users can search for a 35-series application by using the “Application Number” search found under the “Search for Application” section in PAIR. In addition, PAIR users can search for a 35-series application corresponding to a published international design application designating the United States by the international registration number using the “International Design Registration Number” search found under the “Search for Application” section in PAIR.

PLEASE NOTE: Any data associated with international design applications will not be available in PAIR until after the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement has taken effect with respect to the United States. Attempting to search for international design applications or data associated with these applications prior to that date will accordingly result in an error message being displayed.

PLEASE NOTE: If the international design application has not designated the United States or has not been published by WIPO, searching for the corresponding 35-series application based on the international registration number (DM/ number) will not be available in PAIR.
APPLICATION DATA TAB

Once a PAIR user successfully searches an international design application, the user may note new types of information corresponding to international design applications on the Application Data tab, namely the 35-series application number and two new data elements.

1. International Registration Number (Hague)
2. International Registration Publication Date

PLEASE NOTE: If these two data elements have not yet been assigned by WIPO, a hyphen will be displayed to illustrate that the data is not available.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS TAB

Once the international design application has been published by WIPO, the Published Documents tab will become available in PAIR and users will be able to link to the Hague Express database and view additional contents and details of the WIPO publication.

PAIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN APPLICATIONS (HAGUE)

Full technical support for PAIR is available 6 AM to Midnight Eastern Time, Monday – Friday, through the Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 or by e-mail at ebc@uspto.gov.