

PREFACE TO 2024-2 EDITION

The increasing interest in obtaining protection for designs and utility models prompts publication of this volume of digests of international design and utility model laws. The various national laws on design and utility model protection presently offer a rather confusing picture, with the exception of certain Commonwealth of Nations countries, and those former colonies which subsequent to independence adopted *mutatus mutandis* the laws of the former mother country, the design and utility model laws of no two countries are alike; the mere definitions of “design” and “utility model” coincide infrequently. The fact that many countries are studying their laws with a view to major revisions is encouraging.

The coverage offered by each country as specified by its laws is listed directly in the digests immediately beneath the name of the country: “Designs,” “Ornamental Designs,” “Industrial Designs,” “Industrial Designs and Industrial Models,” “Utility Models.” Where a country affords protection for both design and utility models, these are discussed in the text either together or separately in accordance with the format of the particular country’s laws, but within the framework of the section headings adopted for the digests.

While the text within the headings in the digests explains each country’s particular law, procedures, documentary requirements, etc., some of the more remarkable features of international design/utility model protection merit mention here. Included in the definition of “designs” of some countries are industrial designs and models *and* utility models; others provide for industrial design registration but make no provision for industrial models or utility models.

Some countries grant a copyright in a design, while others grant a design the broader protection of a patent, usually for a shorter term than that of ordinary patents. Some countries permit dual protection of designs under both their copyright and design laws; others expressly prohibit simultaneous protection.

Among the many new features and recent developments in this 2024-2 Edition include updated coverage of:

- Albania (Chapter 2A)
- Algeria (Chapter 3)
- The Andorra (Chapter 4)
- Anguilla (Chapter 6)
- Antigua and Barbuda (Chapter 7)
- Armenia (Chapter 9)
- Australia (Chapter 10)

- Austria (Chapter 11)
- Azerbaijan (Chapter 12)
- Updated list of Hague Agreement (Members) (Appendix 2(h))
- Updated Regulations Under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (Appendix 4(b))
- An updated fee schedule for the Patent Cooperation Treaty (Appendix 4(c))
- Updated Implementing Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (Appendix 9(a))

—Publisher's Editorial Staff