

CAYMAN ISLANDS



DESIGN RIGHTS REGISTRATION LAW, 2016

(Law 29 of 2016)

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

**DESIGN RIGHTS REGISTRATION LAW, 2016****(Law 29 of 2016)**

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Cayman Islands.

Short title and commencement

1. This Law may be cited as the *Design Rights Registration Law, 2016* and shall come into force on such date as the Cabinet may by Order appoint.

Definitions

2. (1) In this Law —
 - “**design right**” means a property right currently held in the United Kingdom that —
 - (a) subsists in an original design in accordance with Part III of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; and
 - (b) is derived from registration of the right in the United Kingdom or the European Community;
 - “**extension**”, with respect to a design right held in the United Kingdom, means the extension of such right to the Cayman Islands;
 - “**firm of attorneys-at-law**” means a sole practitioner, partnership or limited liability partnership or corporate body which engages in the practice of law of the Islands;
 - “**owner**”, with respect to a design right, includes a part owner and relates to ownership or proprietorship acquired directly or by assignment or otherwise and currently recognized in the United Kingdom;

“**public officer**” has the meaning assigned to that expression under section 124 of Schedule 2 to the *Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 2009*;

“**recording**” means the making of an entry in the Register;

“**Register**” means the register of design rights, maintained under section 4(a);

“**registered agent**” means a person whose name is entered on the register of agents maintained by the Registrar pursuant to section 4(e) or as a registered agent in the Islands for trade marks or patents;

“**Registrar**” means the Registrar of Design Rights referred to in section 3; and

“**Registry**” means the registers of design rights and registered agents maintained by the Registrar under section 4.

Registrar

3. The Registrar shall be the Registrar referred to in section 4 of the *Patents and Trade Marks Law, 2011 [Law 30 of 2011]*.

Duties of Registrar

4. The duties of the Registrar include —
- (a) maintenance of a register of design rights in accordance with this Law;
 - (b) supervision of the Registry and its staff;
 - (c) prescribing forms and procedures for applications for recording design rights under this Law, receipt of such applications and deciding whether to accept or reject them;
 - (d) collection of appropriate fees payable upon applications, recordings and searches and accounting therefor to the general revenue of the Islands; and
 - (e) maintenance of a register of persons who may act as registered agents in respect of design rights in the Islands and who are recognised as such pursuant to section 5.

Requirement for registered agent

5. (1) Subject to section 17, only a registered agent may transact business with the Registry under this Law.
- (2) A person legally and ordinarily resident in the Islands or a firm of attorneys-at-law desirous of being recognised as a registered agent may apply in writing to the Registrar and the Registrar shall determine the application in accordance with the regulations made under section 21.
- (3) An application under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by the processing fee specified in the Schedule.



- (4) A registered agent shall pay the registered agent annual fee specified in the Schedule.
- (5) For the purpose of this section, legal and ordinary residence is determined in accordance with the *Immigration Law (2010 Revision)*.

Application for extension of design right

- 6.** (1) The owner of a design right may, by the owner's duly authorised registered agent, on payment of the fees specified in the Schedule, apply to the Registrar to have the design right extended to the Islands.
- (2) The Registrar, on being satisfied that —
- (a) the design right is currently held in the United Kingdom;
 - (b) the design right is derived from registration in the United Kingdom or the European Community; and
 - (c) the application is otherwise in order,
- shall record the extension of the design right to the Islands accordingly.
- (3) The extension of a design right which consists of or contains —
- (a) national flags, insignia of royalty, insignia of international organisations and national emblems or the design of such flags, insignia or emblems; or
 - (b) words, letters or devices likely to lead persons to think that the applicant either has or recently has had Government patronage or authorisation,
- may only be recorded if the Registrar is satisfied that consent to the extension has been given by or on behalf of the respective Government or international organisation.
- (4) The recording of an extension of a design right shall be effected by an entry in the Register, showing such particulars as may be prescribed.

Certificate of registration

- 7.** (1) The Registrar shall grant a certificate of registration to the registered owner of a design right when the extension of the design right is recorded.
- (2) The Registrar may, if satisfied that a certificate of registration has been lost or destroyed, or in any other case in which the Registrar thinks it expedient, furnish one or more copies of the certificate to the owner of the design right.

Correction of errors in Registry

- 8.** Where the Registrar is satisfied that a typographical, arithmetical or procedural error has occurred in the Register, the Registrar may correct the error.

Effect of recording extension of design right

9. (1) The effect of the recording of an extension of a design right is to afford in the Islands to the owner of the right so recorded all the equivalent rights and remedies available to the owner in respect of such design right in the United Kingdom.
- (2) The protection and rights in the Islands conferred by this section shall date from the time the right arose in the United Kingdom and continue in force so long as the protection and rights remain in force in the United Kingdom, except that no action for infringement of such right shall be entertained in the Islands in respect of any use of the protection or right prior to the time of the recording of the right.

Jurisdiction of Grand Court

10. The Grand Court shall have jurisdiction in all matters affecting the rights and remedies in the Islands of the owner of a design right conferred by section 9.

Annual fee

11. (1) The owner of a design right recorded in the Registry shall, by the owner's duly authorised registered agent, in January of each year after the year of the initial recording, pay to the revenues of the Islands the annual fee specified in the Schedule.
- (2) A default in the payment of the annual fee specified in the Schedule by 31st March causes the rights protected by the recorded entry to be in abeyance as against the person in default from the relevant 1st April until the annual fee and penalty fee specified in the Schedule have been paid.

Changes

12. (1) If the particulars of the registration of a design right recorded in the Registry are modified or changed in the United Kingdom or in the European Community or there is a change of the registered agent, the owner of the design right, by the owner's duly authorised registered agent, shall notify the Registrar with full particulars and tender the fee specified in the Schedule for recording of a change of particulars and the Registrar shall record the particulars of such change in the records of the Registry.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a default in notification of a modification or change in the United Kingdom or European Community of particulars referred to in subsection (1) shall, until such notification is made, have the effect of causing the rights protected by the recorded entry to be in abeyance as against the person in default for the period of default.
- (3) The period of default referred to in subsection (2) is the period from the date the change was recorded in the United Kingdom or the European Community



until the date of the notification of the change to the Registrar with tender of the fee specified in the Schedule.

Renewal of design right

- 13.** (1) A design right currently recorded in the Register may on the application by the duly authorised registered agent of the owner and on payment of the fees specified in the Schedule, be renewed at any time if —
- (a) the rights have been renewed in the United Kingdom;
 - (b) all applicable annual fees and penalties have been paid; and
 - (c) any changes in the particulars since the initial recording of the extension of the design right have been recorded in the Registry.
- (2) If an application for renewal is filed more than two months after the expiry date recorded in the Register, a penalty fee is payable as specified in the Schedule.

Abandonment of design right

- 14.** (1) The owner of a design right recorded in the Registry shall, by the owner's duly authorised registered agent, notify the Registrar that a design right has been abandoned, whereupon the rights protected by the recorded entry shall be held in abeyance and the Registrar shall record the design right as inactive.
- (2) The obligation to pay an annual fee under section 11 is suspended while the design right is inactive.
- (3) A registered agent may apply to re-activate a design right that has been abandoned under subsection (1) upon payment of the reactivation fee and annual fees specified in the Schedule for the period the design right was suspended.

Cancellation of record of design right

- 15.** (1) Default in the payment of the annual fees and penalties for more than twelve months renders the record of a design right liable to cancellation by the Registrar.
- (2) The resignation of a registered agent with respect to a design right shall cause the record of the design right to be cancelled unless the owner of the design right appoints a new registered agent within sixty days of the Registrar being notified of the registered agent's resignation.
- (3) The owner of a design right the record of which has been cancelled under subsection (1) or (2) may reapply for the recording of the design right as though it were being recorded for the first time in accordance with section 6.
- (4) No liability shall attach for any act performed or thing done by the Registrar under this section.

Publication

16. All recordings and cancellations of recordings made in the Registry (other than the recording of the expiry or abandonment of a design right) shall be published in the Gazette and such publication shall be *prima facie* evidence of the recordings and cancellations.

Searches

17. Any member of the public may cause the Registrar to search the Register for particulars of any recording of a design right contained in it and, on payment of the fees specified in the Schedule, the Registrar shall cause such search to be made and supply the applicant with the particulars requested.

Certificate of good standing

18. (1) The Registrar may, where a request is made by a registered agent, issue a certificate of good standing, in the form determined by the Registrar, to evidence that a design right is still active on the Register and that all applicable annual fees and penalties have been paid.
- (2) A request under this section shall be accompanied by the fee specified in the Schedule.

Falsification of register, etc.

19. Any person who makes or causes to be made a false entry in the Register, or a writing falsely purporting to be a copy of such an entry, or produces or tenders or causes to be produced or tendered in evidence any such writing, knowing the entry or writing to be false, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term of six months, or to both.

Falsely representing a design right as registered

20. (1) A person who —
- (a) falsely represents that a design applied to any article sold by that person is registered in the Register in respect of that article; or
 - (b) after a registered design right has expired, marks any article to which the design has been applied with the word “registered”, or any word or words implying that there is a subsisting design right in respect of the article under this Law,
- commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000.
- (2) For the purpose of this section a person who sells an article having stamped, engraved or impressed thereon or otherwise applied thereto the word “registered”, or any other word expressing or implying that the design applied to the article is registered, is deemed to represent that the design applied to the article is registered as a design right in respect of that article.



Regulations

- 21.** The Cabinet may make regulations prescribing all matters that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to the purposes of this Law and, in particular, regulations —
- (a) prescribing procedures for the conduct of business with the Registry;
 - (b) prescribing particulars to be entered in the Register when recording the extension of a design right;
 - (c) authorizing the Registrar to issue Practice Directions to registered agents for the conduct of the business of the Registry or for giving effect to the Regulations; and
 - (d) respecting applications for recognition as registered agents, including —
 - (i) any qualification to being recognized as such;
 - (ii) the payment of fees by applicants; and
 - (iii) the exemption from reapplying to be recognised where the person is a recognised registered agent for trade marks or patents.

Amendment of Schedule

- 22.** The Cabinet may by Order amend the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

(Sections 5, 6 and 10 to 13)

FEES

Part 1 - Design Rights

Item	Particulars	Fee
1.	Application fee for extension of design rights to the Islands	\$150
2.	Annual fee for design right	\$150
3.	Late payment of design right annual fee (for each year of default)	\$100
4.	Application fee to record a change of particulars of a design right recorded in the Registry or a change of registered agent.	\$150
5.	Application fee to record renewal of a design right recorded in the Registry	\$150
6.	Penalty for late filing of a renewal	\$100
7.	Reactivation fee for an abandoned design right	\$150

Part 2 - General

1.	Search fee	\$50
2.	Non-refundable processing fee accompanying an application to be recognised by the Registrar as a registered agent	\$200
3.	Registered agent annual fee: number of registered design rights as at 31st December	Under 10: \$200 10-99: \$500 100+: \$2,000
4.	Issue of a Certificate of Good Standing in relation to a design right	\$100

Passed by the Legislative Assembly the 24th day of October, 2016.

Juliana O'Connor-Connolly
Speaker.

Zena Merren-Chin
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

