

1	Subject of protection	Registrable design	A registrable design is a shape, pattern or color, or any combination thereof, of an article, which creates an aesthetic impression to the eye (Design Law Art. 2[1]).
		Requirements for being an "article"	A mere two-dimensional figure or image such as a graphic symbol cannot be the subject of protection.
		Graphic image	A graphic image itself is not to be regarded as a protectable subject but to be protected as a part of an article. The article that includes the part should be specified in the drawings.
		Partial design	An inseparable portion of an article can be protected as a partial design. The common expression used in drawings for a partial design application is to identify the claimed portion of an article using solid lines and the other portion using broken lines.
		Visibility	In principle, the design should be recognized by the naked eye.
		Must-Fit provision	There is a must-fit provision (Design Law Art. 2). However, this provision is hardly applied for rejection.
		Must-Match provision	No must-match provision.
2	Grace period		The grace period is 6 months from the date of disclosure (regardless of the priority period).
3	Claiming priority		The application claiming priority can be filed 6 months from the priority date under the Paris Convention. The priority certificate has to be submitted within 3 months from the filing date.
4	One application per design system		An application including a plurality of designs should be separately filed even if the designs are similar to one another. An exception is the case of a design for a Set of Articles (see next column).
5	Specific systems	Set of articles	When two or more articles are used together and the designs of those articles are coordinated, these designs can be filed in a single application as a Design for a Set of Articles.
		Related design	If a design is similar to a principal design, it can be registered as a related design.
		Secret design	A registered design can be kept secret for a maximum of 3 years. The request can be made at the timing of filing or payment of the registration fee.
6	Request and drawings	Name of article	The name of the article affects the scope of the design rights. It should be carefully chosen.
		Explanation of article	The purpose of use, conditions of use, etc. have to be explained to ensure understanding of articles such as novel articles, multifunctional articles or special devices.
		Explanation of design	In some cases, an explanation of a design has to be given: e.g., the part of a partial design for which the registration is sought is to be identified and explained.; when the entire article or a part of the article is transparent, it should be explained so.; the lines or dots for identifying, etc.
		Drawings	The standard rules require submitting a set of drawings from six views, however photographs, models or specimens can be submitted in lieu of drawings.
7	Substantive examination	Examination term	The average examination term is about 7 month from the filing date (2009). Expedited examination is available when the application meets specific requirements e.g. the application has a corresponding foreign application, etc.
8	Design right	Duration	Design rights shall expire 20 years from the date of registration.