

NEW DESIGN LAW IN GREECE

No. 2417/1996

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Presidential Decree No. 259/97

This new Law introduces the protection of industrial designs and models in Greece, based either on an international filing or on a national application. The most important provisions of the Law refer to:

- the filing of an international application for industrial design or model and the filing of a national application with the possibility of claiming priority rights, based on a previous filing in one of the countries-members of the Paris Convention.
- **definition of the novelty** of an industrial design and model: *«A design or model is considered to be new if, until the time of filing of the application or the time of the priority, no identical or similar design or model has been presented to the public. The designs, the characteristics of which differ only as to their insignificant details, are considered to be identical».*
- **procedure and registration terms:** the necessary documents for the filing of a design or model application are:
 - a. the drawings of the design
 - b. description consisting of up to one hundred words (if desired but not necessary)
 - c. full details of the applicant and the inventor
 - d. priority document, if priority rights are claimed
 - e. power of attorney, duly signed and notarised
 - f. document proving the relationship between applicant and inventor.
- **duration of protection:** the duration of the validity of a registered design or model is five years, starting from the date of filing the application at OBI, with the possibility of renewal per five years each time and for a total period of 25 years.