

The Apostille - Hague Convention of 1960

ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT OF Legalisation FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

DISCLAIMER: The information herein provided relating to the requirements of specific foreign countries is for general information purposes only. Up-to-date information regarding the Hague Convention (Apostille) can be found at: <http://www.hcch.net/>. Questions involving interpretation of specific foreign laws should be address to counsel (lawyers) in that jurisdiction.

The following countries follow the Hague Convention on Legalisation of Foreign Public Documents:

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United States (Extended to 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

 Vanuatu - Venezuela

 Yugoslavia

 Zimbabwe

Andorra: Entered into force for Andorra 12/31/96. **Competent Authority:** On December 13, 2001, Andorra advised that the competent authorities to issue the certificate in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 are:

1. El Ministre d'Afers Exteriors
2. El Ministre de Justícia i Interior

All legalization requests are centralized through the following address:

Ministeri d'Afers Exteriors

Prat de la Creu

Edifici del Govern

Andorra la Vella

Principat d'Andorra

Tel.: 376-875-700

Fax: 376-869-559

E-mail: exteriors.gov@andorra.ad

Angola: Now Independent. **No confirmation issued by Angola that Convention is deemed to apply.** On October 22, 1969, Portugal extended Convention to Angola. Portugal declared the competent authority to be the Governor General ("Les Gouverneurs generaux ("Governadores Gerais"). Current Competent Authority Unknown.

Anguilla: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla which entered into force April 25, 1965. Antigua achieved independence on November 1, 1981 as Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda declared on May 1, 1985 that it considered itself bound by the Convention effective the date of independence. Extended by the United Kingdom to Anguilla February 24, 1965. **Competent Authority:** the Governor of Anguilla.

Antigua and Barbuda: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Antigua which entered into force April 25, 1965. Achieved independence in 1981 and Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda declared that it considers itself bound by the Convention. **Competent Authority:** a. Governor-General, Antigua-Barbuda; b. Registrar of the The High Court; High Street; St. John's, Antigua, West Indies; tel: 809-462-3147

Argentina: Entered into force 2/18/88. **Competent Authority:** Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Reconquista 1088, 1003 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Armenia: Entered into force 8/14/94. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice

Australia: Entered into force 3/16/95. **Competent Authority:** Secretary to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth

Austria: Entered into force 1/13/68. **Competent Authority:** 1. Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bundesministerium für auswärtige Angelegenheiten); 2. The Presidents of any Civil Court of First Instances, with the exception of the Commercial Court (Handelsgericht) of Vienna and the Juvenile Court (Jugendgerichtshof) of Vienna, or their representatives authorized to issue the apostille; 3. The Governors of the Provinces (Landeshauptmänner); 4. Governments of the Provinces (Landesregierungen)

Bahamas: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Bahamas which entered into force April 25, 1965. Bahamas achieved independence on July 10, 1973. On April 30, 1976 the Bahamas declared that it considered itself bound by the Convention effective the date of independence. **Competent Authority:** 1. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 2. Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 3. Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 4. Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 5. Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 6. First Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Barbados: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Barbados which entered into force April 25, 1965. Barbados achieved independence November 30, 1966. By a note of August 1995 to the depositary, the Government of Barbados declared that it considers itself bound by the Convention effective the date of independence. **Competent Authority:** 1. Solicitor-General; 2. Deputy Solicitor General; 3. Registrar of the Supreme Court of Barbados Law Courts, Bridgetown, Barbados, tel: 809-42-75537; 4. The Permanent Secretary - Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport; 5. The Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport

Belarus: Entered into Force May 31, 1992. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Justice (judicial/court documents); Ministry of National Education(educational documents); Committee for Archives and Administration (state archives documents); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (all other documents)

Belgium: Entered into force 2/9/76. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Cooperation in Development (Ministere des Affaires Etrangères, du Commerce extérieur et de la Coopération au Développement)

Belize: Entered into force 4/11/93. **Competent Authority:** The Registrar General

Bermuda: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Bermuda which entered into force April 25, 1965. **Competent Authority:** On October 17, 1968 the competent authority was declared to be the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bermudas or Somers Islands or any member of his staff signing on his behalf and using his official seal.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Entered into Force: December 20, 1991. **Competent Authority:** By Note dated 17 August 2000, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the depositary of the following:

"(...) the authorities designated by Bosnia and Herzegovina who are competent to issue the certificate referred to in the first paragraph of Article 3 of the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents concluded at The Hague on 5th October 1961, are Municipal Courts in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republic of Srpska. These certificates shall be subject to certification by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Botswana: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Bechuanaland Protectorate which entered into force April 25, 1965. The Bechuanaland Protectorate achieved independence September 30, 1966 as Botswana. On September 16, 1968, Botswana declared that it considered itself bound by the Convention effective the date of independence. **Competent Authority:** 1. Permanent Secretary; 2. Registrar of the High Court; 3. District Commissioner; 4. Any person appointed or empowered to hold a subordinate court of the first class; 5. Such other person as the President may appoint by notice in the Gazette.

British Virgin Islands: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the British Virgin Islands which entered into force April 25, 1965.
Competent Authority:

Registrar of Courts
Tortola, BVI
Phone: 284-494-3492
Fax: 284-494-6664

Brunei: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Brunei which entered into force April 25, 1965. Brunei achieved independence January 1, 1984. Brunei declared that it considers itself bound by the Convention December 3, 1987. **Competent Authority:** Chief Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar and Registrars of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam; Chief Magistrate, Magistrates and Registrars of subordinate Courts of Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria: Entry into force April 29, 2001. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Justice regarding documents of the courts and notaries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding other documents

Cayman Islands: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Cayman Islands which entered into force April 25, 1965. **Competent Authority:** declared October 17, 1968 to be the Governor of the Cayman Islands

China, Hong Kong S.A.R. ONLY: Entered into force 6/3/97 in accordance with an exchange of diplomatic notes. Applies only to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Convention is **not/not** in force for other jurisdictions in the People's Republic of China. **Competent Authority:** Registrar, Supreme Court; Deputy Registrar or Assistant Registrar, Supreme Court; and Deputy Chief Secretary, Supreme Court, Registrar, Hong Kong Supreme Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong, tel: (852) 2825-4254. See Hong Kong SAR.

Colombia: Entered into force January 30, 2001. **Colombian Competent Authority to Issue Apostille:**

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Oficina de Legalizaciones
Doctor Carlos Guillermo DIAZ BUITRAGO
Transversal 17A, NO. 9-45
Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
tel: (1) 525-1862, 525-1860, 522-3697

Comoros Islands: Now Independent. **No formal confirmation that Convention is deemed to apply.** When France extended its accession to the Convention to the Comoros Islands (Moroni), the competent authority to affix the Convention "apostille" certificate was the General Procecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Appeal at Moroni (le Procureur de la Republique pres le Tribunal Superieur d'appel de Moroni.)

Croatia: Entered into force October 8, 1991. **Competent Authority:** Municipal courts or the Ministry of Justice and Administration of the Republic of Croatia

Cyprus: Competent Authority: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Cyprus

Czech Republic: Signed the Convention June 23, 1998; ratified the Convention January 8, 1999. Entered into force: May 1, 1999. **Competent Authority:** Designation of the competent authorities to issue the certificate in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1: 1. the Ministry of Justice, International Department (certificates issued by authorities of justice, including certificates issued or certified by notaries); 2. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Department (documents issued by authorities of State Administration or by the other ones).

Djibouti: Now Independent. **No confirmation issued by newly independent country that Convention is deemed to apply.** When France extended its accession to the Convention to the Affars and the Issas (now Djibouti), the competent authority to affix the Convention "apostille" certificate was the General Procecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Appeal at Djibouti (le Procureur de la Republique pres le Tribunal Superieur d'appel de Djibouti.) Current Competent Authority: Unknown.

Dominica: No confirmation issued by newly independent country that Convention is deemed to apply. On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Dominica which entered into force April 25, 1965. Dominica achieved independence November 3, 1978 and became the Commonwealth of Dominica. **Competent Authority:** Unknown.

El Salvador: Competent Authority: Ministry of Foreign Relations, General Directorate for the Foreign Service, Carretera a Santa Tecla, Km 6 1/2, San Salvador, El Salvador, tel: 503-243-3740/3776/3707, Cost: No Fee

Estonia: Accession - December 11, 2000; Entry into Force - October 1, 2001. Designation of the competent authorities to issue the certificate in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1:

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal Division, Consular Department, Islandi väljak 1, 15049 Tallinn, phone +372 6317 440, fax +372 631 7454;
2. Estonian Ministry of Education, Administrative Department, Room 104, Tõnismägi 11, 15192 Tallinn, phone +372 6 281 243, fax +372 6 281 390;
3. Administrative Department, Munga 18, 51007 Tartu, phone +372 7 350 252, fax +372 7 350 250;
4. Monitoring Department, Munga 18, Tartu, phone +372 7 350 231, fax +372 7 350 250;
5. Ministry of Justice, Courts' Department, Tartu mnt 85, Room 103, 10115 Tallinn, phone +372 612 7810, fax +372 612 7811;
6. Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Administrative Department, Legal Services office, Lai 40 , 10133 Tallinn, phone +372 612 5199, fax +372 5198;
7. Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Relations and Training Department, Gonsiori 29, 15027 Tallinn, phone +372 626 9875, fax +372 699 2209.

Falkland Islands: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Falkland Islands which entered into force April 25, 1965. **Competent Authority:** On October 17, 1968 competent authority declared to be the Governor of the Falkland Islands

Fiji: Now independent. On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Fiji which entered into force April 25, 1965. Fiji achieved independence October 10, 1970. Fiji declared on March 29, 1971 that it considered itself bound by the Convention. Fiji's accession to the Convention was effective the date of Fijian independence. **Competent Authority:** The Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Fiji.

Finland: As of September 21, 2000, Finland announced multiple new authorities competent to issue the apostille certificate. See [the Hague Conference on Private International Law website](http://www.hcch.net/e/status/stat12e.html) at <http://www.hcch.net/e/status/stat12e.html>

France: Departments in Europe and Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion): The General Prosecutors at the Courts of Appeal (Les Procureurs generaux pres les cours d' appel

French Overseas Territories:

- **New Caledonia:** Extended by France 11/25/64. **Competent Authority:** The General Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Noumea (le Procureur general pres la Cour d'appel de Noumea
- **Wallis and Futuna:** The Judge of the Section of the Court of First Instance of Noumea at Mata Utu (le Juge de la Section du Tribunal de premiere instance de Noumea siegeant a Mata Utu)
- **French Polynesia:** The Prosecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Appeal at Papeete (le Procureur de la Republique pres le Tribunal superieur d'appel de Papeete)
- **St. Pierre and Miquelon:** The President of the High Court of Appeal of Saint-Pierre (le President du Tribunal Superieur d'appel de Saint-Pierre)

Germany, Federal Republic of: Competent Authorities: (a) Federal Authorities: 1. Federal Administrative Office (Bundesverwaltungsamt in Koln); 2. President of the

German Patent Office (Präsident des Deutschen Patentamtes); (b) Authorities of the "Länder"; 3. Minister of Justice (Ministerium (Senator) für Justiz Land-, (Amts-) gerichtspräsident); 4. President of the Provincial Court (Landgerichtspräsident); 5. President of the District Court/Court of First Instance (Amtsgerichtspräsident); 6. Minister of Home Affairs, Ministerium (Senator) für Innere Regierungspräsident (Präsident des Verwaltungsbezirks); 7. Ministerium (Senator) für Inneres Regierungspräsident (Präsident des Verwaltungsbezirks); 8. Head of the Provincial Government (Regierungspräsident); 9. Head of the Administrative District (Präsident des Verwaltungsbezirks)

With the reunification of Germany on October 3, 1990, Convention apostille certificates from the new federal Länder of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia is the responsibility of the following Land authorities: 1. Minister of Justice, Die Ministerien für Justiz sowie die Präsidenten der Landgerichte (Bezirksgerichte); 2. Head of the Provincial Government, Die Ministerien für Inneres sowie die Regierungspräsidenten (Bezirksregierungen) und das Landesverwaltungsamt (Thüringen); 3. Minister of Home Affairs, Die Ministerien für Inneres; 4. Die Regierungspräsidenten (Bezirksregierungen), die Ministerien für Justiz sowie die Präsidenten der Landgerichte (Bezirksgerichte)

Gibraltar: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Gibraltar which entered into force April 25, 1965. **Competent Authority:** declared on October 17, 1968 to be the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the City and Garrison of Gibraltar

Greece: Competent Authority: local nomarchy (department). Specifically, for Athens, administrative documents come from the Athens Nomarchy, Stadiou 29, Athens, Greece. All judicial documents, both penal and civil, as well as notarial deeds, are legalized by the local court of first instance, in the area where the decision or the notarial deed was issued.

Grenada: Now Independent. **No confirmation issued by newly independent country that Convention is deemed to apply.** On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Grenada which entered into force April 25, 1965. Grenada achieved independence February 7, 1974. **Competent Authority:** Unknown.

Guyana: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to British Guyana which entered into force April 25, 1965. British Guyana achieved independence in May 26, 1966 and became Guyana. Confirmation to U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana December, 1996 that Guyana considers itself bound by the Convention. **Competent Authority:** Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Takuba Lodge 254 South Road Bourda, Georgetown, Guyana, Tel: 011-592-2-54166 or 011-592-2-54151, Fax: 011-592-2-59192

Guernsey: Extended to Guernsey by the United Kingdom January 24, 1965. Competent authority declared January 17, 1968. **Competent Authority:** The Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey

Hong Kong SAR: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Hong Kong which entered into force for Hong Kong April 25, 1965.

Sovereignty of Hong Kong reverted to the People's Republic of China on July 1, 1998. China declared the Hague Legalization Convention shall continue to apply to Hong Kong SAR effective July 1, 1998. **Competent Authority:** first declared October 17, 1968. On October 18, 1986, the then Governor of Hong Kong delegated authority to the Registrar, Supreme Court; Deputy Registrar or Assistant Registrar, Supreme Court; and Deputy Chief Secretary, Supreme Court, Registrar, Hong Kong Supreme Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong, tel: (852) 2825-4254. The Competent Authority did not change following reversion to Chinese sovereignty.

Hungary: Competent Authority: 1. Minister of Justice regarding public documents and judicial documents; 2. Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding public documents and legalizations executed by other authorities

Ireland: Signed the Convention October 29, 1996; ratified the Convention January 8, 1999. Entered into force: March 9, 1999. **Competent Authority:** Designation of the competent authorities to issue the certificate in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1: the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

Israel: Competent Authority: 1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 2. Registrars of Magistrates Courts and Civil Servants appointed by the Minister of Justice under Notaries Law, 1976.

Italy: Competent Authority: 1. The Public Prosecutor (I Procurators della Repubblica); 2. The Competent Prefetti (Heads) of the Territories for the Valley of Aosta; Il Presidente della Regione (The Head of the District for the Provinces of Trente and Bolzano; Il Commissario di Governo (The Commissioner of the Government)

Japan: Competent Authority: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Authentications Division (Shomei-han) 2-1 Kasumigaseki 2-chome, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 100, Japan. Request an application for obtaining an Apostille from the Ministry. The letter must include an explanation as to why you need this document. After you receive the application, you must complete it and send it back to the Japanese authority with the "original" document to be authenticated bearing the appropriate seal of the issuing authority. The "original" document must have been certified by the issuing office within the past six months. You should also send a photocopy of the document and a self addressed stamped envelope. You will receive the authenticated documents directly from the Ministry. There is no fee for this service. You may also contact the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in the U.S. nearest you for additional information.

Jersey: Extended by the United Kingdom January 24, 1965. **Competent Authority:** declared October 17, 1968, the Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick of Jersey.

Kazakhstan: Entry into force January 30, 2001. **Competent Authority:** By Note dated 19 September 2001, the Republic of Kazakhstan informed the depositary of the following:

"... and has the honour to inform that the new authorities have been designated to issue the Apostille in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan N 545 dated 24.04.01:

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for official documents issued

by the bodies for justice and other state bodies, including the notary offices;
The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for official documents issued by the bodies for education, science and the educational institutions of the Republic;
The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for official documents issued by the structural subdivisions of the Migration Police;
The Committee on administration of the archives and documentation to the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Consent of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for archive certificates and copies of archive documents issued by the state archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
The Committee for forensic (legal) administration to the Supreme Court (to be co-ordinated) for official documents issued by the law-enforcement bodies and the bodies for execution of law;
The Ministry on State Income of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for official documents issued by the structural and territorial subdivisions of the Ministry on State Income of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
The General Office of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Kazakhstan (to be co-ordinated) - for official documents issued by the bodies of Public Prosecutors, investigation agencies and inquest;
The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan - for archive certificates and copies of archive documents issued by the special state archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
The Committee for National Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan (to be co-ordinated) - for archive certificates and copies of archive documents issued by the special archives of the Committee for National Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
The designated bodies are entitled to delegate the authority to their territorial bodies to issue the Apostille.
Attachment: The Hague Convention dated 05.10.1961 abolishing the legalisation for foreign public documents stipulates the Apostille of 9 x 9 cm in size.
It is expedient to have a stamp of the Apostille, which size is 13 x 13 cm.
A script of the text can be enlarged for the comfort of its representation and reading. It is not allowed to change (translate) a language document, text and its order of placing on the stamp.
The stamp can be fulfilled in the language of the Republic of Kazakhstan only."

Kiribati: Now Independent. **No confirmation issued by newly independent country that Convention is deemed to apply.** On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to the Gilbert Islands which entered into force April 25, 1965. The Gilbert Islands achieved independence as Kiribati July 12, 1979. **Competent Authority:** Unknown.

Korea, Republic of (South Korea): Ratified Convention January 13, 2000; in accordance with Article 28, second paragraph, the Convention will enter into force for the Republic of Korea in the absence of any objections from a State which has ratified the Convention before the deposit of the accession, notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands within a period of six months after the date on which the Ministry has notified it of the accession. For practical reasons, this six month's period will run from January 31, 2000 to July 31, 2000. Pursuant to Article 10, the Republic of Korea objects to the following: **a)** the freedom to send judicial documents, by postal channels, directly to persons abroad, **b)** the freedom of judicial officers, officials or

other competent persons of the State of origin to effect service of judicial documents directly through the judicial officials or other competent persons of the State of destination, c) the freedom of any person interested in a judicial proceeding to effect service of judicial documents directly through judicial officers, officials or other competent persons of the State of destination. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Court Administration, Attn.: Director of International Affairs, 967, Seocho-dong, Seocho-gu, SEOUL 137-750, Republic of Korea

Latvia: Entered into force: May 11, 1995. **Competent Authority:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Department, 57 Elizbietes Street, Riga, LV 1510, Latvia, tel: 728-9505, Cost: \$10.00 (for individuals, 10 day processing), \$20.00 (for individuals, one day service), \$20.00 (for organizations, 10 day processing), \$40.00 (for organizations, one day service)

Lesotho: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Basutoland which entered into force April 25, 1965. Basutoland achieved independence on October 4, 1966 as Lesotho. On April 24, 1972, Lesotho declared that it considers itself bound by the Convention. The effective date of Lesotho's accession is the date of independence. **Competent Authority:** 1. The Attorney General; 2. The Permanent Secretary of a Ministry or Department; 3. The Registrar of the High Court; 4. A Resident Magistrate; 5. A Magistrate of the First Class; 6. By appointment of the Minister, noticed in Gazette

Liberia: CONVENTION NOT IN FORCE BETWEEN U.S. AND LIBERIA as U.S. concluded Liberia cannot fulfil responsibilities of competent authority to issue Convention "Apostille" at present.

Liechtenstein: Competent Authority: Office of the Government of the Prince at Vaduz (Regierungskanzlei der furstlichen Regierung)

Lithuania: Entered into force November 5, 1996. **Competent Authority:** Dalia Salkauskiene, Head of Consular Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Division, J. Tumo-Vaizganto g.2, 2600 Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania.

Luxembourg: Competent Authority: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres)

Macau SAR: Extended to Macau by Portugal at the time of Portugal's accession to the Convention on October 22, 1969. **Competent Authority:** 1. The Governor of Macau, Palacio do Governo, Av. da Praia Grande, Macau; 2. The Assistant Secretary for Justice of Macau, R. de S. Lourenco, Edificio dos Secretarios Adjuntos, 1 andar, Macau 3. The Head of the Justice Department of Macau Av. da Praia Grande, 594, Edificio BCM, 8 andar, Macau. **NOTE:** Macau will revert to Chinese sovereignty December 20, 1999. By letter of 10 December 1999, the Ambassador of the People's Republic to the Netherlands informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands of the following:

The Convention abolishing the requirement of legalisation for foreign public documents, done at the Hague on 5 October 1961 (hereinafter referred to as the Convention), which applies to Macau at present, shall continue to apply to the Macau

Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999. The Government of the People's Republic of China also wishes to make the following declaration: In accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, it designates the Chief Executive, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, and the Director of Justice Affairs Department of the Macau Special Administrative Region as the authorities competent to issue the certificate referred to in the first paragraph of Article 3 of the Convention in the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Macedonia: Entered into force September 30, 1993. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Justice

Malawi: Malawi acceded to the Convention February 24, 1967. The Convention entered into force for Malawi on December 2, 1967. **Competent Authority:** 1. The Attorney General or the Solicitor General; 2. The Permanent Secretary of a Government Ministry; 3. The Registrar of the High Court; 4. The Registrar General; 5. A Government Agent; 6. A notary public; 7. A Resident Magistrate

Malta: Competent Authority: Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs

Man, Isle of: Extended by the United Kingdom on January 24, 1965. Competent Authority declared October 17, 1968. **Competent Authority:** The Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man

Marshall Islands, Republic of: Acceded to the Convention November 18, 1991. The Convention entered into force for the RMI on August 14, 1992. **Competent Authority:** 1. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands; 2. Attorney General and Acting Attorney General; 3. Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the High Court; 4. Registrars and Deputy Registrars of Corporations; 5. Maritime Administrator and Special Agents thereof; 6. Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs or Special Agents thereof.

Mauritius: On December 20, 1968, Mauritius declared it considers itself bound by the Convention. On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Mauritius which entered into force April 25, 1965. The effective date of accession is March 12, 1968, the date of independence. **Competent Authority:** In a note to the depositary dated September 17, 1973, Mauritius declared the competent authority is now: 1. The Permanent Secretary, or in his absence, 2. A Principal Assistant Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office

Mexico:

Competent Authorities:

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Montserrat: On February 24, 1965, the United Kingdom extended the Convention to Montserrat which entered into force April 25, 1965. **Competent Authority:** declared October 17, 1968 to be the Governor of Montserrat

Mozambique: Now Independent. **No confirmation issued by newly independent country that Convention is deemed to apply.** On October 22, 1969, Portugal extended the Convention to Mozambique. **Competent Authority:** designated to be the Governor General ("Les Gouverneurs generaux ("Governadores Gerais"). Competent Authority Unknown.