



EU Design Act

A major step in modernizing EU Design law

Key changes
that will become
effective on

1 May 2025

European Union (“EU”) designs will replace
Community designs

EU design holders can use the new design
registration symbol ®

Design renewal fees will significantly increase
- we recommend that EU design holders
renew their designs before 1 May 2025, to
benefit from the current lower renewal fees

- *EUR 90 to EUR 150 for first renewal*
- *EUR 120 to EUR 250 for second renewal*
- *EUR 150 to EUR 400 for third renewal*
- *EUR 180 to EUR 700 for the final fourth renewal*
- *The applicable renewal fee will be calculated based on the date of filing the renewal request*

Calculation of EU design renewal period will
change

- *The EU design renewal period will be calculated six months before the expiry date of the EU design (plus six months grace period) to align with the EUTM renewal period*
- *The last day of the month on which protection ends will no longer be of relevance*

All filing fees related to EU designs will be
frontloaded

- *Payment of application fee will be a filing date requirement*

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Deferment fees to delay the publication of EU design registrations will be paid at the time of filing and no longer at the time of deferred publication

- *Deferred publication will only be avoided by submitting request for surrender*

Fees for transfer (assignment) of EU designs and for cancellation of a licence will be abolished

Multiple EU design applications indicating products in different Locarno classes will be allowed and the “unity of class” requirement will be abolished

A maximum of 50 designs per EU design filing will be allowed

- *Currently the number of designs in a multiple application is unlimited*

EU design infringing acts will include 3D printing and transit of infringing design products

Limitations to EU design rights will also include referential use and comment, critique or parody

Updated EUIPO design Guidelines will come into force

The second phase of the EU Design Act will become effective on 1 July 2026 – this will include changes such as new types of designs and digital designs.

We are here to help you navigate these changes to maximize your design portfolio - our people have first-hand, in-depth knowledge, having been involved in the foundations of the reform. Members of our team are part of the ECTA EUIPO Link and Design Committees and the INTA Design Committee. For more information, please contact a member of our *[EU Design Act Taskforce](#)*.