

Apostille

List of countries

The Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents (HCCH 1961 Apostille Convention) facilitates the use of public documents abroad. The purpose of the Convention is to abolish the traditional requirement of legalisation, replacing the often long and costly legalisation process with the issuance of a single Apostille certificate by a Competent Authority in the place where the document originates. The electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP) was launched in 2006 to support the electronic issuance and verification of Apostilles around the world.

The Convention has over 110 Contracting Parties, and has become one of the most widely applied multilateral treaties in the area of legal cooperation, with several million Apostilles issued each year. An Apostille is a certificate that authenticates the origin of a public document (e.g., a birth, marriage or death certificate, a judgment, an extract of a register or a notarial attestation). An Apostille only certifies the origin of the public document to which it relates: it certifies the authenticity of the signature or seal of the person or authority that signed or sealed the public document and the capacity in which this was done. An Apostille does not certify the content of the public document to which it relates.

Each country that is party to the Convention must designate one or several authorities that are entitled to issue Apostilles. These authorities are called Competent Authorities – only they are permitted to issue Apostilles.

The list of all Competent Authorities designated by each country that has joined the Apostille Convention is available in the Apostille Section of the Hague Conference website.

Apostilles are issued on the **same day** in most cases. The costs of apostille varies from country to country (\$25 to \$100). Service providers charge additional cost.

Public documents

Here is a detailed list of public documents to affix apostille

- documents emanating from a court or a court official;
- administrative documents;
- notarial acts;
- official certificates placed on private documents;
- diplomatic and consular documents.
- birth certificate
- a person being alive
- death certificate
- name

- marriage, including capacity to marry and marital status
- divorce, legal separation or marriage annulment
- registered partnership, including capacity to enter into a registered partnership and registered partnership status
- dissolution of a registered partnership, legal separation or annulment of a registered partnership
- parenthood
- adoption papers
- commercial invoices
- transcripts,
- translations
- diplomas, certificates
- affidavits
- background check reports (local, police, FBI)
- domicile and/or residence
- nationality certificate
- passport copy and driving license
- absence of a criminal record
- the right to vote and stand as a candidate in municipal elections and elections to the European Parliament.

Legalisation

If your public document was issued or is to be used in a country where the Apostille Convention does not apply, you should contact the Embassy or a Consulate of the country where you intend to use the document in order to find out what your options are. You probably had to do legalisation.

Legalization is the process of authenticating or certifying a legal document so a foreign country's legal system will recognize it as with full legal effect. It is carried out in 3 steps

1. Verification by the government of the issuing country
2. Verification by the Embassy of the destination country within the issuing country
3. A final verification of all steps within the destination country itself

Where to Get Apostille in Your Country?

Please see below the full list of competent authorities who issue apostille