

Legalization - Apostille / Embassy

IF YOU WANT, ADDITIONALLY YOU CAN GET YOUR HIGHEST DEGREE FROM NMU LEGALIZED;

- APOSTILLED (FOR USE IN THE HAGUE CONVENTION COUNTRIES LISTED BELOW)

OR

- FROM YOUR COUNTRY EMBASSY (IF YOUR COUNTRY IS NOT PART OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION COUNTRIES AND IF THEY ALLOW DISTANCE EDUCATION)

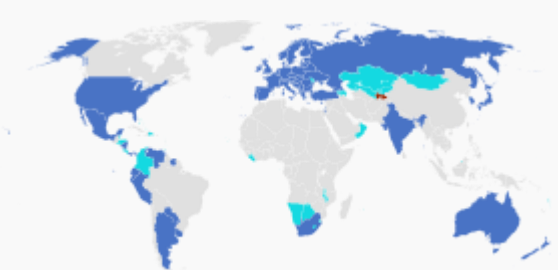
NOTE: LEGALIZATION FEES - PAID BY YOU DIRECTLY TO THE THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDER AFTER RECEIVING THE DEGREES FROM NMU –
USD 250

WE WILL HELP YOU TO GET IT FREE FROM OURSIDE, BY SENDING THE COPY OF THE DEGREE TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER. YOU WILL RECEIVE THE LEGALIZED HARD COPY DEGREE BY COURIER.

READ BELOW FOR MOR DETAILS

Apostille Convention

Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents



■ State parties to the convention (members of the [HCCH](#))
■ State parties to the convention (non-members of the HCCH)
■ States Parties for which the convention has not entered into force

Signed 5 October 1961

Location The Netherlands

Effective	14 January 1965
Condition	ratification by 3 states ^[1]
Parties	110
Depositary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Netherlands)
Languages	French (prevailing in case of divergence) and English



The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents has supplanted legalization as the default procedure by a system of apostille. It is available if both the origin country of the document and the destination country are party to the treaty. The apostille is a stamp on which standard validating information is supplied. It is available (dependent on the document) from the competent authority of the origin country, and often the document has to be notarized before it can be apostilled. In the United States the Secretaries of State for the various states are the competent authorities who can apply an apostille. A list of the competent authorities designated by each country that has joined the treaty is maintained by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The **Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents**, the **Apostille Convention**, or the **Apostille Treaty** is an international treaty drafted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. It specifies the modalities through which a document issued in one of the signatory countries can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states. Such a certification is called an **apostille** (French: *a marginal note*).

Procedure

Apostilles are affixed by *Competent Authorities* designated by the government of a state which is party to the convention.^[2] A list of these authorities is maintained by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Examples of designated authorities are embassies, ministries, courts or (local) governments. For example, in the United States, the Secretary of State of each state and his or her deputies are usually competent authorities. In the United Kingdom, all apostilles are issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Milton Keynes.^[3]

To be eligible for an apostille, a document must first be issued or certified by an officer recognised by the authority that will issue the apostille. For example, in the US state of Vermont, the Secretary of State maintains specimen signatures of all notaries public, so documents that have been notarised are eligible for apostilles.^[4] Likewise, courts in the Netherlands are eligible of placing an apostille on all municipal civil status documents directly. In some cases, intermediate certifications may be required in the country where the document originates before it will be eligible for an apostille. For example, in New York City, the Office of Vital Records (which issues, among other things, birth certificates) is not directly recognised by the New York Secretary of State.^[5] As a consequence, the signature of

the City Clerk must be certified by the County Clerk of New York County to make the birth certificate eligible for an apostille.^{[6][7]} In Japan all the official documents are issued in Japanese language, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA, JAPAN) then provides an apostille for these documents.^[8] In India the apostille certification can be obtained from the Ministry of External Affairs^[9]

Information

An apostille issued by Norwegian authorities.

The apostille itself is a stamp or printed form consisting of 10 numbered standard fields. On the top is the text *APOSTILLE*, under which the text *Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961* (French for Hague Convention of 5 October 1961) is placed. This title must be written in French for the Apostille to be valid (article 4 of the Convention). In the numbered fields the following information is added (may be in official language of the authority which issues it or in a second language):

1. Country ... [e.g. Hong Kong, China]
This public document
2. has been signed by [e.g. Henry Cho]
3. acting in the capacity of [e.g. Notary Public]
4. bears the seal/stamp of [e.g. High Court of Hong Kong]
Certified
5. at [e.g. Hong Kong]
6. the ... [e.g. 16 April 2014]
7. by ... [e.g. the governor of the special administrative district of Hong Kong, China]
8. No ... [e.g. 2536218517]
9. Seal/stamp ... {of the authority giving the apostille }
10. Signature

The information can be placed on the (back of the) document itself, or attached to the document as an allonge.

Eligible documents

Four types of documents are mentioned in the convention:^[1]

- court documents
- administrative documents (e.g. civil status documents)
- notarial acts
- official certificates which are placed on documents signed by persons in their private capacity, such as official certificates recording the registration of a document or the fact that it was in existence on a certain date and official and notarial authentications of signatures.

Legalization

A State that has not signed the Convention must specify how foreign legal documents can be certified for its use. Two countries may have a special convention on the recognition of each other's public documents, but in practice this is infrequent. Otherwise, the document must be certified by the foreign ministry of the country where the document originated, and then by the foreign ministry of the government of the state where the document will be used; one of the certifications will often be performed at an embassy or consulate. In practice this means the document must be certified twice before it can have legal effect in the receiving country. For example, as a non-signatory, Canadian documents for use abroad must be certified by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa or by a Canadian consular official abroad and subsequently by the relevant government office or consulate of the receiving state.

Authentication by legalization is widely used in international commerce and civil law matters in those jurisdictions where the simpler apostille system has not been adopted (e.g.: Brazil, Canada, China).

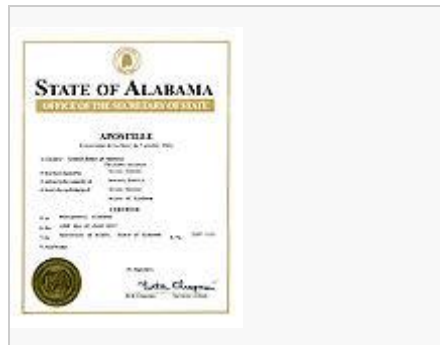
Broadly speaking, the aim of any international document authentication process is to solve a fundamentally practical problem: how can civil and judicial officials reliably verify the authenticity of a document that was issued abroad? Legalization attempts to solve this dilemma by creating a chain of authentications, each by a progressively higher government authority so as to ultimately narrow the point of contact between countries to a single designated official (usually in the national department responsible for foreign affairs). Therefore, by authenticating the signature and seal of this final official a foreign jurisdiction can authenticate the entire chain of verifications back to the entity responsible for issuing the original document without scrutinizing each "link" individually.

Take for example John who wishes to obtain a divorce in Canada but got married in Brazil. Canadian law mandates that John must supply a copy of his marriage certificate in order to move ahead with divorce proceedings in that country. John's marriage certificate was issued by the local authority in his wife's hometown in the Brazilian countryside. It would be risky and impractical for Canadian judicial officials to seek confirmation about the authenticity of John's marriage certificate by attempting to liaise directly with the village government in Brazil.

The solution, then, is to have John submit his document to a controlled, sequential process of verification: legalization. The first step, in this example, is to have the certificate notarized by licensed Brazilian notary. The signature and seal of the notary are in turn attested to by the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations who also affix a stamp and signature to the marriage

certificate. Finally, John brings the document to the Legalization Section of the Embassy of Canada to Brazil. Here Canadian consular officials verify the markings affixed to the document by the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations and affix their own, final, authentication formally recognizing the marriage certificate as legally effective for use in Canada.

Apostille vs. Legalization




An Apostille of the Hague issued by the State of Alabama



As Canada is a non-signatory, Canadian documents for use abroad must be certified twice: at the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and subsequently by the consulate of the receiving state (in this case, the Netherlands)

States parties

The convention has 110 parties and is in force for all members of the European Union and all but 10 members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The most recent state to accede to the convention is Morocco (entry into force 30 August 2016).

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
 Albania	9 May	Belgium (until 2015), Germany,	

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
	2004	Greece, Italy (until 2011) and Spain	
 Andorra	31 Dec 1996		
 Antigua and Barbuda	1 Nov 1981		
 Argentina	18 Feb 1988		
 Armenia	14 Oct 1994		
 Australia	16 Mar 1995		
 Austria	13 Jan 1968	Burundi, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	
 Azerbaijan	2 Mar 2005	Germany, Hungary (until 2005), Netherlands (until 2010)	
 Bahamas	10 Jul 1973		
 Bahrain	31 Dec 2013		
 Barbados	30 Nov 1966		
 Belarus	31 May 1992		
 Belgium	9 Feb 1973	Albania (until 2015), Dominican Republic, India (until 2008), Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine (until 2004), Uzbekistan	
 Belize	11 Apr 1993		
 Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 Mar 1992		
 Botswana	30 Sep 1966		
 Brazil	14 Aug 2016		
 Brunei	3 Dec 1987		
 Bulgaria	29 Apr 2001		

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
 Burundi	13 Feb 2015	Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland	
 Cape Verde	13 Feb 2010		
 Chile	30 Aug 2016		
 Colombia	30 Jan 2001		
 Cook Islands	30 Apr 2005		
 Costa Rica	14 Dec 2011		
 Croatia	8 Dec 1991		
 Cyprus	30 Apr 1973		
 Czech Republic	16 Mar 1999		
 Kingdom of Denmark	26 Dec 2006		does not apply for Greenland and the Faroe Islands
 Dominica	3 Nov 1978		
 Dominican Republic	30 Aug 2009	Austria, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands	
 Ecuador	2 Apr 2005		
 El Salvador	31 May 1996		
 Estonia	30 Sep 2001		
 Fiji	10 Oct 1970		
 Finland	26 Aug 1986		
 France	24 Jan 1965		
 Georgia	14 May 2007	Germany (until 2010) and Greece (until 2015)	
 Germany	13 Feb 1966	Albania, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Dominican Republic, Georgia (until	

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
		2010), India, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Moldova, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru (until 2014), Tajikistan, Ukraine (until 2010) and Uzbekistan	
 Greece	18 May 1985	Albania, Georgia (until 2015), Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Peru, Uzbekistan	
 Grenada	7 Apr 2002		
 Honduras	30 Dec 2004		
 Hong Kong	25 Apr 1965		The convention is still applicable to Hong Kong despite the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1 July 1997. ^[10]
 Hungary	18 Jan 1973	Azerbaijan (until 2005),	
 Iceland	27 Nov 2004		
 India	14 Jul 2005	Belgium (until 2008), Finland (until 2009), Germany, ^[11] Netherlands (until 2008) and Spain (until 2008)	
 Ireland	9 Mar 1999		
 Israel	14 Aug 1978		
 Italy	11 Feb 1978	Albania (until 2011),	
 Japan	27 Jul 1970		
 Kazakhstan	30 Jan 2001		
 Kosovo	14 Jul 2016	Romania	
 Kyrgyzstan	31 Jul 2011	Austria, Belgium, Germany, and Greece	
 Latvia	30 Jan 1996		
 Lesotho	4 Dec 1966		

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
 Liberia	8 Feb 1996	Belgium, Germany, and the United States (until 2015)	
 Liechtenstein	17 Sep 1972		
 Lithuania	19 Jul 1997		
 Luxembourg	3 Jun 1979		
 Macau	4 Feb 1969		The convention is still applicable to Macau despite the transfer of sovereignty over Macau on 20 Dec 1999. ^[10]
 Macedonia	17 Nov 1991		
 Malawi	2 Dec 1967		
 Malta	3 Mar 1968		
 Marshall Islands	14 Aug 1992		
 Mauritius	12 Mar 1968		
 Mexico	14 Aug 1995		
 Moldova	16 Mar 2007	Germany	
 Monaco	31 Dec 2002		
 Mongolia	31 Dec 2009	Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany and Greece	
 Montenegro	3 Jun 2006		
 Morocco	30 Aug 2016		
 Namibia	30 Jan 2001		
 Kingdom of the Netherlands	8 Oct 1965	Azerbaijan (until 2010), Dominican Republic, India (until 2008),	Aruba, Curaçao, Netherlands, and Sint Maarten
 New	22 Nov		

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
Zealand	2001		
 Nicaragua	14 May 2013		
 Niue	2 Mar 1999		
 Norway	29 Jul 1983		
 Oman	30 Jan 2012		
 Panama	4 Aug 1991		
 Paraguay	30 Aug 2014 ^[12]	Germany	
 Peru	30 Sep 2010	Germany, Greece	
 Poland	14 Aug 2005		
 Portugal	4 Feb 1969		
 Romania	13 Mar 2001	Kosovo	
 Russia	31 May 1992		
 Saint Kitts and Nevis	14 Dec 1994		
 Saint Lucia	31 Jul 2002		
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	27 Oct 1979		
 Samoa	13 Sep 1999		
 San Marino	13 Feb 1995		
 São Tomé and Príncipe	13 Sep 2008		
 Serbia	27 Apr 1992		ratified as the  Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
 Seychelles	31 Mar 1979		

State	Entry into Force	Apostille not recognised in	Comment
 Slovakia	18 Feb 2002		
 Slovenia	25 Jun 1991		
 South Africa	30 Apr 1995		
 Spain	25 Sep 1978	Albania, India (until 2008),	
 Suriname	25 Nov 1975		
 Swaziland	6 Sep 1968		
 Sweden	1 May 1999		
 Switzerland	11 Mar 1973		
 Thailand	1 Nov 2002		
 Tonga	4 Jun 1970		
 Trinidad and Tobago	14 Jul 2000		
 Turkey	29 Sep 1985		
 Ukraine	22 Dec 2003	Belgium (until 2004) and Greece (until 2010)	
 United Kingdom	24 Jan 1965		including Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories
 United States	15 Oct 1981	Liberia (until 2015)	
 Uruguay	14 Oct 2012		
 Uzbekistan	15 Apr 2012	Austria, Belgium, Germany and Greece	
 Vanuatu	30 Jul 1980		
 Venezuela	16 Mar 1999		

A

Albania
Andorra
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan

B

Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso

C

Canada
Chile
China, People's Republic of
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic

D

Denmark

E

Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
European Union

F Finland

France

G

Georgia
Germany
Greece

H

Hungary

I

Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy

J

Japan
Jordan

K

Korea, Republic of

L

Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg

M

Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Montenegro
Morocco

N

Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway

P

Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines

Poland
Portugal

R

Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation

S

Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland

T

The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey

U

Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

V

Venezuela
Viet Nam

Z

Zambia