



# **Announcement**

## **New Practice**

### **Geographic Use of Apostille issued by Apostille Service Office**

The Permanent Bureau of the HCCH<sup>1</sup> recommends, *inter alia*, that Intended Destination for an Apostille should be enquired<sup>2</sup>, and when the Intended Destination is not a contracting party<sup>3</sup> to the Apostille Convention, no Apostille should be issued<sup>4</sup>.

To adopt the said recommendations and change our practice by stages, notice is hereby given that:

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<sup>1</sup> The Hague Conference on Private International Law

<sup>2</sup> See Conclusions & Recommendations No 44 of Special Commission 2021.

<sup>3</sup> See Attachment I hereto, headed "List of Contracting Parties to the Apostille Convention" or its updated version as from time to time issued by the Apostille Service Office. "Apostille Convention" referred to in this present Announcement means "The HCCH Convention of 5 October 1961 for Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents".

<sup>4</sup> See paragraphs 75 - 77 of the Apostille Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, issued in 2023 by the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH.

1. From **1 September 2025** onwards, all applicants for Apostilles will be required to confirm with us the Intended Destination in their application, and
2. From **2 January 2026** onwards, we will not issue Apostille if the Intended Destination is a non-contracting party<sup>5</sup> to the Apostille Convention.

Applicants are also reminded to ensure that the Apostille will not be used in a way contrary to the Apostille Convention.

Apostille Service Office  
August 2025

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<sup>5</sup> It also applies to a contracting party if there has been objection to accession by HKSAR.

# Attachment I - List of Contracting Parties to Apostille Convention

(As at 20 August 2025)

Albania
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Estonia
Eswatini
Fiji
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany

Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lesotho
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malawi
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niue
North Macedonia
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Panama

Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela

(Source :  
<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41>)