

# Designs

- Design refers to the features of shape, configuration, pattern or ornamentation that can be judged by the eye in finished articles.
- Design registration is intended to protect designs that have an industrial or commercial use - designs that are essentially artistic are covered by copyright legislation and are not eligible for design registration. The protection you receive is only for the appearance of the article and not how it works.
- Design registration is used to protect the visual appearance of manufactured products.
- To be registered, a design must be new or original.
- A registered design gives you the exclusive and legally enforceable right to use, license or sell your design.
- Initially, protection is for a period of 12 months but it can be extended for a total period of 16 years.
- Applications for registered designs should be filed with the designs section of IP Australia. They will assess whether the invention is new and if it meets legislative requirements.

Lawyers at DLS can:

- draft and negotiate confidentiality and non-compete agreements;
- arrange for IP searches through specialist patent attorneys;
- arrange for the registration of designs through specialist patent attorneys;
- draft and negotiate agreements for the licensing, sale or acquisition of IP rights; and
- act in relation to IP disputes.

**For further information, contact:**

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