

**APERÇU DES RÉPONSES AU QUESTIONNAIRE D'AOÛT 2008 PORTANT SUR  
LA CONVENTION DE LA HAYE DU 5 OCTOBRE 1961 SUPPRIMANT L'EXIGENCE  
DE LA LÉGALISATION DES ACTES PUBLICS ÉTRANGERS  
(CONVENTION APOSTILLE)**

*établi par le Bureau Permanent*

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**SYNOPSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF AUGUST 2008 RELATING TO  
THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 5 OCTOBER 1961 ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT  
OF LEGALISATION FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS  
(APOSTILLE CONVENTION)**

*drawn up by the Permanent Bureau*

(Version révisée en juillet 2009 /  
revised version as per July 2009)

*Document préliminaire No 11  
à l'intention de la Commission spéciale de février 2009 sur le fonctionnement pratique des  
Conventions de La Haye Apostille, Notification, Preuves et Accès à la Justice*

*Preliminary Document No 11  
for the attention of the Special Commission of February 2009 on the practical operation of the  
Hague Apostille, Service, Evidence and Access to Justice Conventions*

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Une première version de ce document a été établie et publiée sur le site de la Conférence de La Haye le 15 décembre 2008. Une deuxième version a été préparée pour la Commission spéciale et a été mise à jour au 28 janvier 2009. La présente version révisée en juillet de l'aperçu des réponses reflète les réponses reçues jusqu'à mars 2009, au total 57 réponses.

Ce document n'a pas été traduit. Il s'agit d'une compilation des réponses, exactement comme elles ont été reçues, afin de les rendre facilement accessibles aux experts de la Commission spéciale. Par conséquent, les réponses apparaissent telles qu'elles ont été reçues et dans la langue dans laquelle elles ont été reçues.

Par souci de concision, les réponses aux questions suivantes ont été compilées dans un document distinct, disponible sur demande auprès du Bureau Permanent :

- Les détails relatifs aux traités bilatéraux auxquels sont parties les États non contractants (Q. 3)
- La jurisprudence et les documents de référence (Q. 12-16)
  - o Les copies ou les guides ou information pratiques
  - o Les décisions rendues depuis 2003
  - o Les références à des articles ou à des livres
  - o La législation nationale
  - o Les traités bilatéraux

Tout au long de ce document, les numéros entre crochets ('[#]') renvoient au nombre de réponses pertinentes.

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A first version of this document was prepared and published on the website of the Hague Conference on 15 December 2008. A second version was prepared for the 2009 Special Commission and was updated until 28 January 2009. The present version revised as per July 2009 reflects the responses received up until March 2009, which amount to 57 responses.

This document has not been translated. It is a compilation of the responses, exactly as they were received to make the responses more readily accessible to experts to the Special Commission. Therefore the responses appear as they were received, in the language in which they were received.

In the interests of brevity, responses to the following questions have been compiled in a separate document, which may be requested from the Permanent Bureau:

- Full details of non-Contracting State bilateral treaties (Q. 3)
- Case law and reference work (Q. 12-16)
  - o Copies of guides or practical information
  - o Decisions rendered since 2003
  - o References to articles or books
  - o Domestic legislation
  - o Bilateral treaties

Throughout this document numbers contained in square brackets ('[#]') refer to the number of relevant responses.

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**States and Regional Economic Integration Organisation (REIO) Responses to the Apostille Questionnaire**

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Albania</li> <li>2. Andorra</li> <li>3. Argentina</li> <li>4. Australia</li> <li>5. Belgium</li> <li>6. Bermuda (UK)</li> <li>7. Brazil<sup>1</sup></li> <li>8. Bulgaria</li> <li>9. Canada</li> <li>10. Chile</li> <li>11. China</li> <li>12. China (Hong Kong SAR)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>13. China (Macao)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>14. Croatia</li> <li>15. Cyprus</li> <li>16. Czech Republic</li> <li>17. Denmark</li> <li>18. Dominican Republic</li> <li>19. Ecuador</li> <li>20. El Salvador</li> <li>21. European Community</li> <li>22. Finland</li> <li>23. France</li> <li>24. Georgia</li> <li>25. Germany</li> <li>26. Greece</li> <li>27. India</li> <li>28. Ireland</li> <li>29. Japan</li> <li>30. Jordan</li> <li>31. Latvia</li> <li>32. Lithuania</li> <li>33. Luxembourg</li> <li>34. Malaysia</li> <li>35. Mexico</li> <li>36. Moldova</li> <li>37. Monaco</li> <li>38. New Zealand</li> <li>39. Norway</li> <li>40. Paraguay</li> <li>41. Poland</li> <li>42. Portugal</li> <li>43. Republic of Korea</li> <li>44. Romania</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brazil<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2. Canada</li> <li>3. Chile</li> <li>4. China</li> <li>5. Dominican Republic</li> <li>6. European Community</li> <li>7. Jordan</li> <li>8. Malaysia</li> <li>9. Paraguay</li> <li>10. Singapore</li> </ol>
	<b>Contracting States [47]</b>

<sup>1</sup> A response was received from Brazil; however this State did not approve uploading onto the website.

<sup>2</sup> China (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), hereinafter "Hong Kong".

<sup>3</sup> China (Macao SAR), hereinafter "Macao".

<sup>4</sup> A response was received from the Russian Federation; however this State did not approve uploading onto the website.

45. Russian Federation <sup>4</sup> 46. Singapore 47. Slovakia 48. Slovenia 49. South Africa 50. Spain 51. Sweden 52. Switzerland 53. Turkey 54. Ukraine 55. United Kingdom 56. United States of America 57. Venezuela	32. Poland 33. Portugal 34. Republic of Korea 35. Romania 36. Russian Federation <sup>4</sup> 37. Slovenia 38. Slovakia 39. South Africa 40. Spain 41. Sweden 42. Switzerland 43. Turkey 44. Ukraine 45. United Kingdom 46. United States of America 47. Venezuela
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**États et Organisation régionale d'intégration économique (ORIE)  
ayant répondu :**

États et ORIE [57]	États non contractants et ORIE [10]
1. Afrique du Sud 2. Albanie 3. Allemagne 4. Andorre 5. Argentine 6. Australie 7. Belgique 8. Bermudes (Royaume-Uni) 9. Brésil <sup>5</sup> 10. Bulgarie 11. Canada 12. Chili 13. Chine 14. Chine (Hong Kong SAR) 15. Chine (Macao) 16. Chypre 17. Communauté européenne 18. Croatie 19. Danemark 20. République dominicaine 21. El Salvador 22. Équateur 23. Espagne 24. États-Unis d'Amérique 25. Fédération de Russie <sup>6</sup> 26. Finlande 27. France	1. Brésil <sup>5</sup> 2. Canada 3. Chili 4. Chine 5. Communauté européenne 6. Jordanie 7. Malaisie 8. Paraguay 9. République dominicaine 10. Singapour
	<b>États contractants [47]</b>
	1. Afrique du Sud 2. Albanie 3. Allemagne 4. Andorre 5. Argentine 6. Australie 7. Belgique 8. Bermudes 9. Bulgarie 10. Chine (RAS Hong Kong) 11. Chine (Macao) 12. Chypre 13. Croatie

<sup>5</sup> Une réponse a été reçue du Brésil, mais cet État a souhaité que celle-ci ne soit pas mise en ligne sur le site Internet de la Conférence.

<sup>6</sup> Une réponse a été reçue de la Fédération de Russie, mais cet État a souhaité que celle-ci ne soit pas mise en ligne sur le site Internet de la Conférence.



28. Géorgie	14. Danemark
29. Grèce	15. El Salvador
30. Inde	16. Équateur
31. Irlande	17. Espagne
32. Japon	18. États-Unis d'Amérique
33. Jordanie	19. Fédération de Russie <sup>4</sup>
34. Lettonie	20. Finlande
35. Lituanie	21. France
36. Luxembourg	22. Géorgie
37. Malaisie	23. Grèce
38. Mexique	24. Inde
39. Moldova	25. Irlande
40. Monaco	26. Japon
41. Norvège	27. Lettonie
42. Nouvelle-Zélande	28. Lituanie
43. Paraguay	29. Luxembourg
44. Pologne	30. Mexique
45. Portugal	31. Moldova
46. République de Corée	32. Monaco
47. Roumanie	33. Norvège
48. Royaume-Uni	34. Nouvelle-Zélande
49. Singapour	35. Pologne
50. Slovaquie	36. Portugal
51. Slovénie	37. République de Corée
52. Suède	38. Roumanie
53. Suisse	39. Royaume-Uni
54. République tchèque	40. Slovaquie
55. Turquie	41. Slovénie
56. Ukraine	42. Suède
57. Venezuela	43. Suisse
	44. République tchèque
	45. Turquie
	46. Ukraine
	47. Venezuela

Question	Reply	State	
<b>I. Questions for non-Contracting States</b>			
<b>1. Why not Party to the Convention?</b>	The domestic law of your State does not require that foreign public documents be legalised or otherwise authenticated before having effect in your State.	Singapore. [1]	
	If "yes", do you think it would be helpful to produce docs abroad?	Yes. <u>Singapore</u> - The Apostille Convention mitigates the costs and expense of the process of legalisation by abolishing the problem of chain authentication, resulting in reduction of expenses and time. Although Singapore has a straightforward and simple process for legalisation of documents to be presented in another jurisdiction, Singapore recognises the usefulness of the Apostille Convention.	Singapore. [1]
		No.	[0]
		The question of becoming a Party to the Convention has never been examined in detail.	Paraguay. [1]
		The absence of a clause that would allow for the Apostille Convention to be extended to one or more territorial units prevents your State, as a multi-unit State, from joining the Convention.	[0]
		Other: <u>Chile</u> - In addition to recognizing the advantages that a system like the one contained in this Convention represents both as to effectiveness and efficiency in conducting the relevant formalities, we wish to inform that we are currently studying the possibility of becoming a Contracting State of such Convention; for that purpose, we are analyzing certain aspects that we regard as crucial for a good operation in the event that it is implemented, such as determining the internal body who will be acting as central authority and evaluating the possibility of including electronic Apostilles. <u>China</u> - Considering the reality that the notarial system of China is under the process of standardization, the present means of documents-transferring between China and the other countries would better be maintained to avoid that some notarial certificate of inferior quality may lower the credit of public documents executed in China. Meanwhile, in order to safeguard our nation's interests, it's hard for China to become a party of the Apostille Convention in the near future. Yet we are very glad to discuss with the HCCH the feasibility and concrete conditions of China's joining the Convention. <u>Malaysia</u> - Malaysia is currently studying the proposal of becoming a party to the Apostille Convention.	Chile, China, Malaysia. [3]

<b>2. Bilateral Agreements?</b>	Most States are parties to bilateral agreements which provide rules for the taking of evidence. The states listed here provided a list of all relevant bilateral treaties. For further details please see the individual State responses on the HCCH website ( <a href="http://www.hcch.net">www.hcch.net</a> ).	Chile, Malaysia, Paraguay, Singapore. [4]
	No Bilateral agreements.	[0]
<b>3. Considering becoming State Party?</b>	Yes. <u>Canada</u> - Canadian provinces and territories are at present considering the desirability of implementing the Convention. <u>Chile</u> - YES, as stated above in the reply to question No 1, we are in the process of clearing certain internal questions such as determination of the central authority and the possibility of including electronic apostilles; all that with a view to becoming a State Party to such Convention in the near future. <u>Dominican Republic</u> – The Dominican Republic deposited the instrument of accession on 12 December 2008. <u>Malaysia</u> - Malaysia is still considering the possibility of becoming a party to the Apostille Convention. <u>Singapore</u> - We are in the process of studying the Apostille Convention and evaluating whether Singapore should be a party to the Apostille Convention.	Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Singapore. [5]
	No.	China, Paraguay. [2]

<b>Preliminary Comments</b>		
<b>Comments</b>	En ce qui concerne la convention apostille, la Communauté n'entend pas entreprendre de démarches pour y adhérer compte tenu du fait que tous les États membres sont déjà parties à ladite convention, laquelle s'applique dès lors déjà de fait à la Communauté. Pour ce qui est des conventions notification et accès à la justice, la question de l'adhésion de la Communauté par le biais de l'adhésion de tous ses États membre s nécessite davantage de réflexion au niveau communautaire et aucune position définitive n'a été arrêtée à ce stade.	Communauté européenne. [1]
	General remark: As Germany is a federal state, the Länder apply federal law including the Convention independently. This also means that they have in part developed different practices as regards the application of the Convention. The following answers reflect the majority of replies received on a consultation carried out by the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In some cases where the consultation showed significant support for more than one option all these options are checked.	Germany. [1]
	5(C). Please note that the responses in the Questionnaire are based on experiences from the County Governor of Oslo and Akershus. Norway has 18 County Governors that all are competent authorities after Article 6. The County Governor of Oslo and Akershus handles the majority of requests for Apostille in Norway.	Norway. [1]
	Sweden has decentralised the issuance of apostilles and designated all notaries public as Competent Authorities according to the Convention. There are approximately 250 notaries	Sweden. [1]

	<p>public spread all over Sweden. The notaries are appointed by the local County Administrative boards.</p> <p>Since the system of issuing apostilles is decentralized there is no central source of information as to how the individual notaries public handle their tasks in accordance with the convention. This means that the ministry is not able to answer the detailed questions in the questionnaire. However, as far as the ministry knows, the system of issuing apostilles functions well. The ministry has not received any complaints or proposals for amending the system from the notaries public or from the local County Administrative boards. Neither has the ministry received any information indicating that the notaries public have encountered difficulties in determining the scope of the convention.</p>	
	<p><u>Remarque liminaire de la Suisse relatif aux réponses</u> : La Suisse a désigné comme Autorités compétentes la Chancellerie fédérale ainsi que 26 Autorités cantonales. Ces 27 Autorités ont été invitées à participer à l'élaboration des réponses, mais pas toutes l'ont fait. Les informations fournies ne vont pas toujours dans le même sens. Il faut tenir compte du fait que la pratique de quelques cantons pourrait s'écarter des réponses formulées dans ce questionnaire.</p>	<p>Switzerland. [1]</p>

## II. Questions for Contracting States

### A. "Apostille Section" of the HCCH website

<p><b>4. Is the "Apostille Section" of the website useful?</b></p>	<p>Very useful.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (50% of the responding States), Venezuela.                  [42]</p>
	<p>Useful.  <u>Germany</u> – translation into German.  <u>Mexico</u> – It would be more useful if the information was published in all the languages of the countries that are part of the Convention.  <u>Romania</u> - Il serait plus utile d'enrichir le site d'un atlas qui puisse déterminer les autorités compétentes de délivrer l'apostille en fonction du domicile du requérant ou de l'autorité émettrice du document.  <u>Slovakia</u> - D'après nous, il faudrait compléter les informations sur les Autorités compétentes (AC). Il manque les informations sur les AC précédentes. Par exemple en 1999 en Slovaquie c'étaient</p>	<p>Germany, Mexico, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, United States (50% of the responding States).                  [6]</p>

	<p>les Bureaux d'administration régionale (« krajský úrad ») qui ont été compétents pour émettre l'apostille sur l'acte de naissance que le demandeur avait présenté à l'étranger. En 2008 le même demandeur a besoin de présenter le même acte avec l'apostille de 1999. Mais en 2007 les AC pour ces types d'actes publics ont changé en Slovaquie. Ce ne sont plus les Bureaux d'administration régionale (« krajský úrad ») mais les Bureaux d'administration d'arrondissement (« obvodný úrad »). L'institution étrangère peut vérifier sur le site web de la HCCH si l'apostille avait été émise par une AC en Slovaquie. La validité de l'apostille n'est pas limitée en temps et puisque l'institution étrangère trouve sur le site web de la HCCH seulement les informations actuelles, il s'élève le soupçon de fraude.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p>	
	Not useful.	[0]
	<p>The U.S.A. response reflects input from the U.S. state competent authorities and the U.S. federal competent authorities. 50% of the responding U.S. state competent authorities found the HCCH website very useful. 50% found it useful.</p> <p>U.S. state competent authorities provided the following suggestions for improvement: Needs to be more user-friendly and easier to navigate. It tends to be very high level and the front line staff that need to refer to it find it difficult to understand. For example, it is somewhat difficult to follow the terminology used and to understand the relationship between the convention documents and the types and status of parties.</p> <p>An RSS feed for any changes to the status of members would be very helpful. Formatting the status table using XML to facilitate automation of collection of that data would be even better.</p> <p>Another suggestion was to create a blog with an RSS feed and use it to publish information about any changes in status for member States.</p> <p>Another U.S. state noted "we use it mainly to reference convention signing parties. Adding a function to search by a country or province would be helpful."</p>	United States. [1]
<b>B. Contact Details – Competent Authority(ies)</b>		
5.	See the full replies to the Questionnaire on the Conference's website and the updated information provided in the full status report of the Apostille Convention.	

<b>C. Price of an Apostille</b>		
<b>6. Does your State Charge for Issuing an Apostille?</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - The High Courts of Justice and the Ministry of Justice do not charge for the issuance of an Apostille. The Professional Association of Notaries charges between 3,5 € and 7,5 €.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela. [36]</p>
	<p>No</p> <p><u>Norway</u> - Please see our remark under question 5 c).</p>	<p>El Salvador, France, Greece, Japan, Macao, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey. [9]</p>

<b>6(a). How much?</b>	Documents albanais : 200 lek ( $\pm$ 1.6 €), documents étrangers : réciprocité	Albanie. [1]
	8.58 euros	Andorre. [1]
	\$39 (pesos argentinos)	Argentina. [1]
	The Consular Fees Act provides a charge of A\$60 per apostille, plus an additional A\$20 if binding is required for a document of two pages or more.	Australia. [1]
	10 euros	Belgique. [1]
	\$19.00	Bermuda. [1]
	2,50 leva	Bulgarie. [1]
	The Ministry of Justice charges for each Apostille is 30 kuna. This price is prescribed by Croatian administrative tax Act. The Municipal Courts charge court tax from -50 to 60 Croatian kuna, according to the Act of court tax (the price depends on whether the text is on Croatian language -50kuna or translation 60Croatian kuna.)	Croatia. [1]
	3.42 EUROS for each document.	Cyprus. [1]
	100 CZK, approx. 4 EUR	Czech Republic. [1]
	DKK 165	Denmark. [1]
	USD \$10	Ecuador. [1]
	9 €	Finland. [1]
	20 lari	Georgia. [1]
	10 – 130 EUR	Germany. [1]
	HK\$125 per apostille	Hong Kong. [1]
	Indian Rs. 50.00 (Fifty)	India. [1]
	The price charged by the Department for the issuance of an Apostille Stamp is €20. In relation to an Adoption dossier, which could contain up to 300 documents, the Department charges €50 per Adoption pack. A fee of €10 is charged for Certificates of free sale.	Ireland. [1]
	1.5 Latvian Lats (LVL), 3 LVL, 5 LVL, 10 LVL, 20 LVL (1 EUR = 0.702804 LVL)	Latvia. [1]
	35 LTL (10 Euro)	Lithuania. [1]
5 euros par document	Luxembourg. [1]	
\$499 pesos mexicanos	Mexico. [1]	
100 lei	Moldova. [1]	
2,50 €	Monaco. [1]	
NZ\$40 per Apostille (and \$15 per additional copy of same document if two or more identical documents submitted)	New Zealand. [1]	
60 PLN	Poland. [1]	
500 won (Korean won), it will be changed to 1,000 won from 2008.	Republic of Korea. [1]	



<p>Le coût d'une apostille de l'institution du préfet pour les actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. b) de la Convention est de 25 lei pour les personnes physiques et de 45 lei pour les personnes juridiques. Ils incluent l'enregistrement de la demande.</p> <p>Le coût d'une apostille du tribunal pour les actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. a), c) et d) de la Convention est de 4 lei le droit judiciaire et de 0,15 lei le timbre. Pour la demande concernant l'apposition de l'apostille, le coût est de 1 leu.</p>	Romania. [1]
200.- SK (cca 6,638 EUR)	Slovakia. [1]
<p>The Ministry of Justice charges administrative tax for the issuance of Apostille on public documents in accordance with the Act on administrative taxes. On 22 October 2008 the administrative tax for issuance of each Apostille amounts to € 1,06.</p> <p>The District Courts charge court tax for the issuance of Apostille on public documents in accordance with the Act on court taxes. On 22 October 2008 the court tax for issuance of each Apostille amounts from € 2,46 to € 5,00.</p>	Slovenia. [1]
<p>The High Courts of Justice and the Ministry of Justice do not charge for the issuance of an Apostille. The Professional Association of Notaries charges between 3,5 € and 7,5 €.</p>	Spain. [1]
Généralement, dans la majorité des cantons le montant varie entre 15.- et 30.- francs suisse (montant min. 5.-, montant max. 40.)	Switzerland. [1]
51 UAH (for natural persons), 85 UAH (for legal persons)	Ukraine. [1]
<p>£28 per Apostille (standard service – in person and all postal applications); £69 per Apostille (Premium service).</p> <p>Prices will be reviewed for the purposes of the Consular Fees Order 2010, expected to come into effect on 1 April 2010.</p>	United Kingdom. [1]
<p>The U.S. Department of State Authentication Office charges \$8.00 per document.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of State, Passport Services, Vital Records Office charges no fee for issuance of an apostille on a document bearing the seal of a U.S. embassy or consulate.</p> <p>The fees charged by individual U.S. states vary. The average fee for apostilles among the respondents from individual U.S. states is approximately \$10. Half of the states have the same or higher fees, and half have the same or less. The most common fee is \$10. See chart below.</p>	United States. [1]
Revenue stamps (1.5 tax units by document)	Venezuela. [1]

<p><b>6(b). Cost details.</b></p>	<p><b>Is always the same.</b>  <u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.  <u>United Kingdom</u> – but see above.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (29 states), Venezuela. [28]</p>
	<p><b>Differs depending on who is requesting the Apostille</b>  <u>Andorre</u> – Les documents publics inclus dans des dossiers d’adoption internationale sont exemptées des coûts d’émission des Apostilles.  <u>Latvia</u> - differs for individuals vs companies, lower prices for retired and disabled persons and persons with low income  <u>Moldova</u> - les invalides beneficent d’une reduction de 50%  <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons connaissent un tarif moins élevé pour les particuliers/privés et un tarif plus élevé pour les entreprises/sociétés ainsi que l’usage commercial.  <u>Ukraine</u> - citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and persons without citizenship pay 51 UAH - legal persons – 85 UAH. Invalids of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> categories, invalids of the Great Patriotic War, victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe of the 1<sup>st</sup> category and orphans do not pay if an apostille relates to them.</p>	<p>Andorre, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, United states (2 states). [7]</p>
	<p><b>Differs depending on whether the Apostille is being requested for a short or an extensive public document</b></p>	<p>United States (1 state). [1]</p>
	<p><b>Differs when a series of Apostilles is requested by the same person for various documents at the same time</b>  Explanations:  <u>Ireland</u> - This would apply to an Adoption dossier where the fee charged is €50</p>	<p>Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, United States</p>

	<p><u>New Zealand</u> - We offer a discount to any applicant who submits a large number of documents that need separate Apostilles. Some countries / Embassies require documents to have an individual Apostille even though the documents are issued by the same authority and could be attached to one Apostille certificate.</p> <p>We offer a discount for adoption documents as adoption dossiers often contain a large number of documents and some countries require each document to have a separate Apostille. We charge \$40 for the first document and \$10 for each additional document. We also have a maximum charge for adoption dossiers.</p> <p>We also offer discounts of approximately 25% to 35% to companies that regularly submit large numbers of documents for separate Apostilles.</p> <p>We have a translation service available and offer discounts to customers who have been required by an Embassy to have their documents translated and then individually apostilled.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons connaissent un tarif réduit lorsqu'il s'agit de plusieurs exemplaires du même document</p>	(2 states). [4]
	<p><b>Differs depending for what type of public document the Apostille is being issued.</b></p> <p><u>Germany</u> - The actual amount due is mostly calculated on the basis of the (economic) value of the document ("Geschäftswert"). In Germany, this is a common method for calculating administrative fees.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Le coût peut différer pour la délivrance de l'apostille par les tribunaux, pour les actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. a), c) et d) de la Convention, en fonction du type de l'acte, celui-ci étant moins chère réduit dans le cas d'un jugement (2 lei), vu l'art.8 indice 1 de la Loi des droits de timbre no.146/1997, avec les modifications ultérieures.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - La moitié des cantons connaissent un tarif réduit dans les cas suivants: p.ex. dossiers d'adoption, obligations alimentaires, état civil, diplômes, attestations de domicile, attestations médicales, certificats de vétérinaires. Un tarif plus élevé est facturé p.ex. en matière commerciale (ventes, achats, sociétés, etc.).</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Comments: Several individual U.S. states offered the following comments about adoption documents:          "Adoption documents are \$ per document up to \$100 per adoption."          "Adoption documents are \$10.00 for each Apostille."          "No charge for governmental entitles of military personnel and differs when a series of apostilles is requested by the same person for various documents at the same time. Explanation: \$10 per apostille up to \$100 per child maximum for documents relating to an adoption of a child."          "The fee is not charged for notarized documents."</p>	Germany, Romania, Switzerland, United States (several states). [4]
	Differs depending on urgency	Latvia. [1]
	Fees are set by the Government through the Fees Amendments Act fees are set by the government every two years. )	Bermuda. [1]

<b>D. Statistics</b>		
	<b>Preliminary Comments</b>	
	The system cannot find the number of Apostilles issued in 2003-2007.	Argentina. [1]
	According to available statistics so far, in 2007 more than 50,000 Apostilles have been issued by the Prefectural Administrations, the Regions, the First Instance Courts and the Public Prosecutor's Offices of our country. As the Apostille does not make any reference to the State in which this shall be used, we have no information as to where such apostilles have been used.	Greece. [1]
	We do not keep statistics of the apostilles issued per annum as the number is insurmountable.	South Africa. [1]
	The States in which these Apostilles have used most frequently are Russia, Ecuador, Argentine, Ukraine, Romania and EU Member States.	Spain. [1]
	Remarque liminaire : Les chiffres indiqués dans la statistique suivante correspondent à des maxima/minima par Autorité compétente, à la moyenne suisse (nombre par AC) ainsi que le nombre total d'Apostille émises par les Autorités compétentes qui ont participé à l'élaboration des réponses. Vu que pour quelques Autorités compétentes les chiffres manquent, le total effectif est plus élevé.	Switzerland. [1]

<b>7. Number Apostilles issued in the past 5 years?</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State	
	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Nombre : État(s): tout pays membre de la HCCH, sauf l'Allemagne, la Belgique, l'Espagne, la Grèce et l'Italie	Albanie. [1]
	Number: 2286 State(s): Espagne, Portugal, France	Number: 2149 State(s): Espagne, Portugal, France	Number: 2227 State(s): Espagne, Portugal, France	Number: 2673 State(s): Espagne, Portugal, France	Number: 2973 State(s): Espagne, Portugal, France		Andorre. [1]
			Financial Year (FY) July 2005-June 2006 Number: 31033	(FY) July 2006-June 2007 Number: 34133	(FY) July 2007-June 2008 Number: 39853		Australia. [1]
Australia is able to provide statistics on the number of apostilles issues by Australia over the last three Australian fiscal years (1 July – 30 June). However, Australia is not able to provide information on where those apostilles have been used most frequently.							

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State
	Number: 8738 State(s):	Number: 28805 State(s):	Number: 34834 State(s):	Number: 34434 State(s):	Number: 41891 State(s):	Belgique. [1]
	Number: 4072 State(s): <i>na</i>	Number: 4892 State(s): <i>na</i>	Number: 4665 State(s): <i>na</i>	Number: 5481 State(s): <i>na</i>	Number: 7063 State(s): <i>na</i>	Bermuda. [1]
	Number: 62335	Number: 66173	Number: 88907	Number: 53367	Number: 35925	Bulgaria. [1]
	Number: Municipal courts: 3826 Ministry of Justice: 408	Number: Municipal courts: 3994 Ministry of Justice: 442	Number: Municipal courts: 4282 Ministry of Justice: 399	Number: Municipal courts: 3858 Ministry of Justice: 461	Number: Municipal courts: 4397 Ministry of Justice: 497	Croatia [1]
	Number: <b>86460</b> State(s):	Number: <b>126739</b> State(s):	Number: <b>172147</b> State(s):	Number: <b>229318</b> State(s):	Number: <b>328554</b> State(s):	Cyprus. [1]
	Number: 9324 State: Germany	Number: 9776 State: Germany	Number: 9652 State: Germany	Number: 9157 State: Germany	Number: 9662 State: Germany	Czech Republic – Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [1]
	Number: n/a States: n/a	Number: 6072 States:Germany, the Post-Soviet states mainly Belarus, Ukraine	Number: 6224 States:Germany, the Post-Soviet states mainly Belarus, Ukraine	Number: 8664 States:Germany, the Post-Soviet states mainly Belarus, Ukraine	Number: 10223 State(s):Germany , the Post-Soviet states mainly Belarus, Ukraine	Czech Republic – Ministry of Justice. [1]
					Number: 45391	Denmark. [1]
			Number: 433069 State(s): Spain , Italy, USA	Number: 571484 State(s): Spain, Italy, USA	Number: 323766 State(s): Spain, Italy, USA	Ecuador. [1]
	Number: 25809 State(s): USA, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Italy.	Number: 26816 State(s): USA, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Italy	Number: 22739 State(s): USA, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Italy	Number: 28518 State(s): USA, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Italy	Number: 25168 State(s): USA, Argentina, Spain, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Honduras, Panama.	El Salvador. [1]
	Number: 28000 States: Russian Federation, Estonia	Number: 28000 States: Russian Federation, Estonia	Number: 29000 States: Russian Federation, Estonia	Number: 30000 States: Russian Federation, Estonia	Number: 34500 States:Russian Federation, Estonia	Finland. [1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State
	Nombre: 266478 Etats: Antilles néerlandaises, Argentine, Arménie, Colombie, Espagne, Grèce, Ile Maurice, Israël, Lituanie, Mexique, Portugal, Roumanie, Russie, Suisse, Ukraine, Venezuela.	Nombre: 312611 Etats: Argentine, Colombie, Espagne, Grèce, Ile Maurice, Lettonie, Lituanie, Mexique, Portugal, Roumanie, Russie, Suisse, Ukraine, Venezuela.	Nombre: 374085 Etats: Argentine, Arménie, Colombie, Espagne, Grèce, Ile Maurice, Israël, Lettonie, Mexique, Portugal, Roumanie, Russie, Suisse, Ukraine, Venezuela.	Nombre: 388057 Etats: Argentine, Arménie, Colombie, Espagne, Grèce, Ile Maurice, Israël, Mexique, Portugal, Russie, Suisse, Ukraine, Venezuela.	Nombre: 385619 Etats: Albanie, Argentine, Colombie, Espagne, Grèce, Ile Maurice, Israël, Mexique, Portugal, Roumanie, Russie, Suisse, Ukraine, Venezuela.	France. [1]
					Number: 9413 States: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Turkey, Israel.	Georgia. [1]
	Number: > 120000 (not all apostilles counted) State(s): Russia, Spain, Turkey	Number: > 143000 (not all apostilles counted) State(s): Russia, Spain, Turkey	Number: > 166000 (not all apostilles counted) State(s): Russia, Spain, Turkey	Number: > 180000 (not all apostilles counted) State(s): Russia, Spain, Turkey	Number: > 201000 (not all apostilles counted) State(s): Russia, Spain, Turkey	Germany. [1]
	Number: 6811	Number: 10381	Number: 11756	Number: 14237	Number: 18161	Hong Kong. [1]
No particular statistics are taken in respect of the states. But generally in 2006-2007 the apostilles were used in Eastern Europe countries and Vietnam; and in 2007-2008 Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Spain and Venezuela.						
					Number: 26599	India. [1]
	30,500	51,863	57,000	68,000	78,431	Ireland. [1]
	Number: 35059 State(s): U.S.A.	Number: 38170 State(s): U.S.A.	Number: 42097 State(s): U.S.A.	Number: 44410 State(s): U.S.A.	Number: 52104 State(s): U.S.A.	Japan. [1]
	Number: 7375 States: Germany, USA, United Kingdom	Number: 7351 States: Germany, USA, Italy	Number: 8362 States: Germany, Italy, USA	Number: 8720 States: Germany, Italy, United Kingdom	Number: 10216 States: Italy, Germany, United Kingdom	Latvia. [1]
	Number: 13850 State(s): Germany, Italy, Spain, France, UK	Number: 12459 State(s): Germany, Italy, Spain, France, UK	Number: 11892 State(s): Germany, Italy, Spain, France, UK	Number: 9511 State(s): Germany, Italy, Spain, France, UK,	Number: 11299 State(s): Germany, Italy, Spain, France, UK,	Lithuania. [1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State
				Russia	Russia	
	26152	29261	33951	46890	53992	Luxembourg. [1]
	Number: 140 State(s):	Number: 294 State(s):	Number: 363 State(s):	Number: 414 State(s):	Number: 460 State(s):	Macao. [1]
	13181	13563	13630	13211	14279	Mexico. [1]
					Number : 200000 États: Italie, Portugal, Espagne, Israel, Bulgarie	Moldova. [1]
	Données non disponibles	Nombre : 1745	Nombre : 2116	Nombre : 2264	Nombre : 3242	Monaco. [1]
	Number: 2436 10.524	Number: 4526 11.935	Number: 5864 11.962	Number: 6704 15.265	Number: 8848 18.002	New Zealand. [1] Norway. [1]
Please note that the statistics above only concerns issuance of Apostilles in Oslo and Akershus						
			Number: 9709 State: Germany	Number: 24493 State(s): Italy	Number: 25495 State(s): Italian	Poland. [1]
			Nombre : 17459 État(s): Espagne, Venezuela, Roumanie, Ukraine, Royaume Uni, Allemagne, EUA, France	Nombre : 19949 Nombre : 26327	Nombre : 25479 Nombre : 34755	Portugal. [1]
					17698	Republic of Korea. [1]
	Nombre : 286065 État(s): Italie, Espagne, Grèce, Allemagne, Belgique	Nombre : 376718 État(s):Italie, Espagne, Grèce, Allemagne, Belgique	Nombre : 440383 État(s):Italie, Espagne, Grèce, Allemagne, Belgique	Nombre : 660578 État(s):Italie, Espagne, Grèce, Allemagne, Belgique	Nombre : 583122 État(s):Italie, Espagne, Grèce, Allemagne, Belgique	Romania. [1]
	Number: 2460 State(s): Italy, Russian Federation	Number: 7580 State(s): Italy, Russian Federation	Number: 8533 State(s): Italy, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Serbia	Number: 11481 State(s): Italy, Russian Federation, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Number: 13255 State(s): Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Slovenia. [1]
	Nombre : 6285 État(s):Italie, Pays- Bas, Allemagne	Nombre : 6332 État(s): Italie, Allemagne, Russie	Nombre : 5742 État(s): Italie, Russie, Allemagne	Nombre : 6693 État(s): Italie, Russie, Espagne	Nombre : 6359 État(s):Russie Italie, Espagne	Slovakia - Justice. [1]
	549 Autriche, Allemagne,	1028 Autriche, Italie,	1089 Autriche, Italie,	826 Autriche, Italie	537 Autriche, Italie	Slovakia - Santé publique. [1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State
	Italie 87	Allemagne 116	Allemagne 159	Allemagne 305	Allemagne 226	Slovakia - Intérieur. [1] Slovakia - Education. [1]  Slovakia - Défense. [1] Slovakia - Affaires étrangères. [1]  Toutes les Autorités compétentes.
	2024 Tchéquie, Italie, Pologne	2351 Tchéquie, Italie, Pologne	1667 Tchéquie, Italie, Pologne	1211 Tchéquie, Italie, Pologne	1091 Tchéquie, Italie, Pologne	
	0	0	1	0	1	
	534 Belgique, Italie, Israël	309 Belgique, Italie, Israël	738 Espagne, Italie, Belgique	205 Italie, Belgique, Espagne	179 Italie, Espagne, Ukraine	
	9479	10136	9396	9240	8393	
	Number: 278502 M. Justice 23530 High courts 96092 Professional Association of Notaries 157880	Number: 316745 M. Justice 28051 High courts 108335 Professional Association of Notaries 180359	Number: 420602 M. Justice 28605 High courts 127796 Professional Association of Notaries 264201	Number: 432769 M. Justice 31031 High courts 139.184 Professional Association of Notaries 263554	Number: 459189 M. Justice 32696 High courts 148719 Professional Association of Notaries 277774	Spain. [1]
	Nombre: Min. 94 Max. 30000 Total:67282 Moy. suisse : 4205 /AC État(s): Russie, Allemagne, USA	Nombre: Min. 78 Max. 35000 Total:76079 Moy. suisse : 4475 /AC États: Russie, Allemagne, Amérique du Sud	Nombre: Min. 96 Max.37500 Total: 83216 Moy. suisse : 4895 /AC État(s): Russie, Europe de l'Est, Allemagne	Nombre: Min. 139 Max. 40000 Total: 89394 Moy. suisse : 5258 /AC État(s): Russie, Europe de l'Est, Europe de l'Ouest	Nombre: Min. 204 Max. 40000 Total : 93932 Moy. suisse : 5525 /AC État(s): Russie, Europe de l'Est, Allemagne	Switzerland. [1]
	Number: 3090 State(s): Bulgaria	Number: 2942 State(s): Bulgaria	Number: 3665 State(s): Bulgaria	Number: 6185 State(s): Bulgaria	Number: 6047 State(s): Bulgaria	Turkey (Istanbul Province Governor's Office).



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	State
						[1]
Number:		Number: 126947	Number: 138362	Number: 123599	Number: 129743	Ukraine. [1]
Number: 227890		Number: 264566	Number: 292010	Number: 339858	Number: 375782	United Kingdom. [1]
Number: 493414		Number: 621917	Number: 687713	Number: 731081	Number: 670316	United States. [1]

8. Category of Document Most Issued?	Civil Status Docs	Diplomas and Educational Docs	Extracts from Registers	Notarial authentications of signatures	Other Notarial Acts	Court Docs including judgments	Administrative Docs	IP Docs	Adoption docs.	Other	Other	
	1	2	9	6	6	5	3	10	8			
2	1	5	3	8	6	7	9	4				Andorre. [1]
1	3	2	4	5	8				6 - Legality Certificate 7 - Criminal background 9 - Health certificate			Argentina. [1]
2	4	3	1		5	8	9	7	6 - Police Criminal records			Australia. [1]
3	7	12	1	6	8	9	10	11	2 - Divers 4 - attestations	5 - traductions		Belgique. [1]
2	4		1	1			1					Bermuda. [1]
		4	1	2	3	5		6				Bulgaria. [1]
4	5	2	1	3	7	6	9	8				Cyprus. [1]

	Civil Status Docs	Diplomas and Educational Docs	Extracts from Registers	Notarial authentications of signatures	Other Notarial Acts	Court Docs including judgments	Administrative Docs	IP Docs	Adoption docs.	Other	Other	
	1	2					3	4	5			Czech Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [1]
			3	1	2	4						Czech Republic – Ministry of Justice. [1]
	1	1	1	1		3		2				Denmark. [1]
	1	2	9	8	4	5	7	6		10 – documents related with the control of illicit substances	3 – Police Record	Ecuador. [1]
	1	2	5	6	3	7	4	10	11	8 – Sanitary Control Documents 9 – Police Records, Penal Records	12 – Documents issued by Immigration Office	El Salvador. [1]
	2	7	3	1	8	6			5	4 - translations	9 health certificates	Finland. [1]
	2	7	8	4	5	6	3	9	1			France. [1]
	1	4	5	3	6	8				7 – health certificate	2 – criminal records	Georgia. [1]
	2	7	8	1	3	5	4	12	11	10 - registration cards; copies of ID cards/passports; declarations of	9 - translations	Germany. [1]

	Civil Status Docs	Diplomas and Educational Docs	Extracts from Registers	Notarial authentications of signatures	Other Notarial Acts	Court Docs including judgments	Administrative Docs	IP Docs	Adoption docs.	Other	Other	
										conformity; certificates of law degrees; documents in patent and trademark matters; confirmation of official recognition as a translator		
	1	1	2						4	- tax documents, e.g. tax return statements, tax clearance certificates etc. - social security documents, e.g. employment stamp certificates, insured registration lists etc. - health certificates and medical reports - documents issued by Prefectural Administrations, e.g. driver's licences, vehicle licences, professional licences of medical doctors and nurses etc.		Greece. [1]
	4	6	2	1	5	7				3 - declarations signed by commissioner for oaths		Hong Kong. [1]
	2	1	3		7	4	6		5			India. [1]
	2	5	6	1	3	7			4			Ireland. [1]

	Civil Status Docs	Diplomas and Educational Docs	Extracts from Registers	Notarial authentications of signatures	Other Notarial Acts	Court Docs including judgments	Administrative Docs	IP Docs	Adoption docs.	Other	Other	
2	7	6		1		4				3 - police certificate	5 - health certificate	Japan. [1]
1	4	7	2	3	6	5		8				Latvia. [1]
1	3	8	5	2	6	4	9	7				Lithuania. [1]
3	6	2	1	4	8	7	5	9				Luxembourg. [1]
	1	2			4	6	5			3 - Health Certificates		Mexico. [1]
1	6	3	4	5								Moldova. [1]
2	8*	5	1	4	6	3	9	7**				Monaco. [1]
1	6	5	7	2	8		9	3		4 - Criminal Conviction Letters/Police Clearances		New Zealand. [1]
1	9	3	8	6	4	6	7	2				Norway. [1]
1	2	7	6	5	4	3		8				Poland. [1]
1	3	4	2	6	10	9	8	7		5 - Certificats de résidence		Portugal. [1]
3	4		2	1								Republic of Korea. [1]

\* Pour ce qui concerne les diplômes et autres documents scolaires, il est à noter que seules les copies certifiées conformes sont apostillées (cf. les réponses de Monaco au questionnaire de 2005 sur les diplômes).

\*\* Les documents relatifs aux adoptions sont difficiles à décèler car ils sont comptabilisés dans d'autres catégories.

	Civil Status Docs	Diplomas and Educational Docs	Extracts from Registers	Notarial authentications of signatures	Other Notarial Acts	Court Docs including judgments	Administrative Docs	IP Docs	Adoption docs.	Other	Other	
	1	3	7	4	2	6				5 - les casiers judiciaires, les casiers fiscaux, les certificats médicaux et d'autres actes faisant preuve sur la composition de la famille		Romania. [1]
	3	2	7	1	6	8	9			5 - l'extrait du casier judiciaire	4 - les traductions des actes publics	Slovakia. [1]
	2	4	3	1	10	5	7	9	8	6		Slovenia. [1]
	9	9		9		1	9		9			South Africa. [1]
	1	7	8	2	5	9	6	3	4			Spain. [1]
	2	7	3	1	4	5	9	8	6	10 - Attestations médicales; attestations des caisses de compensation, certificats vétérinaires, empreintes digitales		Switzerland. [1]
		2	5	3	4							Turkey. [1]
	Information not available											United Kingdom. [1]
	1	4	6	2	5	4	7	6	2			United States. [1]
	2	4	1	3	5	6	7					Venezuela. [1]

<b>9. Average time to issue Apostille.</b>	<p>Less than 1 hour.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons, p.ex. au guichet ou pour moins de 5 documents.</p>	<p>Belgique, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom (Premium Service), United States (7 states).  [15]</p>
	<p>Same day.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We aim for a same day turnaround. We can also complete an Apostille in 15 minutes for an applicant who comes into our office. The process will take longer if we cannot verify the signature or seal on the document from our current records.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons, p.ex. demande par voie postale ou plus de 5 documents.  <u>Ukraine</u> - As for the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Bermuda, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom (Standard Service), United States (12 states)  [22]</p>
	<p>Following working day  <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons, p.ex. demande par voie postale ou plus de 5 documents.</p>	<p>Andorre, Bulgaria, Japan, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg,</p>

		Macao, Moldova, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, (Standard Service - Business Customers), United States (9 states), Venezuela. [17]
	<p>Within 1 week</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - As usual in 5 business days, or in 10 business days if additional information related to the document is needed</p> <p><u>Hong Kong</u> - 2 working days.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Un seul canton pour les dossiers d'adoption en intégral contenant plusieurs et différents types de documents.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - As for the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine for other persons.</p>	Australia, Georgia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Latvia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom (Postal Service), United States (5 states).[9]
	<p>Longer</p> <p><u>France</u> - Si la demande a été envoyée par la poste, le délai peut être une semaine.</p>	France. [1]
	<p>Les apostilles sont délivrées le plus souvent dans la journée, voire le jour travaillé suivant. Pour onze autorités compétentes, les apostilles sont délivrées dans la semaine et pour six autres, en moins d'une heure.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - As for the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine for other persons. If it is necessary to obtain a sample of signature, seal or stamp absent in the registry, or an additional information or interpretation, then the term of taking documents can be prolonged with the decision of Deputy Minister till 20 days. Above-mentioned provisions are prescribed by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 11.09.2007 No 757/5.</p>	France, Ukraine. [2]

	<p>Comments by individual U.S. states:</p> <p>"It depends on the mode of submission. Counter service is performed within the hour; fax on the same day; couriered mail on the same day; regular post within the next 2-3 days."</p> <p>"For walk in requests it takes less than an hour."</p> <p>"Customers can bring their documents to our offices and wait for us to process an apostille. Customers can also mail their documents to our office. If the documents are mailed to the office, the average time to process is seven days."</p> <p>"If they are via a walk in it takes less than an hour. If they come through the mail they are done the same day."</p> <p>"We tell customers that it may take up to 2 to 3 business days to process their request and get the documents back into the mail. We do require a 24 hour hold before we process the request; unless sit is on a death certificate needing to ship a body then we will do same day service."</p> <p>"Apostille may be issued within 2 hours and up to 10 working days, depending on the type of service the customer requests."</p> <p>"We do not keep statistics for the various documents for which we issue apostilles."</p> <p>"In person requests are normally completed within 1 hour or less. Mail in requests are normally completed within 1-3 business days."</p> <p>"Walk in service is available during regular business hours."</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>
<p><b>10. Frequency of requests to check Register</b></p>	<p>Never</p> <p><u>India</u> - All documents are required to be pre authenticated from Regional authorities before apostille</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Seulement Le Ministère de l'Éducation a été sollicité de vérifier des Apostilles sur les diplômes dans le registre 3 à 5 fois par an.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Asfor the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p>	<p>Australia, Bermuda, Denmark, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland Turkey, Ukraine, United States (63% of states). [21]</p>
	<p>Once per year</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,</p>



		Germany, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, United States (18% of states). [12]
	Twice per year <u>Portugal</u> - Selon les Autorités	Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, United States (9% of states), Venezuela. [7]
	3-5 times a year Comments: <u>New Zealand</u> - Most often this involves a foreign Embassy here in New Zealand contacting us to verify the signatures of our staff. We have found that in most cases where an Apostille is rejected or questioned the overseas authority does not contact us but instead makes additional requests of the submitter. <u>Switzerland</u> - Moyenne d'une minorité de cantons. <u>Ukraine</u> - Asfor the Ministry of Education.	Ecuador, Finland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (2 states). [7]
	5-10 times a year <u>Argentina</u> - By Spanish authorities. <u>Ukraine</u> - As for the Ministry of Justice.	Argentina, Belgique, Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (1 state). [6]
	Les demandes de consultation du registre d'apostille à fin de vérification sont inexistantes ou rarissimes, puisque seules deux autorités compétentes ont indiqué être sollicitées entre trois à cinq fois par an aux fins de vérification des apostilles dans le registre. Les trente-six autres autorités compétentes n'ont jamais été sollicitées.	France. [1]
	Verification is rarely requested. : Such cases involve the verification of the details pertaining to an Apostille, when there is a suspicion of altered signatures and dates either in the apostilled document or in the Apostille fields.	Greece. [1]
	In 2007, this information has been requested only by some authorities of Russia.	Spain [1]

<b>E. General appreciation of the Apostille Convention</b>		
<b>11. Appreciation of Convention.</b>	<p>Excellent</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We would appreciate a clarification of the exception of Article 1-2b) regarding the exclusion of administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs operations. We have constant requests to Apostille such documents, which we understand that they do not require to be authenticated by its nature, but when we explain this, customers insist on having their documents legalized by the Apostille. Also there is a need to clarify the validity of copies of foreign documents that have been certified / notarized and if such documents may be issued an Apostille (E.g: copies of foreign passports, copies of School diplomas issued by foreign universities, copies of any private document that may be required to be authenticated in El Salvador for use abroad).</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p>	<p>Argentina, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (60% of states), Venezuela. [31]</p>
	<p>Good</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Une reconsidération des réserves de la part des Etats sur-mentionnés envers les documents émises par les institutions albanaises, sur base des progrès fait dans cet aspect par l'administration albanaise depuis 2003, faciliterait le fonctionnement de la Convention Apostille pour les actes publics émanant de l'Albanie.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - Nous avons rencontré quelques cas où l'Apostille émise diffère notamment du model établi par la Convention.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - The main difficulty that Australia has encountered with the operation of the Apostille Convention has been determining what is and is not a 'public document', which in some circumstances impacts negatively on the timely delivery of services.</p> <p><u>Bermuda</u> - A practical handbook would be very useful, with a glossary or definitions included.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - A Practical Handbook would be desirable.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - After our contact with the Competent Authorities of our State, we have realized that there are everyday problems involving the application of the Apostille Convention, as regards some categories of documents. Problems are also encountered in pursuing ways to reduce the required</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (38% of states). [17]</p>

authentications of a document which needs to be apostilled. Such problems mostly involve the finding out of those proper processes, always within the framework of the national law. Therefore, the guidelines that may be provided by the Special Commission shall help in part the Competent Authorities, since such guidelines shall inevitably be of a wider content.

A Practical Handbook and / or any Conclusions and Recommendations would be useful, only if it were possible that these are recognized and accepted by the official authorities of all member states, which provide the guidelines for the application of the Convention. Therefore, it would be appropriate that any initiatives and proposals of the Commission were included in the instruments that would be distributed to the Competent Authorities of all the States that have acceded the Apostille Convention, so that everyone be informed and uniform measures be taken, in terms of the directions and processes related to the application of the Convention.

Furthermore, we believe that a field should be included in the Apostille, with the destination country where each apostilled document shall be submitted. Only then can we be sure about the destination of the apostilled documents.

Monaco - Les difficultés rencontrées relèvent principalement de la pratique d'Etats destinataires qui exigent des formalités qui ne sont pas visées dans la Convention.

Certaines difficultés proviennent également du format de certains documents à apostiller sur lesquels ne peuvent être apposé l'apostille ou une allonge et du refus dans ces cas de certains Etats destinataires d'accepter des copies certifiées conformes.

Romania - Un Guide pratique sur le fonctionnement de la Convention serait très utile en ce qui concerne la fixation d'une pratique unitaire pour tous les Etats et l'éclaircissement de la sphère matérielle de l'application de la Convention, surtout à l'égard :

- des documents administratifs
- de la nécessité de fixer, ou non, un délai limite pour la validité des apostilles
- de la fixation d'un glossaire de mots avec la dénomination des actes

Slovakia - Les Conclusions et recommandations et aussi les informations pratiques sur l' »Espace Apostille » du site web de la HCCS sont très utiles. C'est dommage qu'elles ne soient pas disponibles pour toutes les personnes qui s'occupent de la Convention Apostille à cause de la barrière linguistique. Puis les demandeurs ne sont pas informés sur les nouveaux faits. Par exemple les clients de quelques Ambassades à Bratislava sont mal informés sur les Autorités compétentes slovaques actuelles.

Switzerland - Moitié des cantons

Les Autorités compétentes ont fait part des difficultés suivantes : Plusieurs Etats de destination se plaignent de la langue utilisée pour l'Apostille ou pour les mentions qui y figurent, bien qu'il s'agisse d'une langue permise par la Convention (art. 4; p.ex. français, anglais; allemand comme langue officielle). Dans certains cas, les documents ont été refusés par l'Etat de destination. Voir aussi questions 38) et 45).

United Kingdom - We have had issues with interpretation and implementation of the Apostille Convention – e.g. on occasion, Legalisation has been requested for a document destined for use in a

	Contracting State notwithstanding the existence of an Apostille.	
	Satisfactory	United States (1 state). [1]
	Unsatisfactory	[0]
	The following comments were received from individual U.S. states responding to the questionnaire: "Some countries object to the manner in which apostilles are attached to documents, despite the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2003 Special Commission. For example, some countries request grommets, some request double staples at the top of the document, some request that the apostille be sewn on the document." "Some countries have advised customers that ribbons should be affixed or that seals should fan across overlapping pages." "Some countries have requested that notaries public certify to the immigration status or residency status of an individual. This is not a function of a notary public in the United States." "The ability to authenticate computer-generated signatures on civil status documents (birth records especially) would be helpful." "The status table showing when countries have signed and acceded to the Convention can be confusing." "It would be helpful to have more specific guidelines on retention of records."	United States. [1]
<b>F. Case law and reference work</b>		
<b>12. Copies of guides or practical information.</b>	The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia wrote internal directions for competent municipal courts.	Croatia. [1]
	The preparation of a guide is underway and it is expected to be completed very soon. Since the Apostille is until this moment offered centrally at the Ministry of Justice and Public Order the need of producing a guide has not so far been arisen. As a result of a recent Decision taken by the Council of Ministers, the Apostille service will be decentralised within the next few months and will be offered in all the Districts which are under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus .All information related to this development will be notified as soon as they are available.	Cyprus. [1]
	We do not have any guides or practical information on the operation of the Apostille Convention for the assistance of authorities. For applicants we provide general information on the issuance of the Apostille on our website ( <a href="http://www.justice.cz">www.justice.cz</a> ).	Czech Republic. [1]
	See guide at <a href="http://www.retsinformation.dk/GETDOC/ACCN/C20060010860-regl">http://www.retsinformation.dk/GETDOC/ACCN/C20060010860-regl</a>	Denmark. [1]
	Une circulaire relative à l'application de la convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961 supprimant	France. [1]

	l'exigence de la légalisation des actes publics étrangers (Civ 2005-19 D3/12-12-2005) émise par le ministère français de la justice a été publiée au Bulletin officiel du ministère de la Justice n°100 (1er octobre au 31 décembre 2005).	
	Not available.	Germany. [1]
	We provide information on our website: <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/service/legalisation/">http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/service/legalisation/</a> .	Latvia. [1]
	There is a website about issuing of Apostille in Hong Kong SAR at <a href="http://www.judiciary.gov.hk/en/crt_services/apostille.htm">http://www.judiciary.gov.hk/en/crt_services/apostille.htm</a> .	Hong Kong. [1]
	Some information on the Apostille Convention is provided in the Consular Manual, dedicated to the consuls of Lithuania; also in our website at <a href="http://www.urm.lt/Index.php?-824168960">http://www.urm.lt/Index.php?-824168960</a> .	Lithuania. [1]
	We don't have any information.	Mexico. [1]
	Please refer to the MOFAT website; <a href="http://www.0404.go.kr/consulate/consul09.php">www.0404.go.kr/consulate/consul09.php</a>	Republic of Korea. [1]
	Les instructions pour les demandeurs dans la langue anglaise se trouvent en annexe.	Slovakia. [1]
	Voir question 5).	Switzerland. [1]
	Our practical guide is the circular issued by the Ministry of Justice which is available at <a href="http://www.uhdigm.adalet.gov.tr/genelge/6.doc">http://www.uhdigm.adalet.gov.tr/genelge/6.doc</a> in Turkish.	Turkey. [1]
	See general guidance on the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs web page at <a href="http://www.travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial_2545.html">http://www.travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial_2545.html</a> . Digest of U.S. Practice in International Law, 2004 Department of State Letters to National Association of Secretaries of State and Notary Public Administrators <a href="http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78075.htm">http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78075.htm</a> , <a href="http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78076.htm">http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78076.htm</a> , <a href="http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78077.htm">http://www.state.gov/s/l/2004/78077.htm</a> . Circular diplomatic note from the Secretary of State to the Chiefs of Mission in Washington, D.C. commending the Apostille Convention for consideration February 23, 2005.	United States. [1]
<b>13. Decisions rendered since 2003.</b>	There is no such a decision.	Czech Republic. [1]
	Not applicable.	Cyprus. [1]
	No decisions known.	France, Germany. [2]
	ERIC EDWARD HOTUNG v. HO YUEN KI AND OTHERS, HCA 571/2003 (The full text of the decision in English can be found at the following website: <a href="http://legalref.judiciary.gov.hk/doc/judg/word/vetted/other/en/2003/HCA000571C_2003.doc">http://legalref.judiciary.gov.hk/doc/judg/word/vetted/other/en/2003/HCA000571C_2003.doc</a> ).	Hong Kong. [1]
	We don't have any.	Mexico. [1]
	En 2006 la Cour régionale à Prešov a été saisie d'un appel contre la décision d'un tribunal d'arrondissement (le tribunal pour l'immatriculation au RCS) par laquelle le tribunal a décidé de ne pas immatriculer la société dans le registre du commerce et des sociétés parce que le contrat de société avec le document additionnel n'étaient pas revêtu d'apostille. La Cour régionale a jugé que cette insuffisance était supprimable et c'est pourquoi la cour a renvoyé l'affaire en tant que	Slovakia. [1]

	prématurément présentée.	
	Les décisions isolées et très peu nombreuses ne font que citer la Convention Apostille et n'apportent rien quant à son application.	Switzerland. [1]
	Data is not available.	Turkey. [1]
	Curran, Maryland Attorney General's Opinion, 89 Op. Att'y Gen 60, March 22, 2004, Authentication of public records – significance of apostille on copy of foreign birth certificate). <a href="http://www.oag.state.md.us/Opinions/2004/89oag60.pdf">http://www.oag.state.md.us/Opinions/2004/89oag60.pdf</a> Van de Kamp, California Attorney General's Opinion No. 88-802, December 21, 1988; 1988 Cal. AG Lexis 38, 71 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen 362, 89 Daily Journal D.A.R. 148 (Recordability of an apostille in the French language.) Van de Kamp, California Attorney General's Opinion No. 82-1209, March 9, 1984, 1984 Cal. AG Lexis 72, 67 Op. Atty. Gen. Cal 93.	United States. [1]
<b>14. References to articles or books.</b>	"Principles of Notarial Practice", P. Zablud, Psophidian Press, Melbourne 2005.	Australia. [1]
	There are not any books or articles in connection with the Apostille Convention. Poland - Journal of Law (Dz. U. 2005.Nr 112,poz. 938)	Czech Republic. [1]
	No articles or books known.	Germany. [1]
	We don't have any recommendations.	Mexico. [1]
	« L'apostille – condition de l'acte juridique dans la matière du droit international privé », Claudiu Nicolae BÂRA, Notaire Public, Acta Universitatis No 1 – 2 / 2003. « L'apposition de l'apostille prévue par la Convention conclue à La Haye le 5 octobre 1961 supprimant de l'exigence de la légalisation complète des actes publics étrangers », Mircea Gheorghe BOAR, juge, Manuel d'utilisation de l'apostille, l'Union Nationale des Notaires Publics de Roumanie.	Romania. [1]
	Data is not available.	Turkey. [1]
	Pfund, P.H., Chapter, "Legalization of Documents for Use Abroad" in The International Lawyer's Deskbook, edited by Lowe, Norton, and Drory, ABA (Section of International Law and Practice) 1996, ISBN 1-57073-166-7.	United States. [1]
<b>15. Domestic legislation.</b>	Provision 43,334/2004 of the National Migration Office. Resolution No. 140 of 01/27/2005 of the National Registry of Persons.	Argentina. [!]
	Foreign Evidence Act 1994 (Cth). Part 5 of the Act provides for the recognition of the Apostille Certificate. The Schedule provides a copy of the Convention.	Australia. [1]
	Law on ratification of the Apostille Convention published SG N47of 9.06.2000	Bulgaria. [1]
	The Convention is directly applicable in the Republic of Croatia, therefore no implementing legislation was necessary.	Croatia. [1]
	Under the national law the implementation of an international treaty is not needed. The Apostille Convention was published in the Collection of laws under No 45/1999 Coll. and became a part of the national law. There is no law abolishing the requirement for full legalisation of foreign public documents except for bilateral treaties (see below the Answer to Question 16). Some provisions of	Czech Republic. [1]

<p>certain EC regulations also provide for abolishing of legalisation of specific documents in relationships with EC Member States.</p>	
<p>The Apostille Convention was ratified by the Danish Government. No amendments to Danish law were needed in this connection.</p>	Denmark. [1]
<p>La suppression dans l'ordre juridique interne français de la légalisation date du décret n°53/914 du 26 septembre 1953, et la mise en place d'un régime uniforme de légalisation de 1981 (Circulaire 04/05/1981 relative à la procédure simplifiée de la légalisation des actes et documents administratifs destinés à être produits à l'étranger).</p>	France. [1]
<p>Implementing instruments:  a) federal Act ratifying the Convention (BGBl. 1965 II S. 875);  b) federal Regulation on the issuance of apostilles pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention (BGBl. 1997 I S. 2872);  c) Regulations of the Land Baden-Württemberg on the implementation of the Convention (GBl. BW 1966, S. 9 and 2004, S. 280);  d) Circular of the Senate Administration for the Interior on the authentication of public documents to be used abroad of 20 December 1984, amended by Circular of 8 June 1993;  e) Decision of the Government of the Land Niedersachsen implementing the Convention of 9 November 2004 and Administrative Guidelines of 2 November 2005;  f) Regulation of the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen designating the authorities responsible for issuing apostilles (GV. NRW. Nr. 33 of 09.09.2005, S. 739);  g) Regulation of the Land Sachsen concerning the responsibilities for issuing apostilles and Administrative Guidelines</p>	Germany. [1]
<p>There is no express general legal requirement in Hong Kong SAR requiring legalization of foreign public documents.</p>	Hong Kong. [1]
<p>There is no such domestic legislation which implements the Apostille Convention</p>	Japan. [1]
<p>Document Legalisation Law, Regulations for legalisation of public documents.</p>	Latvia. [1]
<p>Regulations on the Legalisation of Documents and Delivering of Certificate (Apostille), approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on October 30, 2006 (<i>available only in Lithuanian language</i>).</p>	Lithuania. [1]
<p>In the Macao SAR, international treaties, once fully ratified/approved and published in the Official Gazette, are directly applicable (there is no need to incorporate international law into local law). The authentic French text of the Apostille Convention, accompanied by its translation into Portuguese, was published in the Official Gazette Nr. 24, of 13 June 1970, pp 959-962. The Chinese translation was published in the Official Gazette Nr. 49, Series II, of 9 December 2004, pp 8350-8354. The mentioned publications are available on-line, on the Macao SAR Official Press Website, at the following addresses: &lt;<a href="http://bo.io.gov.mo/bo/i/70/24/decretolei48450.asp">http://bo.io.gov.mo/bo/i/70/24/decretolei48450.asp</a>&gt; (French and Portuguese texts); and &lt;<a href="http://bo.io.gov.mo/bo/ii/2004/49/aviso46_cn.asp">http://bo.io.gov.mo/bo/ii/2004/49/aviso46_cn.asp</a>&gt; (Chinese text). In regard to local laws which abolish the requirement for full legalisation of foreign public documents, please refer to the response to question 24 (i.e., non-official translation of Article 358 of the Civil Code of the Macao</p>	Macao. [1]

SAR).	
We don't have any legislation.	Mexico. [1]
<a href="#">Decreto-Lei n.º 28/2000. de 2000-03-13</a> - Ce décret-loi donne compétence, pour la certification de photocopies, aux juntas de freguesia (comités d'arrondissement) et aux services publics de la Poste (CTT-Correios de Portugal, S.A.), aux chambres de commerce et d'industrie reconnues en application du décret-loi n° 244 du 29 décembre 1992, ainsi qu'aux avocats et aux huissiers de justice. <a href="#">Decreto-Lei n.º 237/2001. de 2001-08-30</a> - Ce décret-loi donne compétence aux chambres de commerce et d'industrie, ainsi qu'aux avocats et aux huissiers de justice, pour établir la reconnaissance, certifier ou faire et certifier les traductions de documents. <a href="#">Decreto-Lei n.º 76-A/2006. de 2006-03-29</a> - Ce décret-loi adopte des mesures de simplification et de suppression de procédures et d'actes notariés, ainsi que des formalités d'enregistrement; ce texte donne également compétence aux chambres de commerce et d'industrie, aux officiers de l'état civil, aux avocats et aux huissiers de justice, non seulement pour établir la reconnaissance moyennant l'apposition de mentions particulières, en présence ou par comparaison, mais encore pour certifier ou faire et certifier des traductions de documents conformément au droit notarial.	Portugal. [1]
We have the domestic legislation which implements the Apostille in Korean.	Republic of Korea. [1]
§ 61 de la Loi 97/1963 JO concernant le droit international privé et processuel et § 67 du Règlement 543/2005 JO concernant l'ordre administratif et chancelier pour les tribunaux d'arrondissement, les cours régionales, la cour spéciale et les tribunaux militaires. Ces instruments se réfèrent aux actes judiciaires. Dans d'autres domaines il n'y a pas de législation interne pertinente.	Slovakia. [1]
ACT ON VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC 64/2001 (Articles 14 and 15 reproduced in Slovenian response).	Slovenia. [1]
Section 33 of the High Court Act	South Africa. [1]
Quelques cantons connaissent une législation cantonale, p.ex.: Fribourg: Loi du 17 novembre 2005 sur la légalisation des signatures ; Ordonnance du 10 janvier 2006 sur la légalisation des signatures ; Jura: Ordonnance sur la légalisation de signature du 6 mai 1980 (RSJU 143.31); Berne: Ordonnance du 23 octobre 1996 sur la légalisation de signatures (RSB 152.021);	Switzerland. [1]
There is not any provision within the domestic law.	Turkey. [1]
Issuing of apostille to the official documents intended to use on territories of other countries is regulated by the Rules, established by the Joint Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 05.12.2003 No 237/803/151/5, registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 12.12.2003 No 1151/8472.	Ukraine. [1]
<a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode28a/usc_sec_28a_02000044----000-notes.html">http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode28a/usc_sec_28a_02000044----000-notes.html</a> ; Title 15 U.S. Code 1061 <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode15/usc_sec_15_00001061----000-notes.html">http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode15/usc_sec_15_00001061----000-notes.html</a> ; Title 35 U.S. Code 115 <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode35/usc_sec_35_00000115----000-.html">http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode35/usc_sec_35_00000115----000-.html</a> ; Title 35 U.S.	United States. [1]



	Code 261 <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode35/usc_sec_35_0000261----000-.html">http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode35/usc_sec_35_0000261----000-.html</a> ; 8 Code of Federal Regulations 1237.6 Proof of Official Records.	
<b>16. Bilateral treaties?</b>	Yes. The States listed here provided a list of all relevant bilateral treaties. For further details please see the individual State response on the HCCH website ( <a href="http://www.hcch.net">www.hcch.net</a> ) <u>Spain</u> - 1- "Manual on diplomatic legalization. The Apostille" (Ministry of Justice) 2- "Apostilles and legalizations" (Ministry of Justice) <u>United States</u> - Not applicable	Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States. [24]
	No.	Mexico. [1]

## PART TWO – SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

### A. Process leading to the issuance of an Apostille: One step vs multiple steps

<b>17. One-step or two-step process?</b>	One Step <u>Australia</u> - Where there is doubt as to whether a document qualifies as a public document, the client/s may be requested to have the document notarised by by a notary public before an apostille may be issued. All business documents must be notarised or certified by the relevant chamber or commerce/industry, or notarised by an Australian Notary Public before an apostille may be issued. All tertiary education documents must be signed and stamped by the central Student Administration Area of the issuing institution, or notarised by an Australian Notary Public before an apostille may be issued. All translated documents must have been translated and signed/stamped by the National Authority for Accredited Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), or notarised by an Australian Notary Public before an apostille may be issued. <u>Croatia</u> - We use one-step system. Some documents need to be certified by notaries to become the public documents and then can be presented to the Ministry of Justice or municipal courts for authentication with the Apostille. <u>Czech Republic</u> - The Ministry of Justice uses one–step system. It issues an Apostille to the judicial documents or documents issued by notaries without previous certification. Some documents need to	Albanie, Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway,
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	<p>be certified by notaries to become public documents and only then can be presented directly to the Ministry of Justice for authentication with an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - A. Documents issued by First Instance Courts or Public Prosecutor's Offices of the country, as these are apostilled by such courts or offices respectively. B. Documents issued by Prefectural Administrations, as these are apostilled by such administrations.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Original certificates regarding the status of a person <i>i.e.</i> birth, marriage and death Certificates are apostilled directly by Consular Section. The Department of Foreign Affairs is prepared to authenticate documents referring to qualifications or awards only if institutions make those awards within the National Framework of Qualifications established by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - in most of cases one-step process, for example, for recently issued diplomas.</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - pour ce qui concerne les diplômes une confirmation de l'institution émettrice est exigée</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Il n'y a pas de pratique uniforme relative à l'émission de l'apostille par les tribunaux pour les actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. a), c) et d) de la Convention. Pour les actes judiciaires et notariés, certains tribunaux appliquent une seule étape, d'autres en appliquent deux.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons pour tous les actes publics (sont inclus les diplômes scolaires ou professionnels délivrés par des établissements publics). Pour l'autre moitié des cantons en général pour les actes signés par un notaire cantonal ou par un fonctionnaire cantonal ou communal (sont inclus les diplômes délivrés par des établissements publics). Pour la Chancellerie fédérale pour les actes signés p.ex. par des offices fédéraux et des institutions de la Confédération suisse, des commissions fédérales, le Tribunal fédéral suisse, certains organismes spécifiques, les Autorités compétentes cantonales.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - Documents from judges and from the civil register may be presented directly to the competent authority for authentication with an Apostille (High Court of Justice of an Autonomous Community). Notarial documents or private documents made public through a Notary are presented directly to the competent authority (Professional Association of Notaries).</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - For judicial documents.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - For any kind of documents except Medical Certificate.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - The U.S. Department of State Authentications Office - One Step Process.</p>	<p>Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (25 states). [34]</p>
	<p>Multiple Step</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - Regarding the rest of documents of the Central Administration, it shall depend on whether the signature, according to which the Apostille shall be stamped, is deposited or not in the Section of Legalizations of the Ministry of Justice. Should the signature not be deposited, it shall be required, as an intermediate stage, that the signature is recognized by an authority having deposited the signature with the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Pour la moitié des cantons en général pour les actes qui ne sont pas signés par un notaire cantonal ou par un fonctionnaire cantonal ou communal.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland,</p>

	<p><u>Turkey</u> - For some of the administrative documents. Education documents shall require the previous legalization by the relevant Education authorities of the Autonomous Communities or by the Ministry of Education as the first stage to obtain the Apostille.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Medical Certificate, documents of registration of the acts of civil status. As for Medical Certificates: firstly there is a need for certification by relevant regional hospital.</p>	<p>Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (5 states) Venezuela. [23]</p>
<p><b>17(a). Which docs must go through multi-step process?</b></p>	<p><u>Albanie</u> – Actes d'état civil (actes de naissance, décès, mariage) et certificats de capacité ou de non-empêchement, Documents administratifs, Documents scolaires délivrés par des institutions pré-universitaires.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> – Les diplômes et les certificats scolaires. Les extraits de naissance, de mariages, etc. délivrés par les autorités ecclésiastiques, des actes antérieurs à la création du Registre Civil.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - Most of the documents must go through a process comprising several steps, so they will require a chain of signatures before getting to the signature registered in the records of our Competent Authority, e.g. study certificates, notarial records, legality certificates, health certificates, judicial documents.</p> <p><u>Cyprus</u> - Documents issued by various Government Departments have to be first certified by their respective Ministries, including diplomas and other education documents both original and copies. This procedure also applies to powers of attorney, affidavits, documents issued by legal persons of public law.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs uses multiple-step process for civil status documents, diplomas and education documents, administrative documents.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> – Refer to document annexed to Response (in Spanish only).</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - Education documents from universities (in some Länder); notarial deeds (in some Länder).</p> <p><u>Greece</u>: 1. Documents issued by the local branches of Social Security Institute;  2. Documents issued by public hospitals, private hospitals and private medical practitioners;  3. Documents that are issued or need to be authenticated by the Hellenic Police;  4. Documents issued by universities.  All these categories of documents are apostilled by the Competent Authorities of the respective Regions of our country.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Documents relating to Adoption, Commercial documents, certificates of free sale, powers of attorney, affidavits, incorporation papers and other legal papers. The multiple step process is applied to the authentication of copies of diplomas and other educational documents.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - Documents executed by a registrar (e.g., authenticated copy of the registry) or by a notary public (e.g., notarized deed).</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (3 states), Venezuela. [17]</p>

	<p><u>Latvia</u> - registry documents, documents from medical institutions, documents on primary and secondary education, judgements etc.; for higher education this process applies only for old diplomas  Note: the seal affixed on the documents must be certified by the Director-General of the Legal Affairs Bureau to which the registrar/notary public belongs.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - La procédure à deux étapes pour l'application de l'apostille par l'institution du préfet au cas des actes publics prévus par l'art. 1 let. b) de la Convention, est appliquée pour les actes suivants :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. des certificats d'études (des diplômes, des annexes à ceux-ci, des programmes analytiques, des attestations provisoires concernant les études)</li> <li>2. Des certificats médicaux</li> <li>3. Des attestations professionnelles</li> <li>4. Des documents de travail / d'emploi.</li> </ol> <p>La procédure à deux étapes pour l'émission de l'apostille par le tribunal au cas des actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. a), c) et d) de la Convention, est appliquée pour les actes suivants :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Les jugements qui avant l'émission de l'apostille doivent porter : la mention d'avoir été légalisés en tant que « définitifs et irrévocables », la mention spéciale pour la légalisation complète, le nom lisible de la personne qui a fait la mention spéciale pour la légalisation complète et le cachet du Cabinet du Président.</li> <li>2. Les actes notariés qui doivent porter la conclusion de légalisation, le cachet et la signature du notaire public de l'arrondissement du tribunal.</li> <li>3. Les actes originaux ou les copies certifiées délivrés par le Registre du Commerce (le certificat de constatation, etc.) doivent porter la signature lisible du directeur et ils doivent être délivrés avec l'entête du Ministère de la Justice.</li> <li>4. Les actes originaux ou les copies certifiées émanant d'un juge d'exécution doivent porter le cachet et la signature du juge d'exécution.</li> </ol> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Les actes qui ne sont pas signés par un notaire cantonal ou par un fonctionnaire cantonal ou communal; p.ex.: procurations, copies, traductions, attestations médicales, attestations de vétérinaires, statuts, diplômes scolaires ou professionnels délivrés par des établissements privés. Dans quelques cantons pour certains actes signés par un fonctionnaire cantonal ou communal: p.ex. certificats de domicile, autres attestations communales, extraits de registre d'état civil, extraits de registre commercial. Dans un seul canton pour tous les actes publics.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - Actually, most of documents are subjected to single-step process. However, multiple-step process is obligatory for some documents. <i>E.g.</i> official documents received from hospitals or a medical establishment must, at first, be approved by county medical group board or province medical directorate before being apostilled.  Documents received from university departments must be approved by deanship or rectorate before being apostilled.  Formerly, diplomas issued by primary schools and high schools were approved by county national education directorate and thereafter the seal and signature of the county national education director was apostilled. However, this certification procedure was not accepted by many countries and these</p>	
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	<p>countries required the name of school principal be scripted in such documents instead of county national education director's name. Therefore, primary school and high school diplomas are, now, sealed with apostille by county governor's office and then delivered to county national education director for approval by filling articles 2,3 and 4 , and after sub—approval procedure carried out by county national educational director's office apostille process is completed by county governor's office by filling articles 5,6,7,8 and 9.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - For the documents of registration of the acts of civil status: Preliminary certification needed by Main Department of Justice of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or Main Department of Justice of justice of Ukraine in regions or Main Departments of Justice of justice of Ukraine in the city of Kyiv and in the city of Sevastopol. These organs check on authenticity, engrossment and verify documents, issued by departments of registration of acts of civil status; regional hospitals (stamp and signature), the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (stamp and signature).</p> <p><u>United States</u> - 3 states: All notarized documents; General or Privately issued documents that are notarized by notary with expiring commissions; Documents signed by local officials who are not required to file their oath with the state Secretary of State.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Diplomas and other education documents from private institutions.</p>	
<p><b>17(b). Which intermediate authorities involved, and what certification do they perform?</b></p>	<p><u>Albanie</u> - Autorité régionale (préfectures), Institution Centrale respectif, Ministere de l'Éducation.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> – Un seul intermédiaire est impliqué dans les procédures faites en plusieurs étapes. Pour les documents scolaires, les autorités intermédiaires impliquées sont le directeur du Département, le Secrétaire d'Etat ou le Ministre responsable de l'Éducation ou de l'Enseignement Supérieur selon les cas. L'enregistreur titulaire ou adjoint pour les extraits de naissance et autres.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - The number and name of the intermediate authorities involved in the process cannot be specified as they depend on each particular document and case.</p> <p><u>Cyprus</u> - The intermediate authorities are the respective Ministries of the departments or other bodies which issue the originals. As regards the of powers of attorney, the documents are stamped and signed by a Certifying Officer who declares that he/she knows the person who issues the power of attorney and has signed in his/her presence. The District Officer is certifying the signature of the Certifying Officer and the Central Authority proceeds to the issue of the apostille.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Regional offices for civil status documents, The Ministry of Education for diplomas and education documents, Other ministries for administrative documents.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> – Refer to document annexed to Response (in Spanish only).</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - The numbers and names depend on the respective Land</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - 1. One: the Ministry of Employment &amp; Social Protection;  2. One: the Ministry of Health &amp; Social Solidarity for public hospitals; The Medical Association of Athens for private medical practitioners and private hospitals;  3. Two: the competent Police Station and the respective Police Directorate;  4. One: the central secretariat or the Directorate of Education &amp; Research.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (3 states), Venezuela. [16]</p>

Ireland - (1) Notary Public/Solicitor (Seal/Stamp/Signature), Chambers of Commerce of Ireland (Stamp/Signature), Irish Medicines Board (Headed Paper/Signature).

Japan - The number and the name: 50, Legal Affairs Bureau. Type of certification: certification with the seal of the registrar/notary public. (See also the answer to the previous question.)

Latvia - Registry Department of the Ministry Justice, Department of Court of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, State Social Insurance Agency, municipalities etc.

Romania - Pour l'émission de l'apostille par l'institution du préfet au cas des actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. b) de la Convention, les autorités impliquées sont les suivantes :

- quant aux diplômes et à d'autres documents d'études.
  1. Le Ministère de l'Éducation, de la Recherche et de la Jeunesse – par l'intermédiaire du Centre National sur la Reconnaissance et sur l'Équivalence des Diplômes (l'enseignement universitaire) ou des Inspectorats scolaires (l'enseignement général), selon le cas.
  2. Le Ministère de la Défense.
  3. Le Ministère des Internes et de la Réforme Administrative.
- concernant les certificats médicaux : Le Ministère de la Santé Publique (pour les actes délivrés par ce ministère), respectivement par ses structures territoriales (pour les actes délivrés par des unités subordonnées au ministère).
- concernant les actes qui font la preuve d'une qualification dans un métier :
  1. Le Ministère du Travail, de la Famille et de l'Égalité Sociale, par ses structures territoriales ;
  2. Le Conseil National pour la Formation des Adultes ;
  3. Le Ministère des Transports ;
  4. Le Ministère de la Culture et des Cultes.
- concernant les actes relatifs aux rapports de travail /de service :  
La Maison Nationale pour les Retraites et d'autres Droits d'Assurance Sociale.

Switzerland - En ligne générale, quant au nombre, il s'agit d'une seule autorité intermédiaires impliquée qui procède à la vérification de la signature, du sceau et / ou du timbre figurant sur l'acte public. Une Apostille est ensuite émise pour ce certificat.

Quant au nom, les actes doivent être certifiés (selon le canton) p.ex. par un notaire, un avocat, la commune, l'autorité de surveillance. Les diplômes scolaires ou professionnels délivrés par des établissements privés doivent être certifiés p.ex. par un notaire, un avocat, la commune, le Département cantonal responsable de la formation et de l'éducation.

Turkey -

- 1- For university documents:  
Deanship or rectorate approves the authenticity of a document received from a university department directorate. Province governor's office approves the seal and signature of the dean or rector with apostille.
- 2- For medical certificates:  
The authenticity of a signature affixed to a document issued by a hospital or medical establishment is

	<p>approved by county medical group directorate if such hospital or establishment is county-based. if it is a province-based establishment, then the authenticity of the signature is approved by provincial medical directorate. The approval of County Medical Group Directorate is certified with apostille by county governor's office, and the approval of Province Medical Directorate is certified with apostille by Province Governor's Office.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - 3 states: The county certifies the status of the expiring commissions of the notary; The county clerk or county recorder authenticates the signatures of local registrars, health officers, district attorneys, etc. then the document can be submitted to the state Secretary of State for authentication of the county clerk or recorders signature.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - 1) Public register or notary; 2) Ministry of interior relations and justice; 3) Ministry of education and superior education.</p>	
<p><b>17(c). Reasons for adopting multi-step process</b></p>	<p>Your State has designated one single (central) Competent Authority but the signatures, seals and stamps of local officials and authorities are subject to a certification by a regional authority, whose certificate is in turn subject to an Apostille issued by the Competent Authority; the goal in this set of circumstances is to ensure that the Competent Authority only deals with a limited number of signatures, seals and stamps whose origin it is requested and in a position to authenticate</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Vaut pour les Autorités compétentes cantonales à l'intérieur du canton.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Cyprus, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, United States (3 states), Venezuela. [15]</p>
	<p>Your State has designated several Competent Authorities but the signatures, seals and stamps of local officials and authorities are nonetheless subject to a certification by a regional authority, whose certificate is in turn subject to an Apostille issued by the relevant Competent Authority; the goal in this set of circumstances is to ensure that the Competent Authorities only deal with a limited number of signatures, seals and stamps whose origin they are requested and in a position to authenticate</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Voir réponse en haut.</p>	<p>Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (2 states). [8]</p>
	<p>Your State has a special, multi-step procedure for the authentication of diplomas and other education documents that are issued in your State and need to be produced abroad – please explain the nature and content of that process.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - Diplomas and education documents must first be authenticated by the Ministry of Education before they can be issued an Apostille by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - The Competent authority (Department of Foreign Affairs) only authenticates documents referring to qualifications or awards only if institutions make those awards within the National Framework of Qualifications established by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland. A copy of a degree must be notarized in advance of the Competent authority placing an apostille stamp on the</p>	<p>Andorre, Belgique, El Salvador, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (3 states) Venezuela. [9]</p>

	<p>document</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Lorsque le document délivré émane d'une école/université publique, il doit être apostillé suite aux démarches ordinaires</p> <p>Cependant, lorsque le document est délivré par une école/université privée, les démarches sont les suivantes :</p> <p>Diplômes/certificats d'écoles de l'enseignement de base et secondaire privés :</p> <p>Ces documents sont légalisés auprès du Département de l'enseignement de base et secondaire, situé à Lisbonne. L'apostille de La Haye est apposée auprès des services du Parquet général de la République (Procuradoria-Geral da República).</p> <p>Diplômes/certificats d'universités privées :</p> <p>Ces documents sont légalisés auprès du Département de l'enseignement supérieur, situé à Lisbonne. L'apostille de La Haie est apposée auprès des services du Parquet général de la République.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Il ne s'agit pas d'une procédure spéciale dans le sens stricte, mais de la procédure connue aussi pour d'autres actes publics. En ligne générale, il s'agit d'une seule autorité intermédiaires impliquée qui procède à la vérification de la signature et / ou du timbre figurant sur les diplômes scolaires ou professionnels délivrés par des établissements privés. La certification est p.ex. faite par un notaire, un avocat, la commune, le Département cantonal responsable de la formation et de l'éducation. Une Apostille est ensuite émise pour ce certificat.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - This is the information we provide to our customers:</p> <p>UK Educational Documents:</p> <p>All educational documents must be signed by a UK solicitor or notary before they can be legalised. The solicitor or notary should either confirm that the document is original if that is the case, or a true photocopy. If you are living overseas it may be possible for the British Council in your country to certify the document instead. You should check with the local British Council office to see if they offer this service.</p> <p>Educational documents which are not degrees, diplomas, certificates, qualifications or other awards may be legalised if they have been issued by an educational establishment in the UK. This includes school reports and letters concerning enrolling, attendance, fees and grades.</p> <p>Documents which are degrees, diplomas, certificates, qualifications or other awards can be legalised if they were issued by an educational establishment if it is registered at one of the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Register of Providers' or the 'Recognised Degrees' sections of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) website</li> <li>• the Scottish Qualifications Authority website</li> <li>• the National Database of Accredited Qualifications website</li> <li>• the British Accreditation Council Website</li> <li>• the Open and Distance Learning Quality Council</li> <li>• the Association of British Language Schools</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, qualifications which are or were issued by OCR, Edexcel, Higher National Diploma, City and Guilds, National Open College Network, GNVQ or the American Study Abroad Programme in the</p>	
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	<p>UK can also be legalised.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - The document (original or copy) must be certified by the Ministry of Education/Superior Education before it be presented to ministry of foreign affairs for the apostille procedure.</p> <p>Other.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - 1. This process has been followed because of the vast number of local branches and the difficulty in collecting the required signature samples for the apostille issuance.  2. Similarly, failure to collect the required signature samples from the administration offices of public hospitals. In the case of private medical practitioners and private hospitals, document authentication by the competent authority is necessary in order for the document to become 'public' so that an apostille can be issued.  3. The Hellenic Police have issued themselves a relative circular, according to which any police document that shall be used abroad must bear specific authentications and signatures by only certain senior officers.  4. Facilitation of universities and the Competent Authorities by sending and collecting certain signature samples from officials who are responsible for the authentication of the related documents.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - These documents need to be notarized and county clerk of court certified before presenting them for an apostille. If an expiry commission notary notarizes these documents, then the clerk of court will need to certify/verify the notary in Ohio before the apostille can be issued.</p>	<p>Greece, United States (1 state). [2]</p>
<p><b>18. Consider changing from multi-step process.</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Our goal is to increase the number of Competent Authorities. We would like to appoint other ministries than the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and regional bodies as Competent Authorities.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - For the time being, the best possible and realistic solution is the coordinated attempt for communication between the Competent Authorities, the central public authorities (Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Ministry of Employment and Social Protection etc), the Ministry of Interior which informs and coordinates in relation with the application of the Apostille Convention, and the authorities issuing public documents, so that there is a fruitful cooperation, understanding of problems and, thus, the timely and effective communication of the required signature samples. Therefore, only a few offices shall remain, the documents of which must be authenticated by some intermediary authority, in case this is required by law and the official administrative process.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - In recent years, in order to increase convenience for the applicants and expedite the whole process, a system has been implemented at some notary public offices in those metropolitan areas which receive relatively large number of applications, whereby an applicant is able to obtain not only a notarized deed but also, at the same time, the certification by the Director-General of the Legal Affairs Bureau of the seal of notary public and the Apostille to it as well. We have achieved good results with this system.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - Our aim is to achieve the single step process for all public documents where it is possible.</p> <p><u>Mexico</u> - The States of the Mexican Republic Apostilles local papers and the Fedearl Documents the</p>	<p>Belgique, Czech Republic, Greece, India, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (3 states) Venezuela. [11]</p>

	<p>Central Authority.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons.  <u>Ukraine</u> - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is considering options for change a multi-step practice by way of creating conditions which permit to realize the apostille procedure directly after the regional hospitals.  <u>Venezuela</u> - Use of modern technology and establishment of regional authorities.</p>	
	<p>No.  <u>Albanie</u> - L'Autorité compétente ne traite que d'un nombre limité de signatures, sceaux et timbres dont il lui est demandé – et dont elle est en mesure – de certifier l'origine.  <u>Andorre</u> - Dans le cas des extraits de naissances et autres, la formalité de la validation du Registre Civil a pour objet d'assurer le transfert de l'information des archives ecclésiastiques.  <u>Argentina</u> - Our Competent Authority has delegated the power only to the Association of Notaries, which centralizes the circuits of signatures needed for their intervention in the provinces under their jurisdiction.  <u>Ecuador</u> - This is the best way to guarantee that the documents are trustworthy.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We have simplified the chain of authentications, but do not envision a single step process, especially when dealing with notarized documents, which will always required that the Supreme Court Authentication department validates the signature of authorized notaries.  Le Ministère des Internes et de Réforme Administrative, qui coordonne les institutions du préfet compétentes à apposer l'apostille sur les actes publics prévus par l'art.1 let. b) de la Convention, envisage de changer la procédure à plusieurs étapes, avant que les actes officiels puissent recevoir l'Apostille, par l'emploi de moyens qui puissent permettre la vérification rapide de l'origine de l'acte, ainsi que par l'emploi plus efficient de la technologie moderne. Dans ce sens, les nouvelles instructions du ministère des internes et de la réforme administrative, concernant l'organisation et le déroulement de l'activité de l'émission de l'apostille dans les institutions du préfet, sont en train d'être élaborées.  <u>Germany</u> - (where applicable): Current procedure works correctly; it would be difficult to collect specimen of all employees working with and all seals used in the administration of a Land; the authorities competent for issuing the apostilles do not necessarily know about the competences of all authorities issuing the public documents to be apostillised.  <u>Romania</u> - l'application de la procédure à plusieurs étapes confère une garantie en plus pour l'authenticité de l'acte.  <u>South Africa</u> - To prevent fraud and corruption.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons concernés L'autorité de certification régionale dispose du pouvoir, de la compétence ainsi que des moyens nécessaires à la vérification de la signature, du sceau et / ou du timbre figurant sur l'acte public. Un changement du régime impliquerait une révision de la base légale cantonale ainsi que de l'organisation.  <u>Ukraine</u> - regarding the acts for civil status for the moment the current practice is not supposed to be</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (1 state). [15]</p>

	<p>changed in order to guarantee issuing apostilles for the true documents.</p> <p>N/A.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Voir première partie de la question 17).</p>	<p>Australia, Bermuda, France, Georgia, Hong Kong, Lithuania, Macao, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (13 states). [17]</p>
<p><b>B. Scope of the Apostille Convention</b></p>		
<p><b>19. Difficulties characterising docs as public or not?</b></p>	<p>Yes.  <u>Albanie</u> - les documents délivrés par des institutions privées. Solution : demande de certification de la signature par un notaire.  <u>Australia</u> - the main difficulty that Australia has encountered with the operation of the Apostille Convention has been determining what is and is not a 'public document'. Australia generally resolves these issues by consulting with legal experts. However thjis impacts negatively on the timely delivery of services.  <u>Czech Republic</u> - Some states require the authentication of the translation of the public documents. But the translation executed by the certified translator is not considered as the public document by the Czech Republic. Therefore, it can not be apostillised. This problem is solved by legalization of the translation.  <u>El Salvador</u> – Certified/notarized copies of foreign documents (<i>e.g.</i> Copies of foreign passports, copies of foreign educational diplomas, copies of private documents). Translated documents, are issued an Apostille if they follow the legal notarized process. Documents dealing directly with commercial/customs issues; we proceed to issue an Apostille even though we are aware that such documents do not require any type of legalization. We expect the work of the Special Commission will help us in clarifying most issued, and hope what the handbook will be finalized and circulated.  <u>Finland</u> - Sometimes the status of diplomas issued by an institution may be problematic. Les statuts de société par exemple. Les pouvoirs qui sont donnés par exemple à un avocat. Ces documents sont certifiés par un notaire qui légalise la signature des signataires des documents sans vérification de l'exactitude des faits et qualités mentionnés dans le document. Ainsi, seule la signature du notaire est couverte par l'apostille.  <u>Germany</u> - In some cases there have been difficulties as regards the treatment of translations.</p>	<p>Albanie, Australia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Monaco, New Zealand, Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (3 states). [15]</p>

Mostly, they were turned into a public document by certifying the translator's signature; subsequently, the certification was apostilled.

Greece - The majority of problems do not actually involve the Apostille of public documents, but that of private ones, after the authentication of their signature. In many cases, private individuals who act either as natural persons or as representatives of legal persons, make and sign private documents, certifying actions which may be officially certified – according to our national legislation - by the competent public authorities, e.g. registration documents. Citizens often avoid following the official channels and certify different actions through private documents. In other cases, they bind – through their signature – legal persons that are seated in other countries and, therefore, their capacity may not be confirmed, as this may be confirmed only by documents of other countries under processes we are not aware of. In such cases, the Competent Authorities do not issue an Apostille, a fact which results in inconvenience and conflicts. They try to solve these problems out by addressing to legal counsels, so that they have official and documented information and a common process for dealing with such cases. However, in the majority of cases, the Competent Authorities consider that the replies are not well-documented, clear and specific.

India - Many member countries insist on apostille of all commercial documents and these have to be apostilled in view of convenience to the applicant, though these are not supposed to be apostilled under the convention.

Monaco – Les statuts de société par exemple ; - Les pouvoirs qui sont donnés par exemple à un avocat.  
Ces documents sont certifiés par un notaire qui légalise la signature des signataires des documents sans vérification de l'exactitude des faits et qualités mentionnés dans le document. Ainsi, seule la signature du notaire est couverte par l'apostille.

New Zealand - Academic documents have always posed a problem for us. We can verify the seals and/or signatures on academic documents issued by the Ministry of Education or the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, but we require all documents issued by schools, universities and other educational institutions to be notarised. We have no process in place to verify the signatures and/or seals on documents issued by schools/universities/other institutions. Our dilemma is that some schools/educational institutions are private, not public. We do not verify the signatures and/or seals of any non-government agents/agencies (except for Notaries Public). We receive and attach Apostilles to administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs operations as our exporters are required to submit these to certain countries, despite our understanding that these are not public documents under the Convention.

Romania - Il y a certaines difficultés à statuer sur la qualité d'acte public au cas de certains documents médicaux ; pour résoudre de pareils cas, on a élaboré et il est en train d'être délivré, un projet d'ordre commun du ministère des internes et de réforme administrative et du ministère de la santé publique.

Switzerland - Très peu de cantons signalent seulement quelques cas singuliers p.ex.: copies qui ne sont pas certifiées conformes (copies simples); voir aussi question 24). Documents établis par des

	<p>organismes privés qui travaillent sur mandat d'un canton ou d'une commune (p.ex. bureau d'adoption, institut scolaire); la solution n'a pas été indiquée.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - The requests for issuing apostille on decisions taken by managing bodies of legal persons is sometimes arises. Applicants explain such requests by relevant demands from the foreign authorities. Currently an apostille is issued in Ukraine only on notarial copies of such documents. It is also no certainty with regard to the documents which may fall under exceptions listed in Article 1 of the Convention.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Matter already under discussion with Hague Convention Office</p> <p><u>United States</u> - "Fraudulent documents used by "common law" citizens in an attempt to be given ambassador status."          "Incomplete notarization or incomplete certification."          "If they are notarized we consider them public documents."          "Kansas law allows certain officials to sign using their signature and seal. This act "has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notarial office."</p>	
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Dans la grande majorité des cas, les autorités compétentes n'ont pas signalé avoir été confrontées à des difficultés de qualification s'agissant du caractère public ou non, des documents soumis à apostille. Certains exemples ont pu être donnés par des autorités compétentes, concernant notamment :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- la qualification à donner à un document établi par un organisme de retraite ; il a été conclu qu'il s'agissait bien d'un acte public ;</li> <li>- les attestations d'une chambre de commerce et d'industrie, dont il a été conclu qu'il s'agissait d'actes publics au regard de la mission de service public de cet organisme.</li> </ul> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Grande majorité des cantons</p>	<p>Andorre,          Argentina,          Belgique,          Bermuda,          Bulgaria, Croatia,          Cyprus, Denmark,          Ecuador, France,          Georgia, Germany,          Hong Kong,          Ireland, Japan,          Latvia, Lithuania,          Luxembourg,          Macao, Mexico,          Moldova, Norway,          Poland, Portugal,          Republic of Korea,          Slovakia, Slovenia,          South Africa,          Spain,          Switzerland,          Turkey, United States (27 states),          Venezuela. [33]</p>

<b>20. Ever rejected foreign Apostilles because not public?</b>	Yes. <u>El Salvador</u> - When documents have been authenticated by foreign notaries.	El Salvador. [1]
	No. <u>Switzerland</u> - Malgré la remarque en haut, la <b>majorité</b> des cantons a répondu par "non"; nous interprétons cette réponse de la manière, à ce qu'aucun cas n'a été porté à leur connaissance <u>United States</u> - Both the U.S. Department of State Authentication Office and the 26 individual U.S. states responding to the questionnaire.	Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (26), Venezuela. [36]
	Foreign apostilles are received by a number of government and non-governmental organisations and the type of information requested above is not collated. However, Australia acknowledges that foreign apostilles may be rejected on the basis that they could not be characterised as public.	Australia. [1]
	It is up to each individual authority concerned to decide whether or not to reject foreign Apostilles for any reason; thus no integrated information on rejection is available.	Japan. [1]
	No information available.	Norway. [1]
	Les Autorités compétentes n'ont pas de données en cette matière.	Portugal. [1]
Nous ne pouvons pas formuler une réponse à cette question, parce que nous ne disposons pas d'informations officielles sur la pratique administrative de toutes les autorités Roumaines centrales et	Romania. [1]	

	locales. Remarque: En général, pas d'informations disponibles à ce sujet, vu que seulement les Autorités compétentes ont participé aux réponses de ce questionnaire. Elles ne sont en général pas "autorité de destination".	Switzerland [1]
<b>21. Difficulties with Art(1)(3)(a) "documents executed by diplomatic or consular agents"?</b>	Yes. <u>Andorre</u> - Dans la procédure d'obtention d'un visa, certains pays auraient demandé l'émission des apostilles pour des documents émis par des autorités consulaires. <u>Ecuador</u> - Some consular agents of other States in Ecuador didn't want to legalize commercial documents. <u>New Zealand</u> - While we do not often receive documents executed by our consular agents we have received on several occasions documents that have been certified by a consular agent – often as the applicant is overseas and unable to sign a document in front of a Notary Public here in New Zealand. From time to time we also receive a birth or marriage registration for a New Zealand citizen who was born or married overseas and registered that event with a New Zealand Consular agent - and then expected they could use the resulting certificate as if it was a New Zealand issued birth or marriage certificate. Our understanding of the Convention is that we cannot attach an Apostille to these documents. <u>United Kingdom</u> - Prior to August 2008, certain (non-Hague) countries requested that we act as middle-men between them and countries where they have no representation. We have stopped this practice, and found a "work around" for documents signed by our own Diplomats overseas.	Andorre, Cyprus, Ecuador, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States (2 states). [6]
	No. <u>Georgia</u> - According to the international practice we use legalisation procedure to this kind of documents.	Albanie, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania,

		Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (26 states), Venezuela. [35]
	No information available.	Norway. [1]
<b>22. Difficulties with Art (1) (3) (b) “administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs agencies”?</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - Some people expect the application of the Apostilla Convention to that kind of documents</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - But recently, since we had a productive discussion during a regional meeting with participation of the Apostille Secretariat, we issue Apostille for such documents at the users request, even though we understand such documents do not require any type of legalization. We are looking forward to a formal interpretation of this exception so that all countries can adopt uniform procedures based on a common understanding.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - Because of diverse approach of countries.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Il est souvent demandé d’apostiller des certificats d’immatriculation de véhicules pour une vente de ces véhicules ou de permis de conduire pour l’achat de véhicules à l’ étranger. Les Etats de destination exigent que ces documents soient apostillés. Il peut être considéré que ces documents administratifs n’ont pas directement trait à une opération commerciale mais l’autorité centrale monégasque s’est souvent interrogée à ce sujet.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - As mentioned in question 19 we receive these documents from our exporters as some countries require these documents to have an Apostille. We aid our exporters by attaching Apostilles. We also provide legalization for a good number of such documents.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - Fraudulent documents.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - The Hague Apostille Convention does not specify list of administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs operations. Further clarification is needed.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Many countries request legalisation on commercial documents. We do legalise them (usually after they have been signed by a Notary or Chamber of Commerce official) in order not to hinder the commercial process.</p>	<p>Albanie, Belgique, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Monaco, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (2 states). [12]</p>
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - In Australia, there is a requirement that all business documents be notarised or certified by the relevant chamber or commerce/industry, or notarised by an Australian Notary Public before an apostille can be applied.</p>	<p>Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan,</p>



		Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (27 states), Venezuela. [29]
	No information available.	Norway. [1]
<b>23. Do the following fall within the Convention's scope?</b>	Type of Document	States that explicitly checked the type of document as falling within the scope.
	Certificates of Origin	Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela. [26]
	Export Licences	Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Macao, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States. [22]
	Import Licences	Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Macao, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States. [22]
	Health and Safety Certificates	Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States. [31]
	Certificates of Products Registration	Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela. [26]
	Certificates of Conformity	Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States. [25]
	Other Documents	<u>Macao</u> - To enlarge the scope of the Convention as to include all public documents, in particular those until now excluded under Article 1(3) b), does not seem to raise any practical problems. However, attention should be paid to the following: - Such

	<p>an inclusion will require a formal amendment to the text of the Convention – a Recommendation of the Special Commission will not be sufficient; - Under other international treaties/instruments special 'model forms' have been established, which do not – and should not - need to be legalised; therefore, the main reason provided for the exclusion at the time of the negotiation of the Convention, i.e., "that the Convention should not impose a (new) formality where no formality existed before" is still very much valid.</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - tout acte officiel délivré par les autorités publiques aux personnes physiques et morales</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - Commercial invoices, Certificates of Free Sale, Certificates of Good Standing</p> <p><u>Romania</u> -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. les autorisations pour la commercialisation des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire ;</li> <li>2. les autorisations pour la distribution des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire ;</li> <li>3. les certificats de la libre circulation des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire, délivrés à la demande ;</li> <li>4. les certificats de santé, sauf les certificats sanitaires – vétérinaires du domaine de la santé des animaux ;</li> <li>5. les bulletins d'analyse et d'autres actes officiels attestant la conformité des produits vu les dispositions de la législation communautaire du domaine de la sécurité des animaux.</li> </ol> <p>Le Ministère Roumain de la Santé Publique est d'accord que les Certificats sanitaires et de sécurité délivrés par les autorités ou par les agences du gouvernement compétentes et les Certificats de conformité soient inclus dans le champ d'application de la Convention.</p> <p>Dans l'opinion de l'Autorité Nationale Sanitaire Vétérinaire et pour la Sécurité des Aliments (A.N.S.V.S.A.), il est nécessaire d'inclure dans le champ d'application de la Convention :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. l'autorisation pour la commercialisation des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire ;</li> <li>2. les autorisations de distribution des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire ;</li> <li>3. les certificats de libre circulation des produits pour la médecine vétérinaire, délivrés à la demande ;</li> <li>4. les certificats de santé, sauf les certificats sanitaires – vétérinaires du domaine de la santé des animaux ; les bulletins d'analyse et d'autres actes publics attestant la conformité des produits vu les dispositions de la législation communautaire dans le domaine de la sécurité des animaux.</li> </ol> <p>La raison en est que la certification sanitaire – vétérinaire en Roumanie, pour le</p>
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		<p>commerce intracommunautaire et pour l'exportation des animaux vivants vers de tiers pays, est effectuée conformément aux dispositions de la législation communautaire en vigueur.</p> <p>Le Ministère Roumain de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural, par l'intermédiaire de l'Agence de Paiements et d'Intervention dans l'Agriculture, n'est pas d'accord à faire inclure les certificats d'origine, les licences d'exportation, etc., dans le champ d'application de la Convention, en motivant que l'application directe de la législation communautaire incidente à la Politique Agricole Commune, suppose l'emploi des certificats d'origine, des licences d'exportation, des licences d'importation, etc., dans la forme expressément prévue dans les règlements respectifs, forme qui n'est pas incluse dans le champ d'application de la Convention. Dans ce sens, on indique des exemples qui figurent dans les dispositions de l'art.16 du Règlement (CE) no.800/1999 du 15.04.1999 sur la fixation des normes communes d'application du système de remboursement au cas des exportations de produits agricoles, publié dans le JO L 102, le 17.04.1999, avec les modifications et les adjonctions ultérieures.</p> <p>L'Autorité Nationale des Douanes est aussi d'avis que ces exceptions devraient être maintenues, parce que les certificats d'origine sont régis par des accords internationaux conclus par l'UE, voir des règlements communautaires sur la détermination et sur la certification de l'origine. Conformément aux dispositions de ces règlements, les certificats d'origine sont acceptés dans les pays partenaires de l'UE, sans que la légalisation complète de ceux-ci soit nécessaire. De manière similaire, les règlements communautaires ne prévoient ni la nécessité de la légalisation complète au cas des autres actes mentionnés à la question no.23 du Questionnaire.</p> <p>Dans les conditions des exigences actuelles de l'intégration des marchés par la fluidification du commerce, il est nécessaire de garder au-delà des frontières du principe de la reconnaissance - lors de la signature de la Convention - du régime de faveur qui subsiste jusqu'à ce moment, dans le sens de l'observance du principe qu' «il ne faudrait pas imposer une formalité là où, auparavant, il n'y en avait aucune ».</p> <p><u>United States</u> - 66% of individual U.S. states responding skipped this question.</p>
	<p>Australia supports the position that the Convention should be interpreted as broadly as possible, where practical. In relation to the specific categories of document listed above, Australia would generally only consider Health and safety certificates issued by government authorities or agencies as 'public documents' for the purposes of the Convention. This is because they are issued by an administrative agency or authority of the Commonwealth. The other categories of documents would generally be regarded as 'commercial documents' by Australian authorities. However, an apostille</p>	<p>Australia. [1]</p>

	could be issued on a Notary Public's certificate appearing on such documents.	
	Finland is of the opinion that the scope of the Convention may not be fundamentally altered by way of interpretation. If the documents referred to above are administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs operations, they do not fall within the scope of the Convention, since this is stated by explicit wording in Article 1(3) b).	Finland. [1]
	La France accueille favorablement la proposition de la Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé de réfléchir aux suites à donner aux demandes faites en application de la convention aux documents sélectionnés ci-dessus.	France. [1]
	If the certificate is issued by a government authority, we will issue apostille. Otherwise, we will only apostillise a notarial certificate attached to these other documents.	Hong Kong. [1]
	We acknowledge that this issue needs further consideration in terms of present day practices. Thus we would like to refrain from marking the items below.	Japan. [1]
	Some of these documents bear an Apostille, although the benefit of apostilling every document is not clear.	Spain. [1]
	Remarque: Certains de ces documents seraient probablement soumis à une certification par une autorité intermédiaire ("procédure en plusieurs étapes").	Switzerland. [1]
<b>C. Original documents / copied documents</b>		
<b>24. Does Convention apply to simple copies?</b>	Yes.	Bermuda, United States (4 states). [2]
	No. <u>Albanie</u> - une copie n'est considérée comme acte public que lorsqu'elle est certifiée conforme par le Notaire. <u>Andorre</u> - Nous interprétons que la signature et/ou le cachet qui apparaissent dans les documents doivent être originaux. <u>Argentina</u> - No, as the document may be altered and then the copy will differ from the original. The legalization of simple copies would imply a very thorough examination of the document which would make progress slow. <u>Australia</u> - Under DFAT's Notarial Guidelines, photocopies of documents may only be issued with an Apostille if they have been certified as being a true copy of the original document by one of three authorities: a Justice of the Peace working at a Court House (and bearing the stamp or seal of the Court), a Clerk or Registrar of the Court, a Notary Public or an appropriate certifying officer of the government authority that issued the document. The photocopied document must bear an original signature of one of these certifying officials. <u>Ecuador</u> - The copy must be certified by the public institution which have released it and by the notary <u>El Salvador</u> - Copies must be certified by an authorized notary to be considered a public document, and the notary's signature must be authenticated by the Supreme Court Authentication department	Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand,

	<p>before it can be Apostilled. This authentication of a notarized copy only indicated that the copy is a true copy, not that the document is a valid public documents. Apostilled Copies authenticated by their respective authorities (ed. Copies of diplomas authenticated by the Ministry of Education, passport copies authenticated by the Immigration Office are considered valid public documents not just certified true copies.</p> <p>En ce qui concerne aussi bien une copie tirée d'un acte comme c'est le cas, par exemple, d'une copie authentique ou d'une certification de photocopies, l'apostille est émise suite aux démarches ordinaires (reconnaissance de la signature et du timbre/sceau de l'entité/institution qui l'a certifiée.)</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - The copies have to be certified by a public notary.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Par décret n°2001-899 du 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2001, ont été supprimées les certifications conformes des copies de documents délivrés par les autorités administratives, à l'exception toutefois des documents qui sont destinés à des administrations étrangères. Ainsi, les administrations, services et établissements publics de l'État ou des collectivités territoriales ou les entreprises, caisses et organismes contrôlés par l'État français ne peuvent exiger la certification conforme à l'original des photocopies de documents délivrés par l'un d'entre eux. Dès lors, le droit français en vigueur permet d'apposer l'apostille sur les simples photocopies.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - According our legislation simple copy has no validity power.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - The Convention can only be applied to certified copies.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong</u> - We have no means and no duty to verify genuineness of a copy document.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - In Japan, the nature of uncertified copies of public documents is distinguished from that of public documents or certified copies of public documents.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - the copy must by certified by the public institution which have released the original or by notary.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - A simple copy of a public document is considered as a private document, not falling within the scope of the Convention. In the Macao SAR, there are three types of written documents: authentic, authenticated and private documents, each with different legal value, in particular in terms of probative force. The Civil Code of Macao sets up the criteria to determine the types of documents and their legal value. It is complemented by some provisions of the Codes of Civil Procedure, Notary, Civil Register, Real Estate Register, and of Commercial Register, as well as by the law on the framework applicable to electronic documents and digital signatures (Law No. 5/2005, of 8 August). More specifically, in what refers the criteria to determine whether a written document is a document falling within the scope of the Convention, the main relevant provision of the Civil Code reads as follows (non-official translation): Article 356 (Types of written documents) 1.The written documents can either be authentic or private. 2.The authentic documents are those issued in accordance with legal formalities by a public authority within the limits of its competence or within its scope of activity, by a notary or a public official that by law has the power to ensure the authenticity of the document*; all other documents are private. 3.The private documents shall be authenticated documents when confirmed by the parties in the presence of a notary under the terms prescribed by notarial law. (*The expression used in the letter of the law is "dotado de fé pública", which is difficult to translate into English - literally: public faith). In</p>	<p>Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (24 states), Venezuela. [43]</p>
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relation to documents issued outside Macau, the rule is that of the traditional principle of *locus regit actum*, *i.e.*, the extrinsic validity of a foreign document is determined by the formalities prescribed by the law of the place where the document originates. Formalities are understood as being the requisites concerning solely the external form of the document. This principle is also expressly established in the said Civil Code of Macau, which relevant Article reads as follows (non-official translation): Article 358 (Documents issued outside Macao) 1. The authentic or private documents issued outside Macao in conformity with the law of the place where they were issued have the same legal value as documents of the same nature issued in Macao. 2. However, and unless otherwise provided for, when a court has serious doubts concerning the authenticity of a document or the authenticity of its recognition, the court shall freely appraise the legal value of the document.

Mexico – Because in our legislation the copies don't have any legal value.

Moldova - La copie doit être certifiée conforme.

Monaco - En ce qui concerne les copies certifiées conformes d'actes publics, il convient de distinguer deux situations. La première est celle où l'Apostille émise porte sur l'acte copié lui-même (par ex. : un jugement ou un acte de naissance dont une copie a été faite) ; la seconde situation est celle où l'Apostille émise porte sur la certification (notariée par ex.) indiquant que le document concerné constitue une « copie conforme à l'original ».

New Zealand - We need to verify an original seal or signature. A simple copy of a document does not bear an original seal or signature. All copies must be certified. Several government agencies here issue simple copies but we will not attach an Apostille to these documents. We require the government agency to do one of the following – print the document on their letterhead paper, apply an ink signature, or affix an original seal.

Portugal - L'apostille s'applique aux copies d'actes publics certifiées conformes par un notaire ou une autre entité compétente (avocats, Poste, ...).

Slovakia - Nous ne comprenons pas cette question parce que la Convention (article 3) ne prévoit que l'attestation de la véracité de la signature, la qualité en laquelle le signataire de l'acte a agi et, le cas échéant, l'identité du sceau ou timbre. Une copie simple ne comporte pas de signature ou sceau, il n'y a donc rien à attester.

Slovenia - In Slovenia Apostilles are issued only on public documents and their certified copies. In accordance with Article 60 and 61 of Notarial Act certified copies, made by the notary according to the procedure, prescribed by the law, are public documents.

South Africa - Simple copies need to be certified.

Switzerland - Pas d'application aux copies simples. Les exceptions suivantes sont possibles et une Apostille pourrait être apposée sur la copie simple, mais pas dans tous les cantons:

- la copie a été faite par un notaire (ou fonctionnaire cantonal ou communale) qui l'a signé;
- la copie accompagne l'original et a été signée par le notaire (ou fonctionnaire cantonal ou communale) qui a émis l'original;
- la copie accompagne l'acte public et l'autorité qui appose l'Apostille vérifie elle-même par comparaison directe que la copie correspond à l'original;

	<p>- copie de documents officiels très vieux dont l'original n'est plus disponible (p.ex. décret gouvernementale, décision judiciaire) : l'Apostille pourrait être émise à condition que la source de la copie est connue, p.ex. archive cantonal.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - For acceptance of the copy of a document as an official document, it must be certified by issuing authority as "certified to be a true copy" or it must be certified by notary public.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - According to the Rules of affix apostille on official documents, intended to use on territories of other states, established by Joint Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 05.12.2003 No 237/803/151/5, affix apostille only on documents, verified by public and private notary.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Only if certified as a true copy by a Notary. Even then there are some exceptions - Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, certain Home Office documents regarding Nationalisation etc.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - 23 individual U.S. states responding commented that, while the underlying document may be a copy, the notarization cannot be, and in some individual U.S. states, even the document signatures must be original. Certified copies of vital records (birth certificates) must be original from the records custodian.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only applies to original or certified documents.</p>	
	<p>According to the Greek law, any government (public) authority may issue its original documents, as well as certified copies thereof, which are as valid as the original ones. That's why the Competent Authorities issue an Apostille on those documents. However, they do not issue an Apostille when the copy has been made by any other public authority, than the issuing authority, as this is not considered to be an original, but only an official photocopy. There are also some cases, such as marriage or civil status certificates, when the documents issued as certified copies have only a limited validity, since some of their basic fields may undergo future changes.</p>	Greece. [1]
<p><b>25. Can Convention apply to certified copies?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - Apostilled Notarized copies only indicates that the copy is a true copy, not that the document is a valid public documents. Apostilled Copies authenticated by their respective authorities (ed. Copies of diplomas authenticated by the Ministry of Education, passport copies authenticated by the Immigration Office) are considered valid public documents not just certified true copies.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from Land to Land.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - Our position depends on who has certified the document. If it has been certified by the issuing authority then we can issue an Apostille for the copied document itself. If it has been notarised by a Notary Public or other non-issuing authority then we would issue an Apostille verifying the notarial/other seal and signature only.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - When the copy has been certified by a notary.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Note: a simple copy is an acceptable scenario only for the judgement: court decisions are specific documents and cannot be granted in original because of original document is always saving in a case. Thus, apostille is issued only on copies of court decisions, certified by a judge. Paragraph 4 of the Rules about issue apostille, intended to use on territories of other States prohibits to issue in Ukraine an apostille on official original documents, issued by authorities of former Republics of the</p>	<p>Andorre, Belgique, Bermuda, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania,</p>

	<p>USSR. Thus, apostille may be issued only on notarial copies of such documents. The Ministry of Justice issues apostille on original copies of documents, issued by organs of registration of acts of civil status after 1991 (birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate etc.), intended to use on territories of other States, only after verifying these documents by organs of registration of acts of civil status of the Main Department of Justice in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Main Department of Justice in regions and Main Department of Justice in Kyiv and Sevastopol.</p>	<p>Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (19 states), Venezuela. [29]</p>
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - We previously require that the originals be examined for the reasons stated above.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> – See above under Q24. We note that documents issued or signed by Australian Notaries Public are public documents.</p> <p><u>Croatia</u> - We use the second scenario because simple copy cannot be considered as a public document. Therefore, the Apostille is issued only for the notarial or other certificate stating that the relevant document is a “true copy of te original” (according to the Article 74 of the Public notary Act).</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - We apply the second scenario because simple copy cannot be considered as a public document. Therefore, the Apostille is issued only for the notarial or other certificate stating that the relevant document is a “true copy of the original”.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from Land to Land. The above specification refers to those Länder that have answered Yes.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - We believe that given the fields of an Apostille (unique number and date, capacity of the signing official, etc), this should be issued in one copy only. A different Apostille should be issued for the other copies which have been certified by the issuing authority, so that there is only a unique number to characterise the Apostille. Given the incidents that the Competent Authorities have been facing, any correlation of documents might entail problems in the submission of documents and their acceptance by contracting countries.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Only original documents are Apostilled by the Competent Authority. Copies of documents must in the first instance be notarised by a Notary Public/Solicitor.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - In Japan, uncertified copies of public documents will not be objects of an Apostille; thus an Apostille is not issued under the first scenario. (See also the answer to the previous question.)</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - In the MSAR, it is possible to issue an Apostille for a public form/certified copy of a document. In such a case, the Apostille is merely a declaration that the authority responsible for the issuance of the certified copy is competent under the internal law of the relevant State to issue such a certification (i.e., that the relevant document is a “true copy of the original”), and that the signature of that person(s) is authentic as well as he/she acted in his/her public capacity. An Apostille does not relate to the contents of the document and cannot affect its legal nature.</p> <p><u>Mexico</u> – In any case we have the legal power.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Nous ne comprenons pas la différence entre ces deux scénarios. L’article 3 de la Convention ne prévoit pas l’attestation de la véracité de l’acte lui même, mais de la signature, la qualité en laquelle le signataire de l’acte a agi et, le cas échéant, l’identité du sceau ou timbre. En cas</p>	<p>Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Macao, Mexico, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (8 states). [17]</p>



	<p>de copié il s'agit toujours d'attester l'authenticité de la copie (c'est à dire de la signature du notaire qui a certifié la copie), c'est pour quoi nous ne voyons pas de différence entre ces deux scénarios. Selon la Convention il n'y a pas de sens à attester la véracité du certificat du notaire concernant la copie qui n'est pas annexée.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - Only under second scenario.</p> <p>Switzerland - Dans le cas d'une copie certifiée conforme, l'Apostille peut uniquement porter sur la signature, le sceau et / ou le timbre du certificat de conformité. Dans ce cas, l'Apostille ne peut pas porter sur l'acte copié lui-même (dont manque la signature en original), autrement il s'agirait d'une certification portant sur le contenu de la copie ce qui n'est pas possible par le biais de l'Apostille, de même comme il n'est pas possible - par principe - de certifier le contenu d'un acte par l'Apostille ou l'acte en lui-même. En remplissant les blancs de l'Apostille ("le présent acte public a été signé par..., agissant en qualité de ... etc.) de manière correcte, seul les indications concernant la signature en original (du certificat de conformité) peuvent être faites.</p> <p>Un malentendu pourrait se produire lorsque l'acte copié lui-même porte la même signature (en copie) comme le certificat de conformité (en original) (p.ex. l'acte et la copie ont été dressés par le même notaire). Dans cette situation il serait utile que l'Apostille indique clairement qu'elle porte sur le certificat de conformité.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applied to original of the document certified by notary public or to copy of the document certified by notary public.</li> <li>- Applied to translations and their copies certified by notary public.</li> <li>- Applied to originals of administrative documents and their copies which are approved as "certified to be a true copy" by issuing institution. (It is not applied to copies of administrative documents certified by notary public as per Notice No 2388 dated 05/05/2003 of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Provincial Administration General Directorate.</li> <li>- Applied to originals of diplomas and education certificates and their copies approved as "certified to be a true copy" and copies which are certified by notary public.</li> </ul> <p><u>United States</u> - 13 comments echoed the viewpoints of the previous question. Notarizations are apostilled, not the document, unless it is a certified copy from the registrar of vital records (not notarized). Some states don't allow for notary-certified copies in any case.</p>	
<p><b>Should Apostille clearly state which doc it relates to?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - L'Apostille porte sur la certification « copie conforme à l'original ».</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - it has the certification of the public institution which releases it.</p> <p><u>France</u> - L'acte public faisant l'objet de l'apostille doit être clairement et précisément identifiable. Tel est d'ailleurs l'objet des rubriques à renseigner, de la formule-modèle d'apostille, qui concernent la désignation de l'acte et de la personne dont il émane.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostill to the certified copy of public document, which is certified by notary office or competent administrative authority, but apostill relates to the copied public document not to the (notarial or other) certificate.</p>	<p>Albanie, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, United States (13 states),</p>

	<p><u>Hong Kong</u> - Our present practice is to issue an apostille just for the notarial certificate. L'apostille atteste la véracité de la signature du notaire (ou d'un fonctionnaire notarial) / de l'avocat ayant certifié l'assermentation du traducteur, ainsi que celle du timbre/sceau de l'office du notaire ou de l'avocat.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - the Apostille text clearly indicates who has signed the document</p> <p><u>Lithuania</u> - Only on the confirmed by the notary public.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - L'apostille est acceptée dans les deux cas. Dans le premier cas, l'apostille visera le signataire de l'acte s'il s'agit bien d'un acte public. Dans l'autre cas, l'apostille portera sur l'autorité qui a certifié conforme l'acte.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Les traductions doivent être effectuées comme constituant un acte solennel devant un notaire ou un avocat.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - To the notarial or registered documents.</p>	Venezuela. [15]
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from Land to Land.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - According to the Rules about affix apostille, intended to use on territories of other states on official documents, established on the territory of Ukraine, with accordance to the Hague Apostille Convention apostille verifies authenticity of signature, capacity in which the person has acted and identity of a stamp/seal.</p>	<p>Belgique, Bermuda, Cyprus, Germany, Luxembourg, Moldova, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (9 states). [12]</p>
	<p>Comments of individual U.S. states responding to questionnaire:  "Cannot add additional wording not stated in Hague convention."  "The appropriate officer is named on the apostille."  "Not concerned with document; only verifying official."  "Outside the box language denoting the the limits of the certification by the apostille, <i>i.e.</i> name, status, seal and signature of the notary."  "Although we feel that this is the best practice, Pennsylvania does not currently do this."  "Maine concurs, but currently do not have ability to be specific for many types of Apostilles issued."  "We only want to verify the signature on the document."  "We will certify the clerk of court or the attorney notary."  "We do not examine the document, only certify signatures (and commission as applicable)."  "No reference is currently made on the Apostille regarding the document itself, but if a certified copy by the issuing agency we could apostile as our notaries can not copy certify documents."  "The Apostilles reference the signatures of officials, not the documents themselves."  "Document must be identified by the owner or notary as a true copy. Vital records are never copied/notarized."</p>	United States [1]

	<p>"In Colorado, the Apostille clearly states either the name of the notary who created the notarial certificate or public official who provided the certified public document."</p> <p>"This is not currently being done in our state, however, we feel we can make a notation outside of the 'box' to title of document the apostille is attached."</p> <p>"It is clear by the name listed in the Apostille."</p> <p>"The Apostille indicates the individual who notarized the document or the individual who took the acknowledgement and indicates the apostille number of the register kept by the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office."</p> <p>"We do not do this now, but think this is a good idea."</p> <p>"Not concerned with the document, only verifying the officials signature."</p> <p>"There is language on the document stating that it is a true copy of the original."</p> <p>"Our Apostille does not. The Consecutive Number is in our electronic system and we specify what documents are being Authenticated."</p> <p>"The Apostille certifies/authenticates the signature and authority of the signatory, not the document itself."</p>	
	<p>Matter is currently under discussion with Hague Convention Office and the Notaries Society.</p>	<p>United Kingdom. [1]</p>
<p><b>26. Refuse certified copies on public policy grounds?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - certificats de naissance, certificat judiciaire.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - In the cases in which the originals have not been apostilled.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> – as noted above in the Q24, in the case of photocopies, Australia has limited the application of apostilles to photocopies that have been certified as being a true copy of the original document by one of three authorities listed above.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We may refuse to issue an Apostille for a Certified Copy of a Foreign Document. We are looking forward to a clear recommendation of the special commission on this issue.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities refuse to issue an Apostille in case the documents produced, have not been certified by the issuing authority, but by another administrative authority. As mentioned before, only the issuing authority is competent and may know whether the details and the administrative process followed, are as appropriate; therefore, only the Competent Authorities may issue a copy.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Powers of Attorney: Must clearly indicate the reason why the Power of Attorney is drawn up in the jurisdiction, <i>i.e.</i> has an address in Ireland.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - We have been instructed that the General Register Office (GRO) is only competent authority to issues certified copies of their own documents, thus only GRO-issued certified copies can be legalised. Photocopies certified by Notaries are not acceptable. Similarly, we reject photocopies of documents issued by the National Identification Service which have been certified by Notaries, as only NIS issued originals may be legalised.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Yes. U.S. Department of State Authentications Office. Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, 131.2 <a href="http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/22cfr131_00.html">http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/22cfr131_00.html</a> Refusal of</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Australia, El Salvador, Greece, India, Ireland, Latvia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States (13 states). [11]</p>

	<p>Certification for Unlawful Purpose, for example, documents which have the effect of furthering or supporting the restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by foreign countries against countries friendly to the United States shall be considered contrary to public policy for purposes of these regulations.</p> <p>"Only if it is obvious that the document is intended to be used for an illegal purpose."</p> <p>"Vital records may not be copied by notaries."</p> <p>"If document appears not to be in the best interest of the public we do not attach Apostille (<i>i.e.</i> fraudulent documents)."</p> <p>"Notary-certified copies of vital records and other public records where the custodian issues certified copies."</p> <p>"Vital Record or court documents must be original certified copies from the appropriate issuing agency."</p> <p>"If the official's signature or seal is not on the document or if the official's name does not appear within the certification and the deputy clerk has not signed the document."</p> <p>"If the certification is not by the issuing agency. We might have a problem arise when done or brought in by Bogus filers."</p> <p>"Copies of vital records. Bogus documents."</p> <p>"There are some documents our state will not attach the apostille to, pursuant to a section of Nevada Notary Law."</p> <p>"Bogus filings."</p> <p>"We do not want to get into the business of judging the content of a public document. We think the relying party should judge whether underlying document is legitimate."</p> <p>"If document appears not to be in the best interest of the public we do not attach Apostille (<i>i.e.</i> fraudulent documents)."</p> <p>"Apostilles are not issued on certified copies of foreign public documents, primarily passports and identification cards."</p>	
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>France</u> - S'il est constant qu'une autorité compétente peut refuser d'émettre une apostille pour des motifs d'ordre public, aucune situation n'a paru, à ce jour, justifier un tel refus.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - les autorités ne se sont pas heurtées à de pareils problèmes.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - This case has not happened.</p>	<p>Andorre, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico,</p>

		<p>Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (15 states) Venezuela. [36]</p>
<p><b>D. Translation of documents</b></p>		
<p><b>27. Is a translation a “public document”?</b></p>	<p>Yes. <u>Argentina</u> - It is a “public document” when the translator is a member of the Sworn Translators Association. <u>Belgique</u> - La traduction doit être faite par un traducteur juré, légalisée par le président du tribunal de première instance dont dépend ce traducteur juré et ensuite légalisée par le SPF JUSTICE. <u>Croatia</u> - The translation made by a court interpreter, which has been nominated as a sworn interpreter by President of County or Commercial court, after he passes the exam, can be certified as a public document. <u>El Salvador</u> - Translated documents must follow notarization procedures before we can issue an Apostille. The notary’s signature must be authenticated by the Supreme Court’s authentication department. If a translation is submitted without the document it related to we would consider it a stand alone document and it would be subject to our normal requirements for a document – it would either need to bear the signature and/or seal of a government agency or that of a Notary Public. <u>Latvia</u> - translations certified by the public institution which have released original document or by notary. <u>Macao</u> - In certain cases, translations of documents follow a regime similar to notarial certifications (Articles 182 to 184 of the Code of Notary). The certification of a translation is considered to be a public document. The translator must be a notary or lawyer from Macao, a secretary from a commercial company (only in relation to documents pertaining to such a company) or a sworn translator. <u>New Zealand</u> - If a translation is submitted with the document it relates to then we consider it to be an extension of that document and can attach it with the document to an Apostille. The Apostille</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (13 states). [27]</p>

	<p>certificate will refer to the signature and/or seal on the document only. We do not in any way check the accuracy of the translation or have any requirements relating to the translation as we do not consider it to be a stand alone document – merely an extension of the original document.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Le traducteur doit être enregistré au Ministère de la justice en tant que traducteur assermenté. Ce registre mis à jour est disponible publiquement sur le site d'internet.</p> <p><u>Slovenia</u> - The translation made by a court interpreter which has been nominated as a sworn interpreter by the Minister of Justice, after he passed the special exam, can be certified as a public document.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons (Remarque: à la lecture des précisions fournies par ces cantons, il nous paraît qu'ils parlent d'acte public seulement après que la signature du traducteur ait été légalisée par un notaire; cela revient au même cas comme dans la réponse "non"). Le traducteur assermenté n'est pas connu dans tous les cantons.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - A translation must be made by sworn translation office and certified by notary public for being accepted as an "official document".</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Translation must be signed by a Notary. It is implicit that the Notary understands the language, and agrees that the document is a true translation.</p>	
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> – Apostilles may be issued on foreign language documents only if they have been translated and signed/stamped by the National Authority for Accredited Translators and Interpreted, or notarised by an Australian Notary Public. This does not make the foreign language document itself an Australian public document. It is the signature/stamp and seal of the Notary Public or government translation authority that the Apostille is placed on that makes a document 'public'.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Non, dès lors qu'il s'agit d'une interprétation, d'une œuvre intellectuelle établie par une personne privée.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from <i>Land to Land</i>. The above specification refers to those <i>Länder</i> that have answered Yes.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Translations must be certified by a Solicitor/Notary in advance of the Competent authority placing an Apostille Stamp on the document.</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - Les traductions doivent être certifiées par le notaire.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Les traductions doivent être assermentées ou solennelles. L'apostille est émise sur la certification de signature notariée.</p>	<p>Andorre, Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United States (15 states), Venezuela. [22]</p>
<p>Under what circumstances?</p>		<p>[0]</p>

<b>27(a). What types of docs can be translated and then apostillised?</b>	Only public documents.	India, Latvia, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine. [5]
	Only private documents.	[0]
	Both.	Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (18 states). [23]
<b>27(b). What does the Apostille authenticate?</b>	The authenticity of the signature of the translator, the capacity in which he or she has acted and his or her seal.	Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (4 states). [17]

	<p>Other.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - L’Apostille atteste la signature du Notaire certifiant la signature du traducteur.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> – the apostille authenticates the signature/stamp and seal of the Notary Public or government translation authority <u>only</u>.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - the notarial act recognising the signature of the translator.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - The apostille validates the signature the Officer of the Supreme Court who validated the signature of the notary. The notary is the one who certifies the translation.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - the signature of sworn translator is certified by Notary.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The corresponding notarial act (<i>i.e.</i>, the ‘certification’ of the translation).</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - la signature du notaire.</p> <p><u>Republic of Korea</u> - To the signature of notary public</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Is applicable only to translations certified by a notarial act and authenticates signature and stamp and seal and capacity of the relevant notary.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Notary’s signature / seal.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - 17 states commented to the effect that the apostille only authenticates the notary or notarization of the translation, or an official who may perform notarial acts.</p>	<p>Albanie, Australia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Latvia, Macao, Moldova, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (14 states). [12]</p>
<p><b>PART THREE – PRACTICAL OPERATIONAL ISSUES</b></p>		
<p><b>A. Register of Signatures / Stamps / Seals</b></p>		
<p><b>28. Maintain a register of signatures / stamps / seals?</b></p> <p><b>28(a). Form of the register</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Tous les autres cantons.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Yes U.S. Department of State Authentications Office, which maintains an electronic database.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico,</p>



		Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (26 states), Venezuela. [43]
No.	Finland - For the time being we do not see the need for such a database. In case of a doubt the genuineness of the signature and the competence of the person concerned is verified. Switzerland - Un seul canton.	Finland, Switzerland, United States (4 states). [3]
Paper.	Switzerland - Grande majorité des cantons.	Albanie, Andorre, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (6 states) Venezuela. [19]
Electronic.		Australia, Belgique, Denmark, Republic of Korea, United States (9 states). [5]
Both.	Germany - Practice differs from <i>Land to Land</i> .	Argentina, Ecuador, El

	<p><u>Switzerland</u> –Quelques cantons.</p>	<p>Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (12 states). [22]</p>
<p><b>28(b). How is the check done?</b></p>	<p>Simple visual check.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,</p>

		South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Unites States (22 states), Venezuela. [44]
	Technological means.	[0]
	Other means. Comments: <u>Macao</u> - In case of doubt, the Macao SAR Authority contacts directly the relevant authority/official in order to confirm the signature/stamp/seal's authenticity. <u>United States</u> - "The actual signature of a Public Official that signs a certified document is not checked. It is only verified that the signing official is correct for that particular document. Notary signatures can be checked on paper applications and on microfilm if needed. Otherwise, the notary stamp and way of signing must match the database." "In Maine at this time, we currently do not compare signatures; Maine simply compares the certification signature to the database or paper record - does this person exist for that capacity." "Electronic for notaries - paper for elected officials." "Some signature. Our state and county official we visual check and our Notary Public we do electronic." "I use scanned samples of notarized signatures for the comparison here in Alaska. We don't currently recognize electronic notarizations." "Unless it is e-notary, then we would compare the public keys." "We have samples of the signature in question on file. If we don't have a sample we get a sample before authentication the signature. If we are unable to get a sample of the signature in question, we have the customer get an up dated document. This is the case with old, old marriage certificates, death certificates etc."	Macao, United States (2 states). [2]
	Additional Comments: <u>New Zealand</u> - We are planning to have our paper register scanned into our database for more efficient checking.	
<b>28(c). What if signature does not match record?</b>	Elle procède à une vérification, en fonction du résultat de laquelle elle décide de l'apostiller ou pas.	Albanie. [1]
	On contacte l'organe émetteur afin de vérifier la signature.	Andorre. [1]
	We ask the signing agency if it has examined the document. If it has not, forgery of a public document is reported.	Argentina. [1]
	The Competent Authority would seek to contact the person or authority who signed the document	Australia. [1]

directly and request that the person/authority fax and mail a specimen of the relevant signature/ stamp and seal. The details would be added to the electronic register. Australia would only proceed with the issue of an apostille if there was a match between the specimen signature/stamp and sample on the electronic register.	
Nous demandons confirmation à l'autorité émettrice.	Belgique. [1]
We send the document back for a correct specimen signature	Bermuda. [1]
The document will not be apostilled until the new stamp and signature is deposited.	Croatia. [1]
By direct telephone communication with the respective department or body which is asked to confirm by returned fax the originality of the signature, stamp or seal.	Cyprus. [1]
Verification is being done by telephone, fax or e-mail.	Czech Republic. [1]
Checks the person.	Denmark. [1]
We contact the authority responsible and verify the information. If the document has a fake sign, it is not accepted. Photocopies of the fake document are sent to the institution which was supposed to emit it.	Ecuador. [1]
We contact the pertinent authority and verify the validity of the signatures, and request that the registry be updated. We wait to receive the new registry before we issue the Apostille.	El Salvador. [1]
In this case according to Georgian legislation competent authority have to request the sample of signature, stamp or a seal and only after exact mach we will provide the service.	Georgia. [1]
Usually, the authority contacts the person who has signed the document and asks for a confirmation and for the provision of a new signature/stamp specimen.	Germany. [1]
In these cases, they have a telephone communication with the specific office/agency and the document is sent by fax, in order to be confirmed whether it has been issued to the person concerned under such details. In case the competent official has signed in a different manner, he/she is asked to fax such other signature sample to be kept in the register as well.	Greece. [1]
The relevant departments would be contacted to verify and confirm the same. Records will be updated.	Hong Kong. [1]
Verify its authenticity with the issuing body, <i>i.e.</i> Solicitor's office or Company where the document has been executed.	Ireland. [1]
An inquiry will be made directly to the relevant authority/official that has the power to execute the public document in question in order to clarify whether or not the document was officially executed.	Japan. [1]
We contact responsible authorities if the signature of seal changes. Authorities are usually sending new samples.	Latvia. [1]
The relevant authority is asked for verification.	Lithuania. [1]
Please refer to the previous response. After contacting the issuing authority, if there are reasons to suspect that the signature/stamp/seal is forged and/or tempered, it is mandatory to communicate it to the Public Procurator for investigation of the corresponding criminal offence (which is a public crime).	Macao. [1]

If the sign container in the document not matches with the recorded in our files, we verified with the authority who sign the document, and if is necessary ask again for a new registration.	Mexico. [1]
L'autorité responsable retient l'acte pour toute vérification supplémentaire.	Moldova. [1]
La personne en charge de la vérification contacte l'autorité signataire du document, le plus souvent par télécopie, et lui demande de confirmer qu'elle a bien établi l'acte à apostiller.	Monaco. [1]
We contact the relevant issuing authority to obtain confirmation that the document was issued by them, and we would request a more up to date specimen.	New Zealand. [1]
We would contact the relevant authority and get confirmation for its competence. Otherwise, the document will not be apostilled.	Norway. [1]
Contacte le service concerné ou retourne le document.	Portugal. [1]
Suspension of issuing Apostille and Asking confirmation of issuing authority.	Republic of Korea. [1]
Une vérification supplémentaire est effectuée par l'autorité émettrice	Romania. [1]
The person who issues Apostille contacts the person signed on the document and asks him/her to send her/his signature by fax in order to confirm the identity with the signed signature on the document.	Slovenia. [1]
Verify the samples in the register and if they don't match we don't apostle	South Africa. [1]
The institution that has issued the document is asked to rectify the signature, seal o stamp or even to issue a new document that offers the requested securities.	Spain. [1]
Plusieurs possibilités: Contacter personnellement l'auteur de l'acte pour être sûre de la personne qui a signé. Si les recherches ne portent pas d'explication, le document est refusé et l'Apostille n'est pas apposée. Si la personne qui présente l'acte est celle qui l'a signé et qu'elle est connue à l'Autorité compétente, l'Apostille est apposée. Demander un nouveau spécimen, lorsque la divergence est importante (interprétation de « ne correspond pas exactement »). Souvent, le spécimen doit être déposé en personne et on procède à une vérification de l'identité.	Switzerland. [1]
The relevant institution is called via telephone for the document to be apostilled and the document is delivered to this institution via fax. Should the institution finds that document is not issued by an establishment that is the document is fraudulent, this matter is immediately notified to police department. If the signature and the seal belongs to the establishment (if the signature belongs to a recently appointed person or the seal is changed), the relevant establishment delivers seal and signature sample specimens accompanied with an official writ and apostille procedure is carried out.	Turkey. [1]

	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine rejects to issue apostille for such document.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine rejects issuing an apostille and informs relevant law-enforcement authorities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine sends a letter with the copy of the document to the relevant official body having issued the document with request to confirm its issuance, to receive a sample of the new seal, stamp and signature.</p>	Ukraine. [1]
	Checks directly with the signer.	United Kingdom. [1]
	<p>"We reject and do not issue the apostille."</p> <p>"Check with the office of that official."</p> <p>"Information is checked/verified with the appropriate office who issued the document."</p> <p>"If it is a notarized document, it is rejected. The name of the Public Official on certified documents does not need to be exact, such as middle names, initials, etc."</p> <p>"Signatures must bear a reasonable resemblance, not exact, but seals must be identical. If these conditions are not met, the request is rejected and the notary notified as well."</p> <p>"Pennsylvania compares the existence of a public official signature and stamp/seal on the document with its database of elected and appointed officials."</p> <p>"Not applicable in Maine at this time."</p> <p>"In the case of a notarized document - verify with the notary that they notarized the document."</p> <p>"We look for similarities but if it is way off, then we would take further action."</p> <p>"We inform the customer that we do not have the signature on file. If possible, we will contact the issuing agency and have them fax their signature to us."</p> <p>"Reject."</p> <p>"Reject document."</p> <p>"Apostille is not issued-further instructions offered to customer in order to have the document comply for an apostille to be issued."</p> <p>"If the signature is very different from the sample on record, we reject the request. The match does not have to be perfectly exact, but it must be similar. The notarial seal must match the official name on record exactly."</p> <p>"Refuse to apostille."</p> <p>"Reject."</p> <p>"Refuse to authenticate."</p> <p>"If for Notary Public, I contact Department of Licensing (DOL) about any incorrect notary stamp or signatures. Notary's names should be the same on there stamp and registrar with DOL".</p> <p>"Acquire a new sample signature and verify the notarization directly with the notary as part of the signature sample update. If I can't make a positive match, I won't authenticate."</p> <p>"Request that they obtain another document signed more closely to the signature sample or obtain</p>	United States. [1]

	<p>one from a different source.”</p> <p>“The signature must be verily the same. The seal / seal must be exactly the same.”</p> <p>“The request is returned to the customer with a rejection letter explaining the problem.”</p> <p>“We reject the request of authenticate the signature and ask for a current document.”</p> <p>“We reject and do not issue Apostille.”</p> <p>“Reject/decline Apostille service.”</p>	
+	Normalement on procède à contacter le Service responsable afin d’obtenir cette nouvelle signature.	Andorre. [1]
	The signing official is requested to register its signature in our database through an official note before examining the document.	Argentina. [1]
	Australia would seek to contact the person or organisation/authority who signed the document directly and request that the person/authority fax and mail a specimen of their signature, seal and stamp; their full names and contact details; and confirmation of the capacity in which they notarise documents. DFAT has a standard form which can be used to request specimen signatures.	Australia. [1]
	Nous demandons à cette personne de nous envoyer son spécimen de signature.	Belgique. [1]
	We ask that a specimen signature be sent to us ASAP and we confirm with the Registrar of the Supreme Court to confirm whether the person is a certified notary	Bermuda. [1]
	The document will not be apostilled until the new stamp and signature is deposited.	Croatia. [1]
	See above.	Cyprus. [1]
	An official is asked by telephone to provide his sample of signature and seal by fax or e-mail as soon as possible.	Czech Republic. [1]
	Calls the person and asks for a signature.	Denmark. [1]
	We ask the authorities to fill the registration forms. After that we register it in our database.	Ecuador. [1]
	We contact the pertinent authority and request that signatures/seals of new officials be updated. We wait to receive the new registry before we issue the Apostille.	El Salvador. [1]
	La majorité des autorités compétentes tient un registre, qui se présente sous forme papier et qui ne permet, dès lors, qu'une vérification visuelle des spécimens de signatures. Toutefois, en cas de difficulté de reconnaissance visuelle, les autorités compétentes prennent l'attache de l'autorité signataire afin de vérifier qu'elle en est bien l'auteur et, le cas échéant, demandent un nouvel exemplaire de la signature de l'intéressé, ou de son nouvel état civil, pour actualisation du registre. Il est procédé de la même manière lorsqu'une signature, un sceau ou un timbre n'apparaissent pas dans le registre de l'autorité compétente. Seize des autorités compétentes, ne tiennent aucun registre des spécimens de signatures. Il est à relever qu'au sein de l'autorité compétente de Rouen, un projet de registre électronique est actuellement à l'étude, et que l'autorité compétente d'Aix-en-Provence quant à elle tient d'ores et déjà un double registre papier et électronique, lequel ne permet qu'une vérification visuelle.	France. [1]
	In this case according to Georgian legislation competent authority have to request the sample of missing signature, stamp or a seal and only after that we will provide the service.	Georgia. [1]
	Same as (c).	Germany. [1]

They send a document to the said agency and request an official document with the signature of such new official, the capacity under which he/she shall sign or some new seal.	Greece. [1]
The relevant departments would be contacted to verify and confirm the same. Records will be updated.	Hong Kong. [1]
Verify the signature with the issuing body where the document has been executed.	Ireland. [1]
An inquiry will be made directly to the relevant authority/official that has the power to execute the public document in question in order to clarify whether or not the document was officially executed.	Japan. [1]
We are demanding the sample of signature or seal	Latvia. [1]
The relevant authority is asked for verification and to submit the example of new signature or seal. It is usually done by fax without official requests.	Lithuania. [1]
Please refer to the previous responses. After contacting the issuing authority, if that authority confirms the authenticity of the signature/stamp/seal, a sample of such signature/stamp/seal will be requested and added to the database.	Macao. [1]
In the event of we didn't have the signature on file we ask for the registration by an official document.	Mexico. [1]
L'autorité responsable retient l'acte pour toute vérification supplémentaire	Moldova. [1]
Lorsqu'il s'agit d'un nouveau fonctionnaire en service, attache est prise auprès de sa hiérarchie pour lui demander de faire parvenir à la Direction des Services Judiciaires le spécimen de sa signature. En cas d'absence du sceau, l'apostille est refusée et le requérant devra s'adresser à cette autorité pour lui demander d'apposer le sceau.	Monaco. [1]
We would contact the relevant authority and get confirmation for its competence. Otherwise, the document will not be apostilled.	Norway. [1]
We contact the official/agency concerned to request a signature/seal specimen from them for our file. This is usually done by email or fax. We encounter this situation approximately 3-4 times a week. Some government agencies here in New Zealand will not allow us to hold their signature specimens on file but will confirm the signature or seal on a document they have issued. We have different processes for confirming signatures/seals with different government agencies.	New Zealand. [1]
Contacte le service concerné ou retourne le document.	Portugal. [1]
Electronic registration after the confirmation of issuing authority.	Republic of Korea. [1]
On demande à l'autorité émettrice de vérifier l'acte respectif et de transmettre le nouveau spécimen de signature, voir le sceau, ou bien on saisit l'organe de recherche pénale pour statuer sur un éventuel faux. Il n'y a pas la possibilité d'introduire (dans un programme informatique) des spécimens de signature / de cachet, bien qu'il soit absolument nécessaire une pareille évidence au niveau des tribunaux. Maintenant, certaines instances sont munies de dossiers renfermant les spécimens de signature, de cachet, de sceau.	Romania. [1]
The Competent Authority than invites the person signed on the paper to deposit her/his signature at the Central Authorities register of signatures and stamps.	Slovenia. [1]



Verify the samples in the register.	South Africa. [1]
The institution that issued the document is contacted and requested to verify the information missing and in the meantime the document can be retained or delivered to the requesting person, who will be notified when the document can be apostilled.	Spain. [1]
Plusieurs possibilités: Contacter la personne et lui demander de déposer un nouveau spécimen. S'il s'agit d'une signature d'un fonctionnaire et que le cas est urgent: contacter l'autorité et lui demander de confirmer par écrit (par fax) la signature, le sceau, le timbre. S'il s'agit d'un cas où la signature doit faire l'objet d'une certification préalable avant de pouvoir être présentée à l'Autorité compétente: demander à la personne de faire certifier sa signature, son sceau ou timbre. S'il s'agit d'un cas où l'Autorité compétente cantonale n'est pas la bonne: renvoyer à l'Autorité compétente d'un autre canton.	Switzerland. [1]
The seal and signature sample specimens are requested from the relevant establishment by an official writ.	Turkey. [1]
The Competent Authority requested sends a letter with the copy of the document to the relevant official body having issued the document with a request to confirm its issuance, to receive a sample of the new seal, stamp and signature. In both cases the need to verify identity of a document, signature, seal, stamp, may prolong the term of issuing the apostille up to 20 days.	Ukraine. [1]
We contact the signer and ask them to fax a copy of their signature/seal. We then add that to our database.	United Kingdom. [1]
Comments of individual U.S. states responding to questionnaire: "Reject." "Contact the office and fill out an official form to add that person's seal or signature." "The new information is requested from the filing/issuing office". "If it is a notarized document, it is rejected. If it is a certified document, we would call the signing official's office to verify the information." "If it is an office we may certify to, we will contact the office and ask for the information necessary. However, notaries must be on file or we will not process the request." "We reject the document/request." "We would reject the request." "Use elected official results on file - if previous official use roster of elected officials from their term of office." "We call to check." "We inform the customer that we do not have the signature on file. If possible, we will contact the issuing agency and have them fax their signature to us." "Reject if public notary; attempt to collect needed info first if related to other individuals authorized by statute." "Contact filing authority for updated signature."	United States. [1]

	<p>"This office contacts the official and asks to fax a letter for verification of signatures, so the apostille can be issued and follow-up with a hard copy in the mail."</p> <p>"This occurs only very rarely, but the request would be rejected."</p> <p>"We refuse to apostille until the information is obtained from the new official except if the document has been notarized by a general notary then we do refuse."</p> <p>"Attempt to obtain signature, will fax signature to office to verify the signer."</p> <p>"Refuse to authenticate."</p> <p>"We contact the Department of Licensing to verify if there has been a name change, or if notary has not renewed his commission. If I don't have the signature sample on file I will try to obtain it. If that is not possible, I won't authenticate."</p> <p>"Try to obtain the signature sample or request the document be submitted from another source."</p> <p>"We do not attach the apostille unless we have the signature and seal on file. If we get a request from an official not on file, we contact them. They can fax a form."</p> <p>"Staff attempts to obtain the oath of office. If staff is unable to obtain the oath, the request is returned to the customer with a rejection letter explaining the problem."</p> <p>"We get a sample of their signature if we don't have it."</p> <p>"Reject."</p> <p>"Verification of authority is requested from appointing authority for notaries public. In most cases the client requesting the Apostille has some idea of how to contact the notary public in question. Contact is then made with the notary public and the superior court that issued the notary's commission. If unable to verify by phone with a fax followup, service is declined."</p>	
	We must check out for the authenticity of the documents; the name, position and the signing of the new officer.	Venezuela. [1]
<b>B. Issues relating to the Apostille Certificate</b>		
29. Form of Apostille Certificate.	Standard (white) paper. <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.	Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (17 states), Venezuela. [19]

	Security paper.	Argentina, El Salvador, Finland, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, United Kingdom, United States (10 states). [8]
	Self-adhesive stickers. <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons.	Belgique, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland. [16]
	Rubber stamp. <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.	Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (1 state). [17]
	Electronic form. <u>Switzerland</u> - 2 cantons.	Australia, Bulgaria, Switzerland, United States (4 states). [4]
	Other. <u>Ireland</u> - Rubber ink stamp affixed to the document. <u>France</u> - Le certificat d'apostille est reproduit par informatique.	Ireland, France, Macao, Moldova, New Zealand,

	<p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille Certificate is reproduced on letterhead paper - with the symbol of the Macao SAR and the logo-type of the Macao SAR competent Authority (the paper is manufactured by the Macao SAR Official Press, under a specific model - model form No 7).</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - Au moyen électronique sur papier sécurisé à partir du 01/01/2009.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - Our Apostille Certificates are printed on letterhead paper and then attached to the document with a ribbon.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - Apostille Certificate is reproduced on standard (white) paper or, if there is space, in the document itself (Ministry of Justice)</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Comments from individual U.S. states:      "Agency letterhead."      "Authorized official's signature is in red; Blue ribbons with foil sticker of seal affixed."      "Secretary of State Certificate Paper."      "Bond paper."      "Currently, printed on blue paper, slightly heavier than standard paper."      "Paper has state seal and state capitol on it."      "Certificate paper."      "Special order certificate paper per bid specifications."      "Certificate paper."      "Our certificate stock bears a water mark."      "Agency letterhead."</p>	Spain, United States. [7]
30. How is the Apostille completed?	<p>By hand.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Les certificats d'apostille sont très majoritairement complétés manuellement, puisque trente autorités compétentes indiquent apporter des informations manuscrites sur les certificats émis. Parmi elles, six autorités compétentes émettent également des apostilles complétées par ordinateur (Caen, Chambéry, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy et Nîmes), tandis que cinq autorités compétentes renseignent tous leurs certificats d'apostille par ordinateur (Aix-en-Provence, Amiens, Angers, Douai et Reims). Aucune autorité compétente n'émet d'apostille électronique.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.</p>	Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (1 state). [23]
	<p>With a typewriter.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - 1 canton.</p>	Finland, Slovenia, Switzerland. [3]
	<p>With a computer.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons.</p>	Argentina, Australia,

		<p>Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (29 states) Venezuela. [33]</p>
<p><b>31. How are Apostille Certificates numbered?</b></p>	<p>Consecutive order.  <u>Andorre</u> - L'ordre est consécutif et différent pour chacune des autorités compétentes.  <u>Australia</u> - The registration number of the apostille certificate consists of one alphabetical character (denoting which state office has issued the apostille), followed by a sequential four digit number. The consecutive order numbers are system-generated.  <u>El Salvador</u> - The number corresponds to the Security Paper log.  <u>France</u> - Tous les parquets généraux numérotent les certificats d'apostilles qu'ils délivrent au fur et à mesure de leur émission.  <u>Germany</u> - Per year.  <u>Greece</u> - Every year, the Competent Authorities re-start from the beginning.  <u>Moldova</u> - Au hasard a partir du 01/01/2009.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentine, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania,</p>

		Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (27 states), Venezuela. [42]
	Random order.	Luxembourg, United States (1 state). [2]
	Other. <u>Monaco</u> - La numérotation d'enregistrement est annuelle. Ainsi, à chaque nouvelle année civile, elle repart à 1. <u>South Africa</u> - not numbered because of workload but will work out a plan to start numbering them. <u>United States</u> - Comments of individual U.S. states: "We use the year as the first two digits, then a dash, then consecutive starting with one each year." "I use the same series of numbers for both the Apostilles and the Certificates of Authority. Each certificate issued, regardless of type, is issued the next number in the sequence." "Most are in consecutive order; however we have 3 different divisions that do authentication. Those authentications are numbered in consecutive order with the staff members initials, example: 2008-1001-LB."	Croatia, Monaco, South Africa, United States (2 states). [4]
<b>32. What method of signing Apostille?</b>	Wet (handwritten) signature. <u>Hong Kong</u> - Before 2 October 2008.	Albanie, Argentina, Andorre, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El

		Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (4 states), Venezuela. [41]
	Signature reproduced by rubber stamp. <u>Switzerland</u> – 1 canton.	France, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, United States (2 states). [6]
	Signature produced by mechanical means.	United States (1 state). [1]
	Scanned image of handwritten signature. <u>Hong Kong</u> – After 2 October 2008.	Ecuador, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, United States (20 states). [5]
	Electronic signature.	United States (2 states). [1]

	<p>Other.  Comments of individual U.S. states:  "With wet, handwritten signature."  "Pre-printed in blue ink on apostille certificate."  "Pre-Scanned image of the Secretary of State's signature is countersigned by our clerk. We apply a foil seal and emboss it."  "Facsimile signature."  "Maine also uses a signature by rubber stamp in some situations."  "Our certificate stock is pre-printed with the Lt. Governor's signature."  "Certificate comes from printer with signature and stamp."  "Two signatures are on Apostilles. The Secretary of State's signature is preprinted on the Apostille. A deputy Secretary of State signs the Apostille as deputy below the Secretary's signature. The deputy's signature is a wet (handwritten) signature."</p>	United States (2 states). [1]
	<p>Les signatures apposées sur les certificats d'apostille sont très majoritairement faites à la main, puisque vingt-sept autorités compétentes indiquent procéder de la sorte.  Neuf autorités compétentes apposent des signatures reproduites par le moyen de tampons.  Le parquet général de Rennes distingue selon qu'il s'agit de documents relatifs à une adoption, pour lesquels une signature manuscrite est apposée, ou d'autres documents, pour lesquels est apposée une griffe automatisée (notamment, les extraits du casier judiciaire).</p>	France. [1]
<b>33. How is the allonge affixed?</b>	<p>Stapled.  <u>Argentina</u> - Using ink seals for seals joining pages.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.</p>	Albanie, Argentina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (25 states), Venezuela. [19]
	<p>Attached with grommets.  <u>Switzerland</u> – 2 cantons.</p>	Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Moldova, Switzerland, United States



	Attached with wax seals. <u>Switzerland</u> – 1 canton.	(4 states). [6] Bulgaria, Germany, South Africa, Turkey, Switzerland. [5]
	Attached with ribbons. <u>Switzerland</u> – 2 cantons. <u>Ukraine</u> - In the case when original document does not allow affix Apostille, then Apostille is put in a separate page and joint to the document with white or red thread, verified with signature and affixed by official holder of the competent authority. (Rules about affix Apostille to official documents, used on the territory of other states, established with the Joint order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 05.12.2003 No 237/803/151/5).	Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (1 state). [13]
	Glued. <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons.	Andorre, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Monaco, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom. [15]
	Other. <u>Australia</u> - The binding is completed using dark green ribbon, which is used to adjoin the relevant pages, and the ends of the ribbon are placed together and covered by a red notarial wafer with a seal impressed over the wafer. <u>Bermuda</u> - Most certificates are affixed by grummets, in cases were they request ribbon we will oblige the receiving state like China. <u>Cyprus</u> - After the allonge is fixed a round seal is placed at the lower left corner of the Apostille. <u>Czech Republic</u> - Stapled and then covered with self-adhesive sticker and stamped. <u>Denmark</u> – Attached with stickers. <u>Finland</u> - All documents are bundled up and the apostille is placed as the last paper at the bottom of the pile. Finally, the whole pile is attached together with a signet. <u>Germany</u> - When the Apostille is attached by stapling it is additionally affixed by a seal. <u>Greece</u> - The allonge is stapled with the underlying document. The Competent Authority stamps the stapled point with a round seal. The same round seal is affixed on the lower left corner of the Apostille.	Australia, Bermuda, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Macao, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United States. [15]

	<p><u>Latvia</u> - Attached with riveting machine and fixed with ribbons.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - As mentioned, the Apostille is reproduced on paper on a supplementary page (an "allonge" to the document), which is attached to the end of the document by means of a small, special round metallic staple. At the interior of the junction between the document and the 'Apostille page', the seal of the competent Authority is apposed.</p> <p><u>Norway</u> - If there are several documents, they will be glued together and marked with the seal of the County Governor.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Agrafée et attachée avec des cachets de cire.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - If possible, the Apostille is printed in the document itself. If not, the Apostille is placed on an allonge stapled to the document and attached to it with an intermediate seal or with grommets also attached with an intermediate seal.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons: combianaisons.</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Comments of individual U.S. states:  "Stapled and attached with grommets and glued."  "Our office attaches the Apostille with three staples, evenly spaced along the left or top margin."  "Double-stapled at top of document."</p>	
	<p>Les pratiques des autorités compétentes sont diverses en cette matière. Il apparaît toutefois que dix-neuf d'entre elles collent l'allonge, notamment au moyen de ruban adhésif, tandis que quatorze procèdent par agrafage, que seule celle de Reims appose un ruban sur l'allonge et qu'aucune n'utilise de cachet de cire. Seules trois autorités compétentes ne procèdent pas par allonge (Basse-Terre, Nouméa et Saint-Denis de la Réunion). Dix autorités compétentes mentionnent sécuriser ce procédé d'allonge en apposant leur sceau à la jonction du document et du certificat d'apostille, que ceux-ci soient attachés par un ruban (Reims), ou encore collés ou agrafés (Agen, Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux, Chambéry, Nancy, Nîmes, Pau, Poitiers, Toulouse). D'autres parquets, tels que Lyon, précisent apposer leur sceau sur chaque page et mentionner le nombre de pages sur l'apostille.</p>	<p>France. [1]</p>
<p><b>34. Where is allonge placed on one-page doc?</b></p>	<p>Front of the document.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We use allonge only in case when it is initially impossible to place apostille certificate on the document itself.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - Our Apostille Certificate is a separate piece of paper which we tie to the document with a ribbon.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - 1 canton.</p> <hr/> <p>Back of the document.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong</u> - If there is space on the page it would be the page containing the signature.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Please refer to the previous response - the Apostille is supplementary page (allonge) attached to the end of the document.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p>	<p>Belgique,  Bermuda, France,  Georgia,  Luxembourg, New  Zealand, Norway,  South Africa,  Switzerland,  United States  (16 states). [10]</p> <p>Australia,  Belgique, Bulgaria,  Ecuador, El  Salvador, Finland,  France, Georgia,</p>

		Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Macao, Moldova, India, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (4 states). [23]
	<p>Page containing the signature.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - It is stapled to it.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - The Apostille can also be placed on the back of the document.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - Not only the signature but also the official seal would be a criterion.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - S'il n y a pas assez de place, l'Apostille est apposée du côté verso de l'acte public ou on attache une allonge.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - If not possible, in the back of the document.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Apostille may be put on the front page containing the stamp and signature, if there is enough free space.</p>	Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (10 states), Venezuela. [28]
	Les pratiques des autorités compétentes, assez hétérogènes. Onze d'entre elles adoptent des solutions variables selon la place disponible sur le document et quatorze apposent l'apostille uniquement au verso du document sous-jacent.	France. [1]
	Both places are common depending also on the space available.	Germany. [1]
	Please note that this can vary, depending on where there is room for the Apostille when the documents are attached with grommets.	Norway. [1]
	S'il y a suffisamment de place pour l'Apostille au recto, en-dessous de la signature; autrement au verso. Si le verso est occupé par une autre chose: allonge (avec cachet).	Switzerland. [1]
	Comments of individual U.S. states:	United States. [1]

	<p>"Directly on top of county certification which is directly on top of notarization, even if this occurs in the middle of the document."</p> <p>"Note that a rubber stamp imprint of the Great Seal of Wisconsin is affixed, with half the imprint on the Apostille certificate and the other half on the document."</p> <p>"Beginning with Certificate 47750 on October 13, 2008 we started attaching the certificates behind the document instead of on top of the document."</p> <p>"The Apostille certificate is stapled on top of the page containing the signature."</p>	
<b>35. Where is the allonge placed on a multi-page document?</b>	First page.	Bermuda, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, United States (16 states). [7]
	<p>Last page.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> – Practice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> – Please refer to the two previous responses.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> – 1 canton.</p>	<p>Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Macao, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (2 states), Venezuela. [18]</p>
	<p>Page containing signature.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - It is stapled to it.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> – Placed upon the back of this page.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> – Practice of all Competent Authorities except Supreme Court of Georgia.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - Usually, this is the last page. In order for the other pages to be considered attached, they are also authenticated by the Competent Authority with the round seal placed on the stapled point.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - Not only the signature but also the official seal would be a criterion.</p> <p><u>Norway</u> - Preferably close to the signature.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova,</p>

		Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (11 states). [31]
	Placed across back of several pages, which are folded in a cascade with regular spacing. <u>Switzerland</u> - 1 canton.	Bulgaria, France, Monaco, Switzerland. [4]
	Other. <u>Spain</u> - See previous answer. <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons: allonge avec cachet. <u>United Kingdom</u> - Back of the page containing the signature.	Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom. [3]
	Both places are common depending also on the space available.	Germany. [1]
	Comments: "Affixed to the notary's signature page, but blue ribbon goes through the whole multi-page document." "If document has been Apostilled by another state, Apostille is affixed to the signature page to prevent an assumption we are certifying the other state's information on the apostille." "This is dependent on the number of pages contained in the document. The apostille is attached to the first page if document is less than fifteen pages - attached to signature page if document is greater than fifteen pages in length." "I try to attach the certificate via grommet to the entire document, all pages, if possible. If not possible I attach it to the document bearing the signature being authenticated."	United States. [1]
<b>36. Are your Apostilles ever been rejected abroad because of format, appearance, or method of attachment?</b>	Yes. <u>France</u> - La majorité des autorités n'a pas signalé de telles difficultés. Cependant, dix d'entre elles ont fait état des rejets des apostilles délivrées par leurs soins, notamment par les autorités de la Fédération de Russie. Ainsi, les autorités compétentes ont signalé que des autorités de la Fédération de Russie ont refusé des certificats d'apostille au motif que : - la signature du magistrat n'était pas manuscrite (Aix-en-Provence) ; - le format utilisé n'était pas exactement carré (Angers) ou que le timbre n'était pas conforme (Douai, Lyon, Nancy, Nîmes, Colmar) ; - l'encre utilisée n'était pas de couleur bleue (Angers, Nancy, Toulouse) ; - les pages n'avaient pas été cornées et agrafées ou retenues par un lien avec le sceau du parquet	Bermuda, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (24 states). [13]

général sur les fixations concernant notamment les dossiers d'adoption (Chambéry et Montpellier) ;

- la mention du pays destinataire ne figurait pas sur le tampon de l'apostille, laquelle mention paraît superfétatoire (Chambéry, Montpellier, Poitiers) ; ces mentions sont désormais ajoutées aux certificats d'apostille à destination de cet Etat ;
- les caractères du tampon manuel utilisé n'étaient pas assez visibles ou l'encre avait un peu débordé (Paris) ;
- le certificat d'apostille n'était pas apposé sur toutes les pages du document sous-jacent (Poitiers, qui a satisfait à cette demande) ;
- le nom du signataire n'était pas précisé (Poitiers, Toulouse -la mention « pour le procureur général » étant considérée comme insuffisante-) ;
- le sceau de l'autorité compétente ne figurait pas sur chaque feuille du document, alors même qu'est indiqué dans l'apostille le nombre de pages dudit document (Toulouse) ;

L'autorité compétente de Poitiers a également précisé que d'autres Etats de destination avaient également refusé les apostilles pour cause de rature, d'apposition de correcteur liquide ou d'absence de mention supplémentaire considérée comme superfétatoire (notamment, le fait d'ajouter, au point 7 de l'apostille, la ville du siège de la Cour d'appel).

Germany - In some rare cases by a certain State.

Luxembourg - Un notaire italien n'a pas voulu reconnaître la signature en PDF de notre préposé.

Monaco - Certains Etats ont refusé des apostilles car elles n'étaient pas apposées sur les documents originaux (copie certifiées conformes) ou encore parce qu'elles n'étaient pas cousues avec des rubans.

New Zealand - In 2007 we had a large number of Apostilles rejected by Court authorities in a particular State on the grounds that the square box on our Apostille Certificates did not have the exact measurements as the model Apostille Certificate on the Convention website.

Norway - We have experienced that a State of destination required another color than blue on the stamp and that the stamp was requested to be on a different page.

Romania - Le cachet était illisible

Spain - In international adoptions, Russia has rejected Apostilles because they were not inside a perfect square with sides of 9 centimetres as a minimum. Two sides were 2 millimetres shorter.

United Kingdom - Understand that one was recently rejected in Germany because we referred to the signatory as a "Notary Public" and not a "Scrivener Notary".

United States - Comments of individual U.S. states:

"Reason unknown."

"If staples have been removed and replaced for photocopy purposes."

"Rarely, the attachment by staple is questioned. Many years back we used a grommet to attach and if a customer had a grommet previously they asked about the change in process."

"They have been rejected due to stapling the apostille to the document."

"Method attached - the country wants the state seal added over the staple."

"The document did not have a live (ink) signature or not red-ribboned."

"Our apostille format closely resembles the model and is clearly identifiable as an apostille but differs

	<p>slightly from the model. The destination country initially rejected for appearance until we issued a letter of explanation.”</p> <p>“In some countries, if our authentication is not tied together, sealed or wax used, they are sometimes rejected and asked to sew together, seal and wax.”</p>	
	<p>No.  <u>Ukraine</u> - No available information.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (6 states), Venezuela. [32]</p>
	<p>We have no information on that issue.</p>	<p>Croatia. [1]</p>
<p><b>37. Has your State rejected foreign Apostilles because of format, appearance, or method of attachment?</b></p>	<p>Yes.  <u>Germany</u> - According to the experience of the civil registry office of Berlin (Standesamt I) apostilles from a certain State often do not meet the formal requirements of the Convention  <u>Spain</u> - Spain has rejected electronic Apostilled issued by Colombia. The question of Colombia’s electronic apostille is under examination at the moment, but although certain authorities are reluctant to accept such apostille no definite position has been adopted so far.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Cas signalé par l’Office fédérale de l’état civil OFEC concernant l’Apostille électronique.  <u>Turkey</u> - Some states do not attach the apostille to below given document and delivers it separately to persons. Such documents are not accepted.  <u>Ukraine</u> - In case apostille is put contrary to Article 4 of the Hague Apostille Convention.</p>	<p>Belgique, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (1 state). [7]</p>
	<p>No.  <u>El Salvador</u> - How ever some local authorities/institutions that are not familiar with the Apostille may</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina,</p>

	<p>question the validity of the Foreign Apostille, but the Apostille Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is available to issue the necessary explanations.  <u>Germany</u> - In general.  <u>Slovakia</u> - Nous n'avons pas les informations de ce type.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.</p>	<p>Bermuda,  Bulgaria, Cyprus,  Czech Republic,  Denmark,  Ecuador, El  Salvador, Finland,  Georgia, Germany,  Hong Kong, India,  Latvia, Lithuania,  Luxembourg,  Macao, Mexico,  Moldova, Monaco,  New Zealand,  Poland, Republic of  Korea, Romania,  Slovakia, Slovenia,  South Africa,  Switzerland,  United Kingdom,  United States  (20 states),  Venezuela. [33]</p>
	We have no information on that issue.	Croatia. [1]
	Unable to give a view – this information is not available to the Department	Ireland. [1]
	It is up to each individual authority concerned to decide whether or not to reject foreign Apostilles for any reason; thus no integrated information on rejection is available.	Japan. [1]
	No information available.	Norway. [1]
	Les autorités compétentes n'ont pas de données en cette matière.	Portugal. [1]
	Remarque: En général, pas d'informations disponibles à ce sujet, vu que seulement les Autorités compétentes ont participé aux réponses de ce questionnaire. Elles ne sont en général pas "autorité de destination". La majorité des cantons ont répondu par "non"; aucun cas n'a été porté à leur connaissance.	Switzerland. [1]
<b>38. Language requirements.</b>		



<p><b>38(a) Follow language requirements?</b></p>	<p>Yes.  <u>Macao</u> - The Apostilles are issued in French, Chinese and Portuguese.  <u>New Zealand</u> - Our Apostilles are issued in English.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Remarque: Quelques cantons apposent l'Apostille en espagnole ou portugais ou russe, sans qu'il s'agisse de langues officielles de la Suisse. Voir explications en bas sous b. Voir aussi questions 11) et 45).</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (30 states) Venezuela. [44]</p>
	<p>No.  <u>Bermuda</u> - There has never been a request to have the certificate translated into another language except on one occasion.</p>	<p>Bermuda. [0]</p>

<b>38(b). Policy to translate Apostille into language of destination State?</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - In most cases, the official Translation Service of our State (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) makes a notice at the end of an official translation that a document is apostilled, and indicates some of the fields, such as the apostille number, date, competent authority, official's name. If the person interested wishes, all apostille fields are translated.</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - on traduit l'acte apostille, y compris l'Apostille, la traduction est legalise par le notaire et ainsi apostille.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - We don't have a policy as such but will translate an Apostille Certificate if an applicant or Embassy insists we do so. One Embassy requires applicants who have obtained a translation of their document to also present a translation of the Apostille Certificate. We have also completed a small number of translations of Apostille Certificates into other languages.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Pour certains pays de destination, l'Apostille est apposée p.ex. en langue espagnole ou portugaise, parce que les clients rencontreraient des difficultés dans le pays de destination avec une Apostille en anglais, français ou allemand (langue officielle).</p>	<p>Greece, Moldova, New Zealand, Switzerland. [4]</p>
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Moitié des cantons.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgarie, Croatie, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa,</p>

		Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (30 states), Venezuela. [43]
39. Is additional information provided on Certificate?	Yes. <u>Switzerland</u> – Quelques cantons.	Argentina, Bermuda, Bulgaria, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (6 states). [7]
	No. <u>New Zealand</u> - But we are adding information relating to the limited effects of an Apostille. This note has been written and will shortly be added to our template. It will be printed at the base of our A4 Certificate outside the box. <u>Switzerland</u> – Majorité des cantons.	Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain,

			Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (24 states), Venezuela. [40]
<b>39(a). Are the following types of info provided?</b>	Info type	Yes	No
	Info relating to limited effect of Apostille	Bermuda, France, United States (1 state). [3]	[0]
	Info relating to nature or content of underlying doc	Argentina, United States (2 states). [2]	[0]
	Info relating to person requesting Apostille	Argentina, United States (3 states). [2]	[0]
	Info relating to destination State	[0]	[0]
	Info relating to e-Register	[0]	[0]
	Other <u>Argentina</u> - Authorizing official, authorized signatory, fee, date. <u>Bulgaria</u> - a checking code of the apostille issued in the register of the Ministry of Justice. <u>Switzerland</u> - Le montant facture. <u>United Kingdom</u> - We print a disclaimer (see our example) below the Apostille. <u>United States</u> - Comments of individual U.S. states: "Sometimes we add extra text outside the box." "Language was also added to state that the Apostille is not for use within the United States." "We may in some cases add, "the verification of the signature on this document is for international use. In no way does this verification of signature authenticate, validate or endorse the content of this or any document.""		Argentina, Bulgaria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. [5]
<b>39(b). Where is this info added?</b>	<u>Argentina</u> - The information is added outside the Apostille box, especially the information regarding the document nature and the person requesting the apostille. <u>Bermuda</u> - The language inserted outside the box states: If this document is to be used in a country which is not party to the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961, it should be presented to the consular section of the mission representing that country, etc. <u>Bulgaria</u> - In the lower side of the apostille certificate box. <u>France</u> - La circulaire CIV/19/05 D3/12-12-2005 du 12 décembre 2005, fait obligation aux autorités compétentes françaises d'apposer systématiquement l'avertissement suivant aux côtés de l'apostille : «L'apostille confirme seulement l'authenticité de la signature, du sceau ou du timbre sur le document. Elle ne signifie pas que le contenu du document est correct ou que la République française approuve son contenu.» Cette mention figure le plus souvent sous le cadre de l'apostille. En outre, onze parquets généraux précisent l'Etat de destination du certificat d'apostille, quatre d'entre eux précisant satisfaire ainsi aux demandes des autorités de la Fédération de Russie. Le nombre de pages du document sur lequel est apposée l'apostille est mentionné par quatre parquets généraux.		Argentina, Bermuda, Bulgaria, France, Switzerland, United States. [6]

	<p><u>Switzerland</u> - Le montant est mentionné dans le cadre du certificat Apostille, p.ex. à côté du numéro</p> <p><u>United States</u> - Outside the box.</p> <p>Comments of individual U.S. states:</p> <p>"Disclaimer information relating to the content of document at the bottom of the apostille, within the box, and the destination country after element 4 inside the apostille."</p> <p>"Outside the box, bottom, right-hand corner."</p> <p>"If we added it would be outside the box."</p> <p>"In the bottom left margin of the certificate."</p> <p>"Outside the box of the Apostille."</p> <p>"Added to the bottom of the document."</p>	
<b>C. Registers</b>		
<p><b>40. Do all CAs keep a register?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>France</u> - A l'exception de deux, toutes les autorités compétentes tiennent le registre requis à l'article 7 de la Convention.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Tous les autres cantons.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland</p>

		Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (28 states), Venezuela. [45]
	No. <u>Switzerland</u> - 1 canton - il s'agit du canton avec le chiffre le plus élevé d'Apostille émise au cours des cinq dernières années (voir le maximum inscrit à la question 7) : pour 2007 env. 40'000).	Switzerland. [1]
<b>41. What is the form of the Register?</b>	Paper. <u>France</u> - Vingt-deux autorités compétentes. <u>Moldova</u> - Sera disponible a partir du 01/01/2009 sur le site <a href="http://www.apostila.gov.md">www.apostila.gov.md</a> . <u>Switzerland</u> - Majorité des cantons.	Albanie, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland Turkey, Ukraine, United States (4 states). [26]
	Electronic – accessible only to CA. <u>Switzerland</u> – Quelques cantons.	Andorre, Argentina Bulgaria, Australia, Denmark, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland,

		Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (25 states), Venezuela. [26]
	Electronic – accessible online. <u>Belgique</u> - <a href="http://www.diplomatie.be/FPSFAWeb/Consular/LegalWeb/WebUI/Pages/LegaliNetSearchPage.aspx">http://www.diplomatie.be/FPSFAWeb/Consular/LegalWeb/WebUI/Pages/LegaliNetSearchPage.aspx</a> <u>Bulgaria</u> - We would like also to inform you that since the 24 of November 2008 in the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria started to operate the system for e-apostille. The available web-site is: <a href="http://www.justice.government.bg/new/Apostille/ApostilleEN.aspx">http://www.justice.government.bg/new/Apostille/ApostilleEN.aspx</a> . <u>United States</u> - Rhode Island - <a href="http://ucc.state.ri.us/E-App/login.php">http://ucc.state.ri.us/E-App/login.php</a> .	Belgique, Bulgaria, United States (1 state). [3]
	Autres. <u>France</u> - Registre informatique – accessible seulement par l’Autorité compétente (dix autorités compétentes : Angers, Bourges, Dijon, Douai, Montpellier, Nouméa, Orléans, Pau, Reims, Rennes).	France. [1]
<b>42. How long is info retained in Register?</b>	Less than 1 year.	[0]
	Between 1-5 years. <u>Switzerland</u> – Quelques cantons.	Bermuda, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, United States (9 states), Venezuela. [14]
	Between 5-10 years. <u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from <i>Land to Land</i> . <u>Switzerland</u> – Quelques cantons.	Albanie, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (5 states). [8]
	10 years or longer. <u>Australia</u> - Australia has not put in place any guidelines in relation to the length of time during which records must be maintained. At the present time, records are retained indefinitely. <u>France</u> - Les registres des apostilles délivrées doivent être conservés durant 30 ans. <u>Switzerland</u> – Majorité des cantons.	Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus,

	<p><u>Ukraine</u> - Registers and bank documents of payment for the Apostille are kept for 75 years. (Rules about affix Apostille to official documents, used on the territory of other states, established with the Joint Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine from 05.12.2003 No 237/803/151/5).</p>	<p>Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, Latvia, Macao, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (16 states). [28]</p>
<p><b>43. Keep a copy of underlying public doc?</b></p>	<p>Yes.  <u>Andorre</u> - Le registre électronique a un champ qui contient une description sommaire de l'acte de délivrance de l'apostille.  <u>Bulgaria</u> - The documents are stored under the number of their registrations and information about which court or notary has signed it.  <u>Croatia</u> - We keep the copy of the public documents in a file.  <u>Czech Republic</u> - The information about the type of the document is kept in the register.  <u>Georgia</u> - We keep a copy as well as the additional information: The information about requesting person; The type of a document; Destination country.  <u>Germany</u> - Practice differs from <i>Land</i> to <i>Land</i>. Some Länder retain a copy of the document or the apostille.  <u>Latvia</u> - Only short description of document and its content.  <u>Macao</u> - The Macao SAR competent Authority keeps a photocopy of all underlying public documents for security reasons.  <u>Romania</u> - Des données sur les actes délivrés, le type de l'acte, le titulaire de la demande, le numéro de l'acte, le pays de destination, le signataire de la demande, la demande, la délégation / la procuration, le revêtement de timbre appliqué et, très rarement, on attache des photos - copies selon les actes sur lesquels l'apostille avait été appliquée.  <u>Slovenia</u> - We keep information about the nature of the document (judgment) for the purposes of wholeness of the register.  <u>United States</u> - Comments of individual U.S. States:  "Keep it for three years."  "Request form and apostille is also retained for 150 years (this is part of notary database)."</p>	<p>Andorre, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, India, Latvia, Macao, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, United States (6 states). [13]</p>



	<p>"Copies of all apostilles and attached documents are made and retained for the same amount of time as the register."</p> <p>"Very minimal. For example: 1. Adoption 2. School 3. Business 4. Birth 5. Death 6. Marriage 7. Personal."</p> <p>"We categorize the document type and keep that information as part of the registry."</p> <p>"The Apostille database contains a field for document type, <i>i.e.</i> birth certificate, power of attorney, etc."</p>	
	<p>No.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Les autorités compétentes ne conservent en général pas de copie de l'acte sous-jacent, ni d'informations sur celui-ci, à l'exception naturellement des éléments d'information figurant sur le registre prescrit à l'article 7 de la Convention.</p> <p>Seul le parquet général de Saint-Denis de la Réunion conserve la première page de l'acte sous-jacent, et celui de Versailles conserve, le cas échéant, une traduction libre du document sous-jacent.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Un seul canton signale que tout document apostillé est photocopié et conservé.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (23 states), Venezuela. [34]</p>
<p><b>D. Various scenarios relating to the issuance of Apostilles</b></p>		
<p><b>44. Common Examples</b></p>		

<p><b>1. Apostille Requested by friend of applicant.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued  <u>Albanie</u> - Le tout est fait par l'intermédiaire de la Poste.  <u>Bulgaria</u> - Each individual may request issuance of Apostille.  <u>Germany</u> - Some <i>Länder</i> require a power of attorney to be produced by the applicant.  <u>Greece</u> - We believe that the Apostille relates to the authenticity of a document, regardless of who presents such document.  <u>Japan</u> - A letter of proxy is required.  <u>Macao</u> - Provided that all Convention requirements are fulfilled.  <u>Moldova</u> - Sur présentation d'une procuration ; Les membres de famille de 1 et 2-eme degre, ainsi que les époux n'ont pas besoin d'une procuration.  <u>Romania</u> - Si le requérant de l'apostille n'est pas la personne qui doit présenter l'acte public à l'étranger, l'apostille est émise seulement avec une procuration authentique notariée (générale ou spéciale) ou avec une délégation. Compte tenu de la pratique des autorités roumaines, si les documents administratifs sont présentés par l'époux (épouse) ou par les parents de premier degré du titulaire, il n'est pas nécessaire la présentation d'une procuration authentique notariée, mais les actes doivent être accompagnés d'une copie selon le document d'identité du requérant.  <u>Ukraine</u> - The term of taking documents, related to an individual person or its relatives, if it is confirmed with documents about kinship or marital relationships, affix apostille is 1 day. The term of taking documents from other persons is 5 days.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela. [44]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.  <u>Latvia</u> - Only relatives or persons with power of attorney.</p>	<p>Latvia. [1]</p>

	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Bermuda</u> - All specimen signatures are kept or confirmation of the signature is sought via other means.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - The genuineness can normally be verified through the archives.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - An Apostille is issued; provided that a new public document for the same purpose cannot be executed, and that it is confirmed by inquiring to the relevant authority/official that the document was officially executed.</p> <p><u>Latvia</u> - Through a multi-step process.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Subject to previous confirmation from the relevant authority. Depending on whether the legal validity of the public document can be asserted.</p> <p><u>Mexico</u> - Requesting certification of the document by the authority in force.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Sous condition : S'il peut être vérifié que le signataire était alors compétent et que sa signature peut être attestée par les autorités compétentes.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Par contre, il est possible de faire une vérification de la véracité auprès de l'autorité émettrice.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - Signatures are kept for the same period of time of validity.</p>	<p>Bermuda, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, Mexico, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, United States (19 states). [15]</p>
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**2. Old Doc. CA  
has no record  
of signature.**

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - On demande renouvellement de la signature et du cachet.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - If there is no sample the signature is not apostilled</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - An apostille is not issued until such time as the signature/stamp or seal can be verified or the person has the document legalised first by an Australian notary public.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - This answer is applicable for the public documents issued more than 10 years ago.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require having the record of the signature. If we cannot verify the validity, we do not issue the apostille.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The applicant shall be requested to present a recent copy of the document, signed by an official whose the signature sample is held by the Competent Authority.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong</u> - Further clarification needed.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Ensure that the document has been issued in the current calendar year.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - We would contact the issuing authority to have them confirm they issued the document.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Contacte le service concerné visant l'obtention de la signature.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Si nous arrivons à obtenir le spécimen de la signature ou du timbre de la nouvelle personne compétente ou le nouvel acte public, l'Apostille sera émise</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Une Apostille sera émise, à condition que :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- un spécimen est fourni, ou</li> <li>- l'autorité compétente actuelle authentifie la signature, ou</li> <li>- un nouveau acte public est établi + spécimen, ou</li> <li>- une vérification/clarification a lieu.</li> </ul> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only if a sample of the signature or stamp is produced. An updated certified copy must be presented.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - We would try to obtain a copy of the signature.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (16 states), Venezuela. [28]</p>
	<p>Please note that we have not experienced these situations. We would contact the relevant authority to confirm their competence before issuing an Apostille.</p>	<p>Norway. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; some Länder try to verify the authenticity by other methods, e.g. utilizing personnel files.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>Issued if pre authenticated by regional authority.</p>	<p>India. [1]</p>
	<p>In the case of absence of authorized signature, seal or stamp and after answer of archives of competent organs, where signatures and stamps of confirmation of authorized signatures and stamps are saving, affix apostille only after receiving such patterns.</p>	<p>Ukraine. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 1.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>

<p><b>3. Apostille sought for expired document.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Belgique</u> - Si l'autorité qui le demande l'accepte.  <u>El Salvador</u> - The Apostille only authenticate the signature of the document.  <u>Monaco</u> - Il n'appartient pas à l'autorité centrale de vérifier le délai de validité de l'acte. Seuls comptent la caractère public de l'acte, la compétence et la véracité de la signataire de la personne qui l'a signé. Il appartiendra à l'Etat de destination si l'acte est recevable ou pas.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We would discuss the situation with the applicant but we would attach an Apostille if they requested us to. These documents may have a legitimate use – (<i>i.e.</i> a police clearance for a certain period of time in a certain country. Often people need to submit clearances for all the countries they have lived in )  <u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu (qui inclus une date d'expiration). Quelques autorités rendent attentif le client à la date d'expiration pour lui laisser le choix, s'il veut vraiment une apostille ou s'il préfère organiser un nouvel acte.</p>	<p>Argentina,  Belgique, Croatia,  El Salvador,  France, Finland,  Germany, Hong  Kong, Latvia,  Lithuania,  Luxembourg,  Mexico, Monaco,  New Zealand,  Poland, Romania,  Slovenia,  Switzerland,  Ukraine, Unitd  Kingdom, United  States. [21]</p>
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	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - On informe la personne du fait que le document ne sera pas valable.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - We would need to seek legal guidance before proceeding with issuing an apostille in this example.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - As long as the document is valid only for a limited period of time, it is possible that a new documentation of its contents is required. Otherwise, there would be no reason for its limited validity.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The document is no more considered as a public document.</p> <p><u>Republic of Korea</u> - Less than 2 years before.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - However, it is certified if the issuing authority makes a copy certification with persons who are authorized for the time being.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only on valid time.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Macao, Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela. [23]</p>
	<p>Never experienced this.</p>	<p>Bermuda. [1]</p>
	<p><u>Bulgaria</u> - If there is a term specified in the document, the Apostille is valid for the same period of time as the document.</p>	<p>Bulgaria. [1]</p>
	<p>There are not such documents.</p>	<p>Czech Republic. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; however, most Länder replied that this scenario has not occurred so far.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>In light of the types of public documents which would be the object of an Apostille in Japan, it is difficult to envisage a period of validity as a public document; thus it is not possible to answer properly.</p>	<p>Japan. [1]</p>
	<p>La pratique n'est pas unitaire. Les autorités qui refusent l'application de l'apostille, le motivent par des exemples, tels que celui du casier judiciaire, de la procuration qui prévoit un délai de validité. Les autorités qui ne refusent pas l'application de l'apostille, le motivent par le fait que cette compétence est limitée seulement à la vérification de la qualité, de la signature et du cachet du notaire.</p>	<p>Romania. [1]</p>
<p><b>4. Signature does not match sample record, but name does.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Ministry of Justice - Ministry of Justice verifies the signature by fax or phone and then issues an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - It is recommended to obtain a new document.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille to the document only after checking it with the issuing authority.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Apostille is issued, after a telephone communication with the competent agency, in order to confirm the issuance of the public document by the specific official. Usually, a «new» additional signature sample is requested.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong</u> - Verification with the relevant department required.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - An Apostille is issued provided that it is confirmed by inquiring to the relevant authority / official that the document was officially executed.</p>	<p>Czech Republic - Ministry of Justice, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, Monaco, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, United States (7 states). [14]</p>

	<p><u>Macao</u> - Subject to previous confirmation from the relevant person/authority who signed it.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - sous condition : Qu'après vérification auprès de l'autorité compétente, la véracité et l'authenticité de la signature soit confirmée.</p> <p><u>Slovenia</u> - We contact the person signed on the document and ask her to send us her signature.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - The authority that issued the document is requested to verify it and is told to notify any change in the signature</p>	
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	<p>Apostille not issued.  <u>Albanie</u> - Obligation de vérifier.  <u>Andorre</u> - On contacte le service concerné afin de vérifier l'authenticité de la signature.  <u>Argentina</u> - The signatures must be similar.  <u>Bermuda</u> - Request specimen signature from notary.  <u>Croatia</u> - Document will not be apostilled until the new stamp and signature are deposited  <u>El Salvador</u> - If the signature does not match our records, we return the document for rectification by the proper authorities.  <u>Finland</u> - It is recommended to obtain a new document.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We would contact the person to confirm their signature before issuing the Apostille.  <u>Portugal</u> - Contacte le service concerné.  <u>Slovakia</u> - L'Autorité compétente contacte l'émetteur de l'acte public concerné pour envoyer le spécimen de la signature valide. Si le spécimen valide est télécopié, l'Apostille sera émise.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Une Apostille sera émise, à condition que :  - un nouveau spécimen est fourni (demande de mise à jour), ou  - une vérification/clarification a lieu.  <u>Ukraine</u> - The document needs to be reissued.  <u>United Kingdom</u> - We would check with the signer.  <u>Venezuela</u> - Only after confirmation of signature.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre,  Argentina,  Australia,  Belgique,  Bermuda, Croatia,  Cyprus, Czech  Republic – Ministry  of Foreign Affairs,  Ecuador,  El Salvador,  Finland, France,  Germany, India,  Ireland, Latvia,  Lithuania,  Luxembourg,  Mexico, Moldova,  New Zealand,  Poland, Portugal,  Romania,  Slovakia, South  Africa, Switzerland  Turkey, Ukraine,  United Kingdom,  Unites States  (23 states)  Venezuela. [33]</p>
	A check is made by phone/fax and correction is made, if appropriate.	Bulgaria. [1]
	Check the person.	Denmark. [1]
	Different replies; in any event those Länder who issue answered "ves" issue the apostile only when any uncertainty has been clarified.	Germany. [1]
	Contact the relevant authority and get confirmation for the signature before issuing an Apostille.	Norway. [1]
	La pratique n'est pas unitaire. On présume que l'acte est authentique s'il remplit les autres conditions de validité. Une vérification de la véracité auprès de l'autorité émettrice peut être faite.	Romania. [1]
	See question 7A.	United States. [1]



<p><b>5. Name does not match record, but signature does.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Argentina</u> - The agency is consulted if the person is the same  <u>Czech Republic</u> - Ministry of Justice - Ministry of Justice verifies the name by fax or phone and then issues an Apostille.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We verify with the issuing authority, and only if verified we proceed with the Apostille  <u>Greece</u> - Just as in the previous case, the Competent Authorities act as required, in order having proper and updated information on any changes in the officials' names.  <u>Hong Kong</u> - Further clarification needed.  <u>Japan</u> - An Apostille is issued provided that it is confirmed by inquiring to the relevant authority / official that the document was officially executed.  <u>Macao</u> - Subject to previous confirmation from the relevant person/authority who signed it.  <u>Portugal</u> - Contacte le service concerné visant l'obtention d'une nouvelle signature.  <u>Slovenia</u> - We contact the person signed on the document and ask her to send us her signature.  <u>Spain</u> - The document is previously returned to the competent authority to rectify the contradiction</p>	<p>Argentina,  Belgique,  Bermuda, Cyprus,  Czech Republic –  Ministry of Justice,  El Salvador,  France, Georgia,  Germany, Greece,  Hong Kong, India,  Japan, Lithuania,  Macao, Mexico,  Moldova, New  Zealand, Norway,  Poland, Portugal,  Republic of Korea,  Romania,  Slovenia, Spain,  United States  (3 states). [26]</p>
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	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Obligation de vérifier.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - On contacte le service concerné afin de vérifier l'authenticité de l'information</p> <p><u>Croatia</u> - Document will not be apostilled until the new stamp and signature are deposited</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Il n'y a pas eu de cas répertorié mais il serait demandé de bien vouloir contacter l'autorité qui a signé l'acte pour correction.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Tout d'abord l'autorité compétente vérifie ce différend chez l'émetteur de l'acte public et elle demande d'envoyer par fax le nouveau nom et la nouvelle signature.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - An explanation must be given from the person.</p> <p>Switzerland - Une Apostille sera émise, à condition que un nouveau spécimen est fourni (demande de mise à jour), ou; une vérification/clarification a lieu.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - We would check with the signer.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only after confirmation of signature.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (26 states), Venezuela. [18]</p>
	A check is made by phone/fax and correction is made, if appropriate	Bulgaria. [1]
	Check the person.	Denmark, Latvia. [2]
	Different replies; in any event those Länder who issue answered "ves" issue the apostile only when any uncertainty has been clarified.	Germany. [1]
	La pratique n'est pas unitaire. On demande l'actualisation des spécimens de signature et des sceaux. Une vérification de la véracité auprès de l'autorité émettrice peut être faite.	Romania. [1]
	Affix apostille only after receiving checking results.	Ukraine. [1]
	See question 22A.	United States. [1]
<p><b>6. Apostille requested for certified copy of local passport.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Denmark</u> - If the notary has signed we make an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - The copy must be certified before by a Notary.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We issue the Apostille but we prefer certified copies of passports be issued by the Immigration Department. No decision/recommendation has been made by the Immigration Department for us to reject issuing Apostille to notarized copies of Salvadoran passports.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - Certified copies have to be issued by the competent authorities of our State.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - However, some <i>Länder</i> require the copy to be certified by a local notary public prior to the issuing of the Apostille.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Apostille is issued, as long as the required process of authentication by the competent police authorities has been fulfilled.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certification.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - Provided the original is also presented.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal,</p>

	<p><u>Switzerland</u> - Copie certifiée conforme par une personne dont la signature peut être légalisée par l'Apostille (procédure en plusieurs étapes).</p>	<p>Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela. [32]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.  <u>Bulgaria</u> - Apostille is not applied on identity documents.  <u>Czech Republic</u> - It is forbidden by law.  <u>Georgia</u> - According to our legislation certification of the passport, ID documents and driving licence is prohibited. Only thing required to such documents is certified (notarial) translation. In other words Georgian authority should accept the above mentioned documents without requesting Apostille and even certification of their copies.  <u>Japan</u> - It is our policy that an Apostille will not be issued for a copy of a Japanese passport.  <u>Romania</u> - La pratique majoritaire est celle de ne pas appliquer l'apostille sur la copie légalisée du passeport ou de la carte d'identité, vu le spécifique de ces actes d'identité.</p>	<p>Belgique, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Romania, Ukraine. [11]</p>
	<p>It would depend on whether the certified copy was completed by a person/organisation that we accept for the purpose of issuing an apostille – details provided above as to those persons/organisations that we accept certified copies from.</p>	<p>Australia. [1]</p>
	<p>Except for the certifications of the Civil Register, the certification must be made by a notary and the Apostille will be issued by the Professional Association of Notaries. The Civil Register can make certifications in photocopies and the Apostille will be issued by the High Court of Justice</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>
<p><b>7. Apostille requested for certified copy of foreign passport.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Bermuda</u> - Only if the doc is notarised.  <u>Germany</u> - However, some Länder require the copy to be certified by a local notary public prior to the issuing of the Apostille.  <u>Monaco</u> - Seule la signature de la personne ou de l'autorité qui a établi la copie certifiée conforme serait alors attestée.  <u>New Zealand</u> - If the certification was performed by a New Zealand Notary or government agency then yes we would issue an Apostille.  <u>Slovakia</u> - Seulement si l'Apostille est demandée pour la certification conforme du notaire slovaque  <u>Spain</u> - The certification must be made by a notary and the Apostille will be issued by the Professional Association of Notaries.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Copie certifiée conforme par une personne dont la signature peut être légalisée par l'Apostille (procédure en plusieurs étapes).</p>	<p>Argentina, Bermuda, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. [14]</p>

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Compétence des autorités de l'autre Etat.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - Exception faite par exemple si la certification est faite par un notaire public</p> <p><u>Bulgarie</u> - Apostille is not applied on identity documents as well as on copies thereof</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We request the user to have the document Legalized by the Consular Office of the country issuing the passport for certification. Then we issued a consular authentication, not an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities issue Apostilles on copies certified by the competent Greek authorities, as they have the related signature samples. An Apostille is requested on the mentioned documents, from agencies receiving documents issued abroad.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Article 3 of the Convention.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Chaque pays partie à la Convention, applique l'apostille uniquement sur les actes délivrés par ses autorités.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - They must approach the Embassy of that state.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - For the certification of a foreign passport, firstly the approved copy of the passport must be approved by the consulate of issuing country. Thereafter, the province governor's office certifies seal and signature of relevant consulate. After this procedure, the translation of such documents can be apostilled.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only after confirmation by Embassy or consulate of another state.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Belgique, Bulgarie, Croatie, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela. [30]</p>
	<p>It would depend on whether the certified copy was completed by a person/organisation that we accept for the purpose of issuing an apostille – details provided above as to those persons / organisations that we accept certified copies from.</p>	<p>Australia. [1]</p>
<p><b>8. Apostille requested for certified copy of local ID.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - Identification documents and driving licenses are apostilled.</p> <p><u>Denmark</u> - If it has been signed by the notary.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - The copy must be certified before by a Notary.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - Given the document is authenticated by the Supreme Court's Officer.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - However, some <i>Länder</i> require the copy to be certified by a local notary public prior to the issuing of the Apostille.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities issue Apostilles, after the certification required for each case.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certification.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - Provided the original documents are also provided.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Idem 6.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - The Apostille will be issued by a notary.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Copie certifiée conforme par une personne dont la signature peut être légalisée par l'Apostille (procédure en plusieurs étapes). Les cantons n'ont pas indiqué s'ils émettent implement l'Apostille ou s'ils ajoutent la certification de conformité demandée. Quelques cantons ont indiqué que l'original du document doit être présenté.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Only if the copy has been certified by a UK Notary</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Bermuda, Croatie, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania,</p>

		Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Venezuela. [35]
	Apostille not issued <u>Argentina</u> - Immigration documents <u>Czech Republic</u> - It is forbidden by law.	Argentina, Belgique, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hong Kong, Latvia, Mexico, Ukraine. [9]
	It would depend on whether the certified copy was completed by a person/organisation that we accept for the purpose of issuing an apostille – details provided above as to those persons/organisations that we accept certified copies from.	Australia. [1]
	Yes and no. Not issued on Immigration papers, except where they form part of an Adoption case	United Kingdom. [1]
	We only asked about vital records.	United States. [1]
<b>9. Apostille requested for certified copy of foreign ID.</b>	Apostille issued. <u>Argentina</u> - Identification documents and driving licenses are apostilled. <u>Bermuda</u> - Only if the doc is notarised. <u>Germany</u> - However, some <i>Länder</i> require the copy to be certified by a local notary public prior to the issuing of the Apostille. <u>New Zealand</u> - If the certification was performed by a New Zealand Notary or government agency then yes we would issue an Apostille. <u>Monaco</u> - Seule la signature de la personne ou de l'autorité qui a établi la copie certifiée conforme serait alors attestée. <u>Slovakia</u> - Seulement si l'Apostille est demandée pour la certification conforme du notaire slovaque <u>Spain</u> - The Apostille will be issued by a notary <u>Switzerland</u> - Copie certifiée conforme par une personne dont la signature peut être légalisée par l'Apostille (procédure en plusieurs étapes). Les cantons n'ont pas indiqué s'ils émettent implement l'Apostille ou s'ils ajoutent la certification de conformité demandée. Quelques cantons ont indiqué que l'original du document doit être présenté. Plusieurs caontons ont répondu "n'est pas émise." <u>United Kingdom</u> - Only if the copy has been certified by a UK Notary.	Argentina, Bermuda, Japan, Germany, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. [13]

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Compétence des autorités de l'autre Etat.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - Exception faite par exemple si la certification est faite par un notaire public.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - Immigration documents.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We request the user to have the document legalized by the Consular Office of the country issuing the foreign documents. Then we issued a consular legalization, not an Apostilla.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities issue Apostilles on copies certified by the competent Greek authorities, as they have the related signature samples. An Apostille is requested on the mentioned documents, from agencies receiving documents issued abroad.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Article 3 of the Convention.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Idem 7.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - The relevant embassy must be contacted.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - Certification of relevant consulate is required.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only after confirmation provides by the embassy or consulate authorities of another State.</p>	<p>Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela. [32]</p>
	<p>It would depend on whether the certified copy was completed by a person/organisation that we accept for the purpose of issuing an apostille – details provided above as to those persons/organisations that we accept certified copies from.</p>	<p>Australia. [1]</p>
	<p>We only asked about vital records.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>
	<p><b>Special cases relating to notarial certificates (the following scenarios all assume that the notarial certificate has been issued by a notary with a valid commission)</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Apostille requested for notarial certificate without attachment.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Responsabilité du MAE uniquement quant à la signature du Notaire.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - It is the notary public who is responsible for checking the availability of the obligatory attachments. The absence of an attachment is not a hindrance to apostillise.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - The Apostille will be issued by a notary.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu. Quelques cantons ont répondu "n'est pas émise".</p>	<p>Albanie, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, United States. [11]</p>

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - We would not proceed until a satisfactory explanation was provided in relation to the completeness of documentation submitted.</p> <p><u>Bermuda</u> - Make contact with relevant party for explanation.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The certificate is not valid.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Aucune situation n'a été constatée jusqu'à ce jour.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only if process is complete.</p>	<p>Andorre,  Argentina,  Australia,  Belgique,  Bermuda, Cyprus,  Czech Republic,  Ecuador, El  Salvador, Finland,  Georgia, Germany,  Hong Kong, India,  Ireland, Japan,  Latvia, Lithuania,  Macao, Mexico,  New Zealand,  Norway, Portugal,  Republic of Korea,  Romania,  Slovakia, Slovenia,  South Africa,  Turkey, Ukraine,  United Kingdom,  Venezuela.[32]</p>
	<p>Similar to 9, but this is saying at least a notarization exists.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>
	<p>Apostille issued</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>

**11. Apostille  
requested for  
notarial  
certificate  
bearing seal  
but not  
signature.**

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Signature du Notaire obligée.</p> <p><u>Bermuda</u> - Make contact with relevant party for explanation.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - The notary's signature is absolutely necessary.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - Every notarial certificate must bear the seal.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The certificate is not valid.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - We send the notarised document to the Notary so he/she can sign it.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - Aucune situation n'a été constatée jusqu'à ce jour. quand même émise mais avec l'annotation que la signature doit encore être posée.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Si le document notarié ne comprend pas la signature du notaire ou le sceau du bureau notarial, l'application de l'apostille peut être refusée, parce que, vu l'art.52 de la L. no.36/1995, le manque de ces éléments est sanctionné par la nullité de l'acte.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Un canton a répondu que – à condition de disposer d'un spécimen - l'Apostille serait quand même émise mais avec l'annotation que la signature doit encore être posée.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Only if process is complete.</p>	<p>Albanie, Australia, Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (30 states), Venezuela. [42]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 7B.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>



<p><b>12. Apostille requested for notarial certificate bearing signature but no seal.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Finland</u> - A signet or a stamp is not mandatory.  <u>Portugal</u> - Aucune situation n'a été constatée jusqu'à ce jour.</p>	<p>Andorre, Bermuda, Finland, Luxembourg, Portugal, United States (5 States). [6]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued  <u>Albanie</u> - Sceau du Notaire obligée.  <u>Bulgaria</u> - The notary's signature is absolutely necessary.  <u>Denmark</u> - Contact the notary first.  <u>Ecuador</u> - Every notarial certificate must bear the seal.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.  <u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.  <u>Macao</u> - The certificate is not valid.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We send the notarised document to the Notary so he/she can affix their seal.  <u>Romania</u> - Idem 11.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Trois cantons ont répondu que - à condition de disposer d'un spécimen - l'Apostille serait quand même émise, dont un canton avec l'annotation que le sceau doit encore être posé.  <u>Venezuela</u> - Only if process is complete.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (26 states), Venezuela. [37]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>
	<p>Yes and no.  No except for Scottish Notaries.</p>	<p>United Kingdom. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 8C.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>

<p><b>13. Apostille requested for notarial certificate certifying copy of a document that contains false statements.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - An apostille certifies the origin of a public document; the identity of the person signing the document; the capacity in which that person has acted; and the name of the authority which has affixed a seal or stamp Our role in issuing an apostille is not to make a comment on the contents of the source documents.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - The contents of the statements pertaining to the public document would not be included in the consideration of whether or not to issue an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Luxembourg</u> - Nous n'avons pas la possibilité de vérifier les données contenues dans le document, seul la signature originale importe.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Subject to previous confirmation from the relevant person/authority who certified it. The Apostille relates solely to the certification.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - While this has not yet happened, we would attach an Apostille - we are not responsible for the content of the document. We are only verifying the Notarial act.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - L'étude notariale serait cependant contactée avant la délivrance de l'apostille. Il est toutefois difficile d'appréhender à première vue de fausses déclarations alors que celles-ci ont été certifiées par un notaire.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - L'autorité compétente n'est responsable que de la véracité de la signature, la qualité en laquelle le signataire a agi et l'identité du sceau. Le contenu de l'acte public ne fait pas l'objet de l'attestation. Mais cela n'exclut pas la possibilité de porter plainte contre la personne qui a établi cet acte public.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Opinions partagées. "Est émise": C'est la signature et non le contenu qui est légalisée. Le notaire est responsable du contrôle du contenu.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - Because the apostille authentication is not related to content of the document but it is only about authenticity of the seal and signature. The statements contained in the document bind the person or establishment which made the statement.</p>	<p>Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (21 states) [23]</p>
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	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Demande de précisions par le Notaire.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Such a document could not be certified by notary.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Opinions partagées. "n'est pas émise": p.ex. aussi en cas de faux.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - We would contact the Notary in case there had been human error.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (10 states), Venezuela. [23]</p>
	<p>L'Apostille atteste l'authenticité de la signature, la qualité du signataire de l'acte et, le cas échéant, l'identité du sceau ou du timbre dont cet acte est revêtu</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; in general, the competent authorities have little or no experience with that scenario. Those willing to issue the apostille argued that the content of the document is not subject to examination by the apostille authority.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>We would contact the Notary Public and look into the matter before issuing an Apostille.</p>	<p>Norway. [1]</p>
	<p>La pratique n'est pas unitaire.</p>	<p>Romania. [1]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 15A.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>

<p><b>14. Apostille requested for notarial certificate certifying copy of a document that contains offensive language.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - L'Apostille porte sur la signature du Notaire, non pas sur le contenu de l'acte apostillé.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - As long as the apostille meets the requirements in terms of it being a public document and is signed/stamped and sealed by a person accepted by the Department.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - We are not obliged to check content. We apostillise only the notarial certificate.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - The contents of the statements pertaining to the public document would not be included in the consideration of whether or not to issue an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Luxembourg</u> - Id. 13.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certificate. However, due to the internal law requirements on notarial acts it would be subject to previous confirmation.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - While this has not yet happened, we would attach an Apostille - we are not responsible for the content of the document. We are only verifying the Notarial act.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - La responsabilité des propos injurieux ou incendiaires contenus dans le document incombe au signataire et au notaire qui a certifié ledit document.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu. Responsabilité du notaire.</p>	<p>Albanie, Australia, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United States (25 states). [23]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - This has never happened.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - We do not read the underlying document, but if we did notice what a reasonable person would call offensive or in-flammatory language then we would have to make a judgement call.</p>	<p>Argentina, Belgique, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (7 states), Venezuela. [20]</p>
	<p>L'Apostille atteste l'authenticité de la signature, la qualité du signataire de l'acte et, le cas échéant, l'identité du sceau ou du timbre dont cet acte est revêtu.</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; in general, the competent authorities have little or no experience with that scenario. Those willing to issue the apostille argued that the content of the document is not subject to examination by the apostille authority.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>La pratique n'est pas unitaire. Pour l'application de l'apostille, on certifie la véracité de la signature, la qualité dans laquelle le signataire a agi, l'identité du sceau ou du cachet. Selon l'avis de l'Union Nationale des Notaires Publics de Roumanie, vu les dispositions de l'art. 6 de la L.36/1995, le notaire public est obligé à refuser de traiter un acte, si celui-ci est contraire à la loi et aux bons mœurs.</p>	<p>Romania. [1]</p>

	Have not come across such documents.	Turkey. [1]
	It would be unlikely that such a document would meet the requirements of a public document.	Australia. [1]
	This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.	Spain [1]
	See question 15B.	United States [1]
<b>15. Apostille requested for notarial certificate certifying copy of a document created for illegitimate purpose.</b>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - In the case where there is doubt about illegal purposes and frauds we inform the competent authorities thereof.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - The contents of the statements pertaining to the public document would not be included in the consideration of whether or not to issue an Apostille.</p> <p><u>Luxembourg</u> - Id. 13.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certificate. However, due to the internal law requirements on notarial acts it would be subject to previous confirmation.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - While this has not yet happened, we would attach an Apostille - we are not responsible for the content of the document. We are only verifying the Notarial act.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu. Responsabilité du notaire. Quelques cantons ont répondu n'est pas émise.</p>	<p>Bermuda, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, New Zealand, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, United States (19 states). [15]</p>

	<p>Apostille not issued.  <u>Albanie</u> - Envoi pour vérification auprès des institutions compétentes.  <u>Czech Republic</u> - We are not obliged to check content. We apostillise only the notarial certificate. Nevertheless, such a document could not be certified by notary.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.  <u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (12 states), Venezuela. [27]</p>
	<p>L'Apostille atteste l'authenticité de la signature, la qualité du signataire de l'acte et, le cas échéant, l'identité du sceau ou du timbre dont cet acte est revêtu.</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; in general, the competent authorities have little or no experience with that scenario. Those willing to issue the apostille argued that the content of the document is not subject to examination by the apostille authority.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>La pratique n'est pas unitaire. Idem 14.</p>	<p>Romania. [1]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>
	<p>Have not come across such documents.</p>	<p>Turkey. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 20B.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>

<b>16. Apostille requested for notarial certificate relating to document in foreign language.</b>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - Apostilles may be issued on foreign language documents only if they have been notarised by a Notary Public or have been translated and signed/stamped by a government translating service (e.g. the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)). While the foreign language document is not itself an Australian public document, it is the signature/seal of the Notary Public or government translation authority that the Apostille is placed on.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - There would be no problem with authentication of a notarial certificate even when the document to which the notarial certificate relates is not written in Japanese. See also the comment for number 13.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certificate. Macao SAR notaries can certificate documents written in non-official languages.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Toutefois, dans ce cas, la certification par le notaire précise qu'elle ne porte que sur la légalisation de la signature mais que « cette légalisation ne comporte aucune vérification de l'exactitude des faits et qualités mentionnés dans le présent document ».</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - This is quite common. Again, we are not responsible for the content of the document; we are verifying the Notarial act only.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Le notaire ne délivre la déclaration notariée que s'il comprend la langue du document</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu. Responsabilité du notaire. Quelques cantons ont remarqué que la déclaration notariée doit être rédigée dans une langue officielle.</p>	<p>Andorre, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (27 states). [30]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Utilisation de la langue officielle de l'Etat, obligée.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - It is requested to record that it is written in a foreign language.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - We issue apostille only on document not on the notarial certificate stating that the attached is a true copy.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - A translation of the document is requested.</p> <p><u>South Africa</u> - The translation must first be done and executed original document must be presented before apostiling the document.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Ukraine, United States (4 states) Venezuela. [14]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries</p>	<p>Spain. [1]</p>

<b>17. Apostille requested for notarial certificate that relates to a "Diploma mill" diploma.</b>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - If the notarial certificate is issued by an acceptable Notary Public the apostille would be applied in relation to the signature/stamp/seal of the notary public.</p> <p><u>Japan</u> - There would be no problem with authentication of a notarial certificate even when the document to which the notarial certificate relates is not written in Japanese. See also the comment for number 13.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The Apostille relates solely to the certificate.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Seule la signature du notaire est certifiée.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - While this has not yet happened, we would attach an Apostille - we are not responsible for the content of the document. We are only verifying the Notarial act.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - La pratique majoritaire est dans le sens que l'on certifie la véracité de la signature, la qualité dans laquelle le signataire a agi, l'identité du sceau ou du cachet.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - C'est la signature qui est certifiée, pas le document ou son contenu. Responsabilité du notaire.</p>	<p>Andorre, Australia, Bermuda, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States.</p> <p>[23]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Envoi pour vérification auprès des institutions compétentes.</p> <p><u>Belgique</u> - Cas jamais rencontré.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - Can be issued an Apostille to the Notarial authentications of signatures</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that all notarized documents be validated by the Supreme Court's Authentication Department</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Bulgaria, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, Venezuela. [15]</p>
	<p>A diploma mill is not known in our country.</p>	<p>Czech Republic. [1]</p>
	<p>Aucune situation n'a été constatée jusqu'à ce jour.</p>	<p>Portugal. [1]</p>
	<p>This question should be clarified by the Professional Associations of Notaries.</p>	<p>Spain [1]</p>



<p><b>18. Single Apostille sought for a cluster of public documents, all signed by same official.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Australia</u> - If the relevant documents were bound we could apply one apostille stamp which would apply to the same signature that appears throughout the documents. The binding could be completed by DFAT for a small additional charge.  <u>Bermuda</u> - Will advise client the possibility of documents being returned to sender.  <u>France</u> - une apostille par acte.  <u>Ireland</u> - The Apostille is place on either the first or last page of the document.  <u>Luxembourg</u> - Si tous les documents sont agrafées et munis d'un sceau de la commune, du notaire, d'un traducteur assermenté ou d'une autre autorité gouvernementale compétente  <u>New Zealand</u> - This is common practice.  <u>Portugal</u> - Une seule Apostille n'est émise que si le destinataire de l'ensemble de ces actes publics est un seul  <u>Slovakia</u> - Tous les actes publics doivent être dans un dossier indivisible.  <u>Spain</u> - One Apostille is issued for each document.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Opinions partagées. "est émise": Uniquement si les actes sont agrafés, reliés ou reliés avec des cachets (de cire); ou si 'Etat de destination est d'accord avec ce procédé.  <u>Ukraine</u> - The apostille is issued, in case that the authority which has issued it has sewn and indicated the number of pages of the presented document.</p>	<p>Australia,  Bermuda,  Denmark, France,  Germany, Hong  Kong, Ireland,  Luxembourg, New  Zealand, Portugal,  Republic of Korea,  Slovakia, Slovenia,  South Africa,  Spain, Ukraine,  United Kingdom,  United States (22  states). [18]</p>
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	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Sauf si l'institution étrangère où elles sont destinées, est la même.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - Each document must have its own "Apostille".</p> <p><u>Belgique</u> - Une apostille peut être émise mais sur chaque document.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - Apostille is issued on each particular document.</p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Each document has to be apostilled.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - An Apostille is issued for each and every document.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - A separate apostille is issued for each document.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - The number of issued apostille depends on number of documents. In such case we will offer to the applicant to issue the apostille for all documents one to each.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - A separate and unique Apostille is issued for each document - even though the applicant may insist - proving our view for the need of having unique Apostilles, according to statutory provisions (Article 7 of Law 1497/84 on the Hague Convention).</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - An Apostille is issued per public doc.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - La règle est que chaque acte doit revêtir une apostille.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - Sur chaque acte à part, on applique séparément l'apostille.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Opinions partagées. "n'est pas émise": Par contre, l'Apostille est émise séparément pour chacune des signatures.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - However, if the documents are of sequential nature, a single apostille is made by stapling such documents to each other and by sealing the corner thereof.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - An Apostille must be issued for each document.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Bulgaria, Croatie, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, United States (6 states), Venezuela. [26]</p>
	<p>A priori l'Apostille serait délivrée pour chacune des signatures.</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>Different replies; where a single apostille is to be issued the respective Länder require the documents to be attached to each other firmly.</p>	<p>Germany. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 18A.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>
<p><b>19. Multiple Apostilles sought for single document.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Autant d'Apostilles que de copies originales de l'acte dûment signé.</p> <p><u>France</u> - Une seule apostille.</p> <p><u>Norway</u> - We would issue one Apostille on each document</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - Une seule Apostille est émise. Un acte public avec une signature et un cachet = une Apostille.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - One Apostille is issued.</p>	<p>Albanie, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (22 states). [8]</p>

	<p>Apostille not issued.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - Apostilles are generally applied to original documents only. If the additional copies are appropriately certified, DFAT could issue separate apostilles of each document and would charge for each apostille separately.</p> <p><u>Belgique</u> - 1 apostille par document.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - Two apostilles- for the content and the signature - are issued only in respect of powers of attorney related to real estates</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We issue only one Apostille for each document.</p> <p><u>Georgia</u> - The number of issued apostille depend on number of documents. In this case we will issue only one apostille. However if they request to issue a consular legalization as well, we do issue both the Apostille and the Consular Legalization.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - Only one Apostille is issued, as this is one public document.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - Only one Apostille is issued per public doc.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - En pratique, l'apposition de plusieurs apostilles pour un même acte serait délicate compte tenu du format des apostilles mais il ne serait pas impossible de le faire. Toutefois, des doutes peuvent être émis sur l'utilité d'une telle demande.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - We would require the applicant to provide multiple public documents. If only one document is provided only one Apostille can be issued.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Une seule Apostille est émise pour le même document.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - An Apostille must be issued for each document.</p>	<p>Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (6 states), Venezuela. [37]</p>
	<p>A priori l'Apostille serait délivrée pour chacune des signatures.</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>See question 18B.</p>	<p>United States. [1]</p>
<p><b>20. Applicant does not disclose destination State.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - State of destination is always asked.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - There is nothing to prevent it. A copy of all underlying documents is kept.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - If we feel there is some ambiguity it is our practice to contact the applicant to confirm which country the document is to be used in. Our application form has a section for the destination country to be noted by the applicant.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - S'il s'agit d'un solliciteur tenace, l'Autorité compétente émet l'Apostille avec avertissement sur la procédure erronée s'il veut l'utiliser dans un Etat non contractant.</p> <p><u>Spain</u> - When the applicant doesn't know the country of destination, he should be requested to find it</p>	<p>Bermuda, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Macao, Mexico, Moldova,</p>

	out and, if this is not possible and he insists on having the apostille, the apostille should be stamped.	New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (7 states). [22]
	<p>Apostille not issued</p> <p><u>Albanie</u> - Respect envers les réserves de cinq Etat membres à l'égard de l'Apostille sur les documents albanais oblige.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - On demande toujours le pays destinataire afin de vérifier s'il s'agit d'un Etat partie à la Convention</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - In order to provide an apostille we need the details of the destination location where the document is to be used.</p> <p><u>El Salvador</u> - We require that the user inform us to what country the document will be sent.</p> <p><u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities insist on being informed about the destination State, informing the applicant that if the document is sent to a non-contracting state, the process to be followed for his/her document to be valid, must be different.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - Il convient de vérifier si la Convention est applicable entre l'Etat d'origine et l'Etat de destination.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons ont répondu que l'Apostille est émise après avoir informé le client et à son propre risqué.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - For making an apostille, the country to which the apostille will be submitted must be a party to apostille convention.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - The State of destination must be provided.</p>	Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United States (24 states), Venezuela. [24]
	Different replies.	Germany. [1]
	See question 13.	United States. [1]

<p><b>21. Applicant informs CA that Apostille sought for non-convention State.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Luxembourg</u> - Une légalisation simple est apposée sur le document.  <u>Macao</u> - Such information is not required. The Competent Authority would advise the applicant, but it would not deny the request.</p>	<p>Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States (14 states). [14]</p>
	<p>Apostille not issued.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We inform the user that the country to which the document will be sent is not a party to the convention and we proceed to issue a Consular Legalization.  <u>Finland</u> - The instructions for legalization are given.  <u>Greece</u> - The Competent Authorities inform the applicant on what certification process he/she should follow in order to use his/her document in a non-contracting state.  <u>Monaco</u> - La Convention n'est applicable qu'entre ses Etats parties.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We would advise the applicant of the correct procedure and legalise the document.  <u>Norway</u> - We would inform the applicant that the Apostille might not be valid in the state concerned and further inform about the correct proceedings  <u>Romania</u> - L'apostille est émise pour le pays de destination, partie à la Convention de La Haye. Si le pays de destination n'est pas signataire de la Convention.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Une légalisation "normale" sera émise.  <u>Venezuela</u> - Only to States party of the convention.</p>	<p>Albanie, Argentina, Belgique, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States (17 states), Venezuela. [27]</p>
	<p>It is up to the applicant to determine which service they require. That is, it is up to the client to determine whether or not they need an apostille or not.</p>	<p>Australia. [1]</p>
	<p>On informe la personne du fait que l'Apostille peut être rejetée.</p>	<p>Andorre. [1]</p>
	<p>The authority explains that the document does not need an Apostille but diplomatic legalisation or none legalisation at all.</p>	<p>Spain [1]</p>

<p><b>22. Applicant requests Apostille with “bells and whistles” to satisfy foreign CA.</b></p>	<p>Apostille issued.  <u>Belgique</u> - L’apostille est émise dans sa forme habituelle.  <u>Bermuda</u> - In most cases like this it is China who generally insists on attaching ribbons. We do oblige if time permits.  <u>France</u> - L’autorité compétente est censée suivre les instructions qui résultent de la circulaire ministérielle en vigueur et délivrer l’apostille dans sa forme habituelle.  <u>Hong Kong</u> - Apostille will be issued on a case by case basis.  <u>India</u> - Apostille will be issued only in normal manner.  <u>Luxembourg</u> - Mais les rubans et couleurs doivent préalablement être apposés par un notaire.  <u>Macao</u> - The Apostille would be issued in its normal manner / and not according to the applicant’s requests.  <u>Ukraine</u> - Apostille will be registered according to the Rules in force in our state.</p>	<p>Belgique, Bermuda, France, Hong Kong, India, Luxembourg, Macao, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, United States (27 states). [10]</p>
	<p>Apostille Issued in the Normal Manner.  <u>Argentina</u> - It will be issued in its normal manner  <u>Czech Republic</u> - Apostille will be issued in normal manner.  <u>El Salvador</u> - We only issue one type of Apostille, and will not make any exceptions. We issue the Apostille in the normal manner.  <u>Finland</u> - An Apostille is issued in the normal manner.  <u>Georgia</u> - We issued the apostil only in its normal manner.  <u>Germany</u> - The Apostille is issued in the normal manner.  <u>Greece</u> - The Apostille shall be issued as usual, as the applicant’s claim is rather insubstantial and a contracting state may not refuse an Apostille issued by another contracting state.  <u>Ireland</u> - Will only issue the Apostille in its normal manner  <u>Japan</u> - The Apostille will be issued only in our normal manner.  <u>Latvia</u> - Apostille will be issued only in common manner  <u>Moldova</u> - Une Apostille sera emise dans sa forme habituelle  <u>Monaco</u> - L’apostille sera délivrée dans sa forme habituelle. Il est considéré que l’Etat de destination ne peut imposer à l’Etat d’origine des exigences sur la forme que doit prendre l’apostille, autres que celles prévues dans la Convention.  <u>New Zealand</u> - We will only issue Apostilles according to our practice.  <u>Norway</u> - The Apostille will be issued in accordance with our normal procedure.  <u>Portugal</u> - L’Apostille est délivrée dans sa forme habituelle.  <u>Romania</u> - l’apostille doit être conforme au modèle attaché à la Convention.  <u>Slovakia</u> - Une Apostille « normal » est emise.  <u>Slovenia</u> - The Apostille will be issued in its normal manner.  <u>Spain</u> - No special apostilles have ever been requested and we are unaware on whether a Spanish apostille has been refused in any other country for this reason.  <u>Switzerland</u> - Emission de l’Apostille dans sa forme habituelle, pas de formalités superfétatoires</p>	<p>Argentina, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (5 states) Venezuela. [24]</p>

	(exception p.ex.: apposition d'un sceau sur chaque page). Les Autorités compétentes n'ont pas connaissance de telle prétention de la part d'Etats de destination. <u>Turkey</u> - The apostille is issued in a regular style. <u>United Kingdom</u> - Apostille issued without "bells and whistles". <u>Venezuela</u> - There is a standard automated system without "bells and whistles".	
	Apostille not issued. <u>Andorre</u> - On délivre uniquement des apostilles dans sa forme habituelle. <u>Bulgarie</u> - There is a form established by an act.	Albanie, Andorre, Bulgarie, Croatie, Danemark, Ecuador, Lituanie, Mexique, Pologne, Afrique du Sud. [10]
	On some occasions DFAT may accede to the requests as long as it doesn't interfere with the integrity of the service being delivered.	Australie. [1]
	The competent Authority will issue the Apostille in its normal manner.	Cyprus. [1]
	See question 24. We are told some customers add ribbons later.	United States. [1]
<b>45. Any particular problems?</b>	Yes. <u>Andorre</u> - Nous avons rencontré quelques cas où l'autorité qui recevait l'Apostille exigeait que celle-ci soit délivrée dans sa langue officielle. Nous avons pu résoudre ces difficultés. <u>Argentine</u> - Yes, in commercial documents, but they were solved. <u>Australie</u> - As discussed at Q19), the main difficulty that Australia has encountered with the operation of the Apostille Convention has been determining what is and is not a public document. We have usually been able to resolve these issues by consulting with our legal area but this impact negatively on the timely delivery of services. <u>France</u> - Les autorités compétentes de Chambéry et de Montpellier ont relevé être destinataires de demandes d'apostilles dans des situations qui ne l'exigent pas, compte tenu des dispenses prévues par les conventions, notamment par les autorités compétentes espagnoles, turques et russes s'agissant de pièces d'état civil, de capacité ou concernant la situation familiale des personnes lorsqu'elles sont produites en vue de la célébration d'un mariage ou de l'établissement d'un acte d'état civil. L'autorité compétente de Grenoble a relevé le refus par certaines autorités russes d'apostilles qu'il avait émises, au motif de l'absence de certitude de la qualité de magistrat du signataire. De même, celle de Riom a mentionné avoir dû, pour satisfaire aux demandes de certaines autorités russes, établir des attestations relatives au fait qu'un avocat général représente pleinement le procureur général. Enfin, l'autorité compétente de Rennes a souligné que certaines autorités russes avaient imposé des délais de validité à certains types de documents tels que les casiers judiciaires, ou encore les certificats de nationalité.	Andorre, Argentine, Australie, France, Géorgie, Inde, Monaco, Nouvelle Zélande, République de Corée, Roumanie, Espagne, Suisse, United States. [13]

Georgia - We are asked to issue the apostille on the documents which are not the public documents according our legislation and also do not come within the scope of convention.

Monaco - Conf. les difficultés soulevées à la question 11 et dans le tableau ci-dessus.

New Zealand - As outlined in question 36, we had problems in 2007 when we had a large number of Apostilles rejected by Court authorities in a particular State.

Hundreds of adoption related Apostilles were rejected on the grounds that the square box on our Apostille Certificates did not have the exact measurements as the model Apostille Certificate on the Convention website. We chose the path of least resistance and amended the measurements of the box on our Apostille Certificates.

Hundreds more Apostilles were rejected because some multipage documents were not numbered, because the Notary had not signed each page of a multipage document, because the authorities wanted proof of the Notary's appointment, and because some of the documents issued by our government agencies did not resemble similar documents issued in that State. At the request of the applicants we wrote many letters to the relevant authorities there, in particular drawing their attention to the paper titled "Conclusions and Recommendations Adopted by the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Apostille, Evidence and Service Conventions", dated 28 October to 4 November 2003, which we found very helpful. Finally we advised we would bring the matter to the attention of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference and seek their intervention if our Apostilles continued to be rejected. The Apostilles were then accepted and we have had no further problems.

Authorities from another State sometimes reject Apostilles we have affixed to notarised copies of school or university issued documents. They insist that we verify the original document, not the notarial act, but here in New Zealand we require all school or university issued documents to be notarised. We only verify academic documents issued by the Ministry of Education or the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. We have no process in place to verify the signatures and/or seals on documents issued by schools/universities/other institutions. Our dilemma is that some schools/educational institutions are private, not public. We do not verify the signatures and/or seals of any non-government agents (except for Notaries Public). We have managed to get around this issue in most cases by having the applicant notarise the original document (*i.e.* the Notarial seal and signature is applied directly to the original, not to a copy). These authorities seem happy that the Apostille is attached to the original document even though our Apostille is only verifying the notarial act.

Spain - In some international adoptions Russia requested a perfect square with sides of 9 centimetres as a minimum. Apart from these cases, no other Apostilles have been rejected in 2008.

United States - Rejection of U.S. apostilles due to method of affixing apostille, size of apostille, etc.



	No.	Albanie, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela.[31]
<b>E. Time requirements for Apostilles</b>		
<b>46. Any time limit on validity of foreign Apostilles?</b>	Yes. <u>Albanie</u> - Pour tout acte, le délai permis est de 6 mois à 1 an. <u>Turkey</u> - Apostille used for ID card copies, medical reports and marital status certificates are valid through the legal validity date of the document. However, there is no time limit for documents which are valid for an unlimited time ( <i>e.g.</i> Diplomas).	Albanie, Turkey. [2]
	No. <u>Romania</u> - La majorité des autorités judiciaires et administratives roumaines qui ont formulé les réponses aux questionnaires, n'appliquent pas un délai limite pour la validité des apostilles. <u>Switzerland</u> - Remarque: En général, pas d'information disponibles à ce sujet, vu que seulement les Autorités compétentes ont participé aux réponses de ce questionnaire. Elles ne sont en général pas "autorité de destination". Le problème ne consiste pas dans l'âge de l'Apostille, mais dans l'âge de l'acte public lui-même. P.ex. dans certains cas, les extraits de l'état civil datant de plus de 6 mois ne sont plus valables ou utilisables. En général, chaque autorité à qui un document apostillé est présenté a le pouvoir d'appréciation pour décider à partir de quand le document lui-même n'est plus accepté à cause de son âge. La date de l'Apostille est seulement un des critères d'appréciation. <u>United States</u> - Comment of individual U.S. states: We have seen cases in which an apostille is	Andorre, Argentina, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong

	rejected by another country because the notary's commission, which was valid when the apostille was issued, is now expired.	Kong, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (28 states), Venezuela. [35]
	Australia is not able to provide a response to this question as foreign apostilles are received by a number of government and non-governmental organisations and the type of information requested above is not collated.	Australia. [1]
	It is up to each individual authority concerned to decide whether or not to reject foreign Apostilles for any reason; thus no integrated information on rejection is available.	Japan. [1]
<b>F. Legalisation of Apostilles</b>		
<b>47. Any difficulties with 2003 SC Rec against legalisation of Apostilles?</b>	Yes. <u>Switzerland</u> - Voir question 45.	Switzerland. [1]
	No.	Albanie, Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India,

		Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (29 states), Venezuela. [43]
<b>G. The electronic Apostille Pilot Program (e-APP)</b>		
<b>48. Considered implementing the e-APP?</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><u>Andorre</u> - Le programme est actuellement en phase d'évaluation.</p> <p><u>Argentina</u> - The Competent Authority is designing a new integral system for consular legalizations and examinations.</p> <p><u>Australia</u> - Australia has studied the e-APP generally and considers that international access to an online e-register for Apostille could improve service delivery and provide possible measures to enable parties to the Apostille Convention to reduce the risk of fraud. Australia supports the e-APP in principle. However, Australia needs reassurance on certain issues such the method of implementation, resource implications and risk of electronic fraud, before Australia could consider participating in the program.</p> <p><u>Bulgaria</u> - We would like also to inform you that since the 24 of November 2008 in the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria started to operate the system for e-apostille. The available website is: <a href="http://www.justice.government.bg/new/Apostille/ApostilleEN.aspx">http://www.justice.government.bg/new/Apostille/ApostilleEN.aspx</a></p> <p><u>Czech Republic</u> - Currently the consecutive implementation of the components is considered. At first the e-Registers is going to be implemented and consequently the e-Apostilles.</p> <p><u>Ecuador</u> - we have our own system which operates in a similar way, in almost 6 months it would be implemented.</p> <p><u>Finland</u> - The implementation of both components of the e-APP is being studied with a great interest.</p> <p><u>France</u> - La France est vivement intéressée par ce programme, qu'elle souhaite être en mesure de développer très prochainement.</p>	Andorre, Argentina, Australia, Belgique, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, India, Ireland, Macao, Moldova, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (7 States),

	<p><u>Georgia</u> – Considering both components.</p> <p><u>Ireland</u> - Have held a Conference call with Dr. Bernasconi with a view to adopting the E-App and E-register.</p> <p><u>Macao</u> - The implementation of the e-APP is being considered. However, some more information / experience is necessary. Studies on the best way to fully develop and implement the e-Government policy – which was launched in the Macao SAR in 2000 - still are in course. It is not deemed appropriate to separate the question of electronic Apostilles from all the rest.</p> <p><u>Moldova</u> - e-Registres.</p> <p><u>New Zealand</u> - We will have both the electronic register and the ability to issue e-Apostilles in place by the end of this year. We will be using the e-Register provided on the Hague Convention website, and we have chosen the company GlobalSign as the provider of our digital certification software for the e-Apostille. They provide an Adobe based solution.</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> - En phase de decision.</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u> - L'e-Registre paraît être utile dans notre milieu. Mais nous avons les Autorités compétentes différentes et le système uniforme serait un avantage pour elles mais l'accord de toutes les Autorités compétentes serait compliqué à établir.</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u> – En cours d'évaluation.</p> <p><u>Ukraine</u> - Nowadays, technical aspects of implementation of electronic register of apostilles and affix apostilles are studying.</p> <p><u>United Kingdom</u> - Business Analyst reporting soon to give recommendations on which system to use. Date of implementation still under consideration.</p> <p><u>Venezuela</u> - Still in period of evaluation by the authorities.</p>	Venezuela. [26]
	<p>No – Considered it and decided against it.</p> <p><u>Croatia</u> - Because of the safety reasons, electronic documents are not issued yet.</p> <p><u>Monaco</u> - En l'état de la législation monégasque en matière de commerce et de preuve électronique, le programme d'apostilles électroniques ne pourrait pas être mis en œuvre. En effet, la mise en place d'un tel programme ne peut être envisagée que s'il existe un environnement juridique adapté dans l'Etat concerné, qui suppose des dispositions légales attribuant une valeur juridique à l'écrit électronique et force probante à la signature électronique. Or, tel n'est pas encore le cas de la législation monégasque, puisque le projet de loi sur le commerce et la preuve électroniques, qui doit introduire en droit interne la reconnaissance juridique de l'écrit et de la signature numériques, est l'examen du Conseil National.</p>	Croatia, Monaco, Norway, South Africa. [4]
	<p>No – Have not considered it.</p> <p><u>Germany</u> - So far no decision has been taken. We plan to consider this topic more deeply in 2009.</p> <p><u>Romania</u> - L'application e-APP pourra être mise en œuvre après l'actualisation de la solution présente du compte rendu et de la centralisation des apostilles émises, à l'aide des éléments sollicités par l'application e-APP.</p> <p><u>Turkey</u> - An active consideration has not made yet.</p>	El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Turkey.

		United States (20 states). [13]
	The e-APP Issue will be considered very soon.	Cyprus. [1]
	The question of Colombia's electronic apostille is under examination at the moment, but although certain authorities are reluctant to accept such apostille no definite position has been adopted so far.	Spain. [1]
	<p>The U.S. Department of State Authentication Office is prepared to issue electronic apostilles.</p> <p>Comments of individual U.S. states:</p> <p>"We are in the process of studying both e-notarization and the e-apostille."</p> <p>"We hope to use our own resources to put the register on-line in the next biennium. We envision using the electronic apostille once we allow electronic notarizations, and when there is a demand for such a product. At present, no one has asked for this capability."</p> <p>"Maine has not decided whether or not to move in this direction at this time."</p> <p>"Office has examined both component options."</p> <p>"This office is looking into e-app following this questionnaire."</p> <p>"Colorado has not studied the e-App."</p> <p>"I do not have the information from the previous Deputy to answer this question."</p> <p>"We are looking into this at this time."</p> <p>"We are still researching the processes."</p> <p>"We successfully submitted an e-apostille to Columbia."</p> <p>"We haven't examined e-APP yet. Plan to do so soon."</p> <p>"Implemented e-registry."</p> <p>"We have had a demonstration. The decision to implement an e-APP has not yet been made. This office has an electronic register and may implement this function in the near future."</p> <p>"Budgetary constraints."</p> <p>"e-Register."</p>	United States. [1]

<b>49. Is e-APP website useful?</b>	Very useful.	Albanie, Argentina, Bermuda, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (8 states). [28]
	Useful. <u>Australia</u> - Australia considers the information on the e-APP website useful, in particular, the page on 'e-APP in a Nutshell'. Australia suggests that practical feedback could also be provided on the operation of the e-APP from countries which have adopted the program to date. <u>Mexico</u> - It would be helpful if the web site was in the languages of the countries that sign the Convention. <u>Slovakia</u> - Voir la réponse sur la question 4. <u>Switzerland</u> - Quelques cantons ont mentionné que l'information serait encore plus lue et plus utile si elle était disponible aussi en d'autres langues que l'anglais et le français (p.ex. allemand). <u>Venezuela</u> - It would be advisable to add a Spanish language translation of the website info.	Andorre, Australia, Belgique, Bulgarie, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, United States (14 states), Venezuela. [14]
	Not useful.	United States (3 states). [1]
	Not yet considered.	South Africa. [1]