



## OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET (OHIM)

Trade Marks and Designs

Alicante, 1 April 2003

### **The first registered designs are published**

*From 1 April 2003, the applications for Community designs received since 1 January 2003 that have been registered by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) will be made available to the public.*

A new line of a car, a new shape of a mineral water bottle, the new texture of a textile, the new colour combination of a toy, a decoration appearing on various objects ... design is around us everywhere.

It is now natural -even obvious- for us to purchase "design-oriented objects" which have generally proven to be highly profitable for the companies that create them and launch them on the market.

However, it is not sensible for a company to invest large sums in newly designed products without being sure that the return of investment is going to come to its own pocket but may go instead to the counterfeiter. Indeed, the counterfeiting industry is more and more well organised and is the scourge that often paralyses the European industry.

This is why the business world often feels so reluctant and frustrated: we create, they copy and gain the benefits of our investments and years of effort.

The aim of the Community design is to prevent that kind of abuse of a company's creations.

### PROTECTION AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

A design, protected through one right in all the 15 countries of the European Union (and from May 2004 in 25 countries of the enlarged Europe), with one file to manage and a unique protection for up to 25 years: this is what the creators, designers and industries needed.

This is why the European Commission started the process of harmonisation of the national laws related to design protection to then create the Community design title for which registration can be applied for at the OHIM.

This is now a reality.

The design right gives to the proprietor the monopoly of "working"<sup>(1)</sup> the design for a maximum of 25 years.

If you wish to see how the registered applications are published, how the new designs are protected through black and white or coloured drawings or photographs, what are some of the newest products to be launched on the market within the next few months, if you are curious to know who is applying for new design applications at the moment, if you are interested in filing your new design, you can find all the information on the OHIM's web site: [www.oami.eu.int](http://www.oami.eu.int).

For more information, do not hesitate to contact the OHIM (in English, German, French Spanish and Italian) by phone on + 34 965 13 88 00.

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<sup>(1)</sup>: manufacturing, launching for the first time on the EU market, selling the products to which it is applied or within which it is incorporated, granting licences to other manufacturers, assigning the right to a third party.

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