



2017 AIPPI World Congress – Sydney
Panel Session VIII: Partial designs – full protection?

An “industrial design” or “design patent” typically protects the outward appearance or ornamentation of an object or article of manufacture. At the AIPPI Milan 2017 Congress, one of the adopted resolutions concerned the definition and the requirements for protection of such designs, with a focus on the role of functionality.

Building on the Milan discussion, this panel session will focus on whether a part or portion of a product can be the subject of independent design protection and if so the requirements for and scope of any such design protection. As part of this discussion, the panel session will consider whether such a partial design must be visible to the human eye when used, and whether exemptions from protection such as “must fit” (where the design for the portion of the object is dictated by the need to fit with other parts or products, which may or may not be in the context of "reparation") apply.

It is envisioned that this panel session will lead to a further study question and related resolution to assist AIPPI in contributing towards further global harmonization of design protection.