

Proposed Amendments to Design Law

A bill submitted to the Diet proposes several changes to the Japanese Design Law.

1. Graphic images recorded, shown, or displayed on walls, billboards, or via computer networks would be protected, provided that they are not associated with the function of a device or machine, such as video game or movie images.

2. Both the interior and exterior design of a building or real estate could be protected.

3. Related designs which are similar to another design specified as being a "principle design" may be registered. This system is described in detail in "[Protection of Designs in Japan](#)".

4. One application may be filed for multiple designs.

5. The duration of a design right would be extended from 20 years to 25 years.

6. Infringement Protection. A third party engaging in the manufacture or importation of critical components of a product protected by a registered design right may constitute infringement.

If passed, the changes to the Design Law will come into effect in early 2020.