

FEATURES OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED IN ITALY

Documents have to be:

- 1) Legalized (or apostilled)
- 2) Written or translated into Italian
- 3) In compliance with mandatory or public policy rules

1 - LEGALIZATION (and Apostille)

The documents and the acts of civil status trained abroad by foreign authorities must be legalized by diplomatic or Consular authorities in charge, if it is not otherwise provided (art. 21 c.3 DPR 396/2000).

The signatures of acts and documents trained abroad by foreign authorities which have to be applied in the Italian Country are legalized by the Italian diplomatic or Consular representations abroad (art. 33 DPR 445/2000).

Legalization is the official certification of the legal quality of those who affixed their signatures on documents, certificates, copies and extracts, as well as the authenticity of the signature itself (Article 1 letter L – DPR 445/2000).

Almost all States have identified an authority which legalizes documents produced in the State; in their turn, the Italian consular authorities legalize the act legalized by foreign Authority for its effectiveness in Italy. The principle under which all the documents coming from abroad must be legalized presents certain exceptions, one of which is given by the **APOSTILLE**, introduced by the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961. Through this Convention, some states have decided to dispense with the legalization of documents that must be produced on their territory coming from other Member contractors, by inserting a declaration alternative to legalization, which is the Apostille. The main simplification in legalization consists in an Apostille affixed of the document released by the Country of origin, dispensing from the obligation to reach the competent Italian Consulate. Other international Conventions have also proceeded to eliminate both the legalization and the Apostille between the Contracting States thereby exempting from any formalities the act from abroad.

**STATES PARTIES TO THE AJA CONVENTION
IN THE FIELD OF APOSTILLE**

Andorra Georgia Netherlands

Antigua and Barbuda Japan Panama

Argentina Greece Poland

Armenia Grenada Portugal

Australia Honduras United Kingdom

Austria India Romania

Azerbaijan Iceland Russia

Bahamas Cook Island Saint Kitts e Nevis

Barbados Marshall Islands Saint Lucia

Belize Israel Saint Vincent and Grenadines

Belarus Kazakhstan Samoa

Bosnia and Herzegovina Lesotho San Marino

Botswana Latvia Serbia

Brunei Liberia Seychelles

Bulgaria Liechtenstein Slovakia

Czech Republic Lithuania Slovenia

Luxemburg Spain

Macedonia United States of America

Cyprus Malawi South Africa

Colombia Malta Suriname

Korea Mauritius Sweden

Croatia Mexico Switzerland

Denmark Moldova Swaziland

Dominica Monaco Tonga

Ecuador Montenegro Trinidad and Tobago

El Salvador Namibia Turkey

Estonia Niue Ukraine

Fiji Norway Hungary

Finland New Zealand Venezuela

China (only for Macao e Hong Kong)