



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
THE HAGUE**

**CONVENTION ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT OF LEGALISATION  
FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS  
(The Hague, 5 October 1961)**

Notification pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention

DECLARATION

China, 18-04-2012

The Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration [of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") of the People's Republic of China] has the further honour to inform [...] that in order to follow the recommendation of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Apostille Convention, the Apostille Service Office of the Judiciary of the HKSAR will indicate the limit effect of an Apostille by inserting the following statement at the top of the Apostille with effect from 23 July 2012:

"This apostille only certifies the signature, the capacity of the signatory and the seal or stamp it bears. It does not certify the content of the document for which it is issued". Apart from insertion of the statement mentioned above, there will be no other change to the Apostille.

AUTHORITIES

Netherlands, the Kingdom of the, 02-03-2012

Competent Authorities for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (additional information): Both the Island Governor (Gezaghebber) and the acting Island Governor (waarnemend Gezaghebber) of Bonaire are authorised to sign Apostilles on documents issued on the island of Bonaire.

The Island Governor (Gezaghebber) and the Acting Island Governor (waarnemend Gezaghebber) of Sint Eustatius are authorised to sign Apostilles on documents issued on the island of Sint Eustatius.

The Island Governor (Gezaghebber) and the Acting Governor (waarnemend Gezaghebber) of Saba are authorised to sign Apostilles on documents issued on the island of Saba.

Netherlands, the Kingdom of the, 21-03-2012

Competent Authorities for Sint Maarten:  
- Prime Minister, Minister of General Affairs  
- Head Civil Status Register Division of the Ministry of General Affairs.

Spain, 26-03-2012

[...] the competent officers and authorities designated for the purposes of the Apostille include:

1) For the Apostille of administrative documents, the following are designated:

a) Governance Secretaries of the High Courts of Justice (Secretarios de Gobierno de los Tribunales Superiores de Justicia) and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, or their legal deputies, as well as the officers in whom the latter may delegate, within the respective Governance Secretariat;

b) The Head of the Unit of the Ministry of Justice in whom, at any particular time, the powers in the field of informing and attending citizens have been vested or whoever may substitute him legally, as well as those persons in whom these may delegate;

c) The Territorial Managers of the Territorial Management Bureaux (Gerencias Territoriales) that the Ministry of Justice has throughout Spain or their legal deputies, or those persons in whom the former may delegate, within the aforesaid Bureaux;

d) The Deans of the Notarial Colleges or those acting in lieu thereof pursuant to the regulations or other Public Notaries in whom the former may delegate.

The authorities and offices mentioned in this Section may carry out, without distinction, the single legislation or Apostille of the documents mentioned in Article 1.2 of the [...] Royal Decree [1497/2011, dated 24 October, designating the competent officers and authorities to carry out the single legislation or Apostille (Official State Gazette No. 276, dated 16 November 2011)], regardless of where in Spain such documents were issued. Pursuant to the provisions contained in the Royal Decree, the following are deemed "public documents":

1. Documents issued by the bodies of the General State Administration and the Public Agencies thereof, the Social Security Management Agencies and those documents issued by any type of Public Agency whatsoever, with powers encompassing all of part of Spain;

2. Documents issued by officers and authorities of the Constitutional Bodies;

3. Documents issued by authorities and officers of the Administrations of the Autonomous Communities and the Public Agencies thereof;

4. Documents issued by authorities and officers of the bodies of Local Corporations and the Public Agencies thereof;

5. Documents and certificates issued by Land, Moveable Goods and Business Registries and, in the event, by the College of the Land and Business Registrar of Spain.

2) Apostille of judicial documents: The power to carry out the single legislation or Apostille on judicial documents, regardless of the place of issuance in Spain of such documents, is vested in the following authorities (except as provided in Paragraph 4 hereof):

a) Governance Secretaries of the High Courts of Justice (Secretarios de Gobierno de los Tribunales Superiores de Justicia) and of the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, or their legal deputies, as well as the officers in whom the latter may delegate, within the respective Governance Secretariat;

b) The Head of the Unit of the Ministry of Justice in whom, at any particular time, the powers in the field of informing and assisting citizens have been vested or whoever may substitute him legally, as well as those persons in whom the former may delegate.

c) The Territorial Managers of the Territorial Management Bureaux (Gerencias Territoriales) that the Ministry of Justice has throughout Spain or their legal deputies, or those persons in whom the former may delegate, within the aforesaid Bureaux.