



What is a Design Search?

A design search is a search of the Industrial Design Registry (Database) to view all designs that have been filed and/or registered in the Registry/Database.

This search is done to ensure that the proposed design is not already registered by another company or individual for a similar or identical design. The search will help the designer to assess whether the design, for which he/she intends to register, is not infringing another design that is already filed or registered. This is necessary to avoid possible legal action from another designer.

How can I do a Design Search for Existing Designs?

You can do a search by: -

- Requesting the Office to do a Search for you – you inform the Office that you want a Design Search in the PNG national register of Industrial Design by submitting a Search Request which can be made in writing via correspondence and mailed to IPOPNG office or sent via email with the prescribed fee. The Office will then conduct the search for you and provide you with results; OR
- Alternatively, you can conduct the same search on your own but in absence of the PNG Industrial Design Register, using your own resources – via the internet. Suggested portals to check would include Google by typing in the name of the design or the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Design Register

Note: [Similar registers are hosted by many other IP offices around the world, however, some may charge fees to access the information while others are free. Google and the Design Register by WIPO are free for you to use and covers millions of design applications all around the world.](#)

What is the fee for a Industrial Design Search?

Search fee is PGK50.00 should you wish to request the office to search the Industrial Design register in PNG.

Can I conduct other searches in the PNG Industrial Design Register/Database?

Yes, you can conduct searches for other information other than the design. These includes:-

- Proprietor Search – Search for a proprietor or owner and all Industrial Design applications registered under these owner

Importance of Conducting a Search:-

By conducting this search, you will be in a good position to compare and construct a proper argumentative description of your design by stating the benefits of your design to that which already exists. Without a proper research basis of your design, the probability of the examiner objecting your application is great. More so, there maybe chances of possible infringement of other existing designs that are available worldwide which may attract a lawsuit from the design owner.

Free Online Registers for Searching Industrial Design:-

| Design Registers | Administrators | Type of Design Coverage |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Google | Google | World Wide |
| Industrial Design Register | World Intellectual Property Organization | World Wide |

All other IP offices have their own registries. Should you be interested in a particular country, you can contact the relevant office directly to get more information.