

The apostille in Guatemala

Newsletter No. 38 / September 2017

The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents [The Hague Apostille Convention or the Apostille Convention] entered into force in Guatemala on September 18 of 2017.¹

Such Convention is applicable to the public documents that have been authorized in the territory of a contracting State and which must be presented in the territory of another Contracting State. The series of legalizations that were previously demanded for these documents shall no longer be necessary and the apostille shall suffice, which shall be placed by the authority that each State would designate. For Guatemala, this duty shall correspond to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The documents that may be apostilled are listed below:

- Documents issued by an authority or official related to a jurisdiction of the State, including the ones originated in the Public Prosecutor's Office, from a Secretary, Official or Court Agent.
- Administrative documents. [For example: certificates of birth, marriage, death and other similar certificates; commercial registry certificates and patents.]
- Notarial documents.
- Official certificates that have been placed in private documents, such as registration annotations, attestations about the certainty of a date and signature notarizations. [For example: certified copies of sale and purchase deeds, certified copies of company incorporation deeds, certified copies of powers of attorney.]

The apostille shall not be utilized in documents issued by consular diplomatic agents or administrative documents that directly refer to a commercial or customs operation.

As of today the apostille reduces the time and cost of the legalization process ordered by the law for documents coming from abroad.

The Apostille shall not have any cost in Guatemala; however, the petitioner must pay the Tax Stamp Tax for a value of Q10.00.²

For additional information, you may contact

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¹ Guatemala acceded to The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents (The Apostille Convention) on January 19 of 2017.

² Opinion recently held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, which may be found [here](#).