

Legislation / Hearings

Legislation

In New Zealand, the [Designs Act 1953](#) governs the administration of rights to a design. The Designs Act 1953 is accompanied by the [Design Regulations 1954](#).


This legislation provides for:

- the administration of Designs, including the powers and functions of the Commissioner of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs
- establishing and maintaining the designs register
- making and processing applications for registration of designs
- forms and fees
- prescribing the means to take infringement proceedings to enforce rights in a design

Hearings

The Hearings Office is the arena in which the majority of the quasi-judicial responsibilities of the Commissioner are exercised. IPONZ become involved in proceedings when a revocation application is made, or when a hearing is requested. A panel of Assistant Commissioners (Hearings Officers) give decisions on matters referred to the Commissioner for hearing.

- [Design decisions of the Commissioner](#)
-  [Index of Design decisions of the Commissioner from 1953 \[10 kB PDF\]](#)

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Hearings practice guidelines

IPONZ publishes a number of practice guidelines that are used as a reference tool for examiners. They set out procedural and legal matters relevant to the examination of applications under the Act.

[Costs awards in proceedings before the Commissioner](#)

These are guidelines about the issue of costs in proceedings relating to Patents, Trade Marks and Designs. These Guidelines do not constrain the judgement and discretion of the Commissioner of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs and each costs issue will be considered on its own merits