

APOSTILLE INFORMATION

A document is generally recognized only in the country in which it was issued. In order to facilitate recognition of a document abroad, an international treaty regarding mutual recognition of documents was signed by many countries, including South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

This treaty is called the "Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents." According to that treaty, a document originating in one Convention country is recognized in all other Convention countries if it bears the so-called "APOSTILLE" stamp, which is a validation performed by the superior office in the country and province where it was issued.

In South Africa, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the High Court provide the "Apostille".

Sample of an Apostille

APOSTILLE (Convention de LaHaye du 5 octobre 1961)	
1. Country:.....	
This public document.....	
2. has been signed by.....	
3. acting in the capacity of.....	
4. bears the seal/stamp of.....	
.....	
Certified	
5. at.....	6. the.....
7. by.....	
8. No.....	
9. Seal/Stamp:	10. Signature:
.....

If you need an *Apostille* please contact the country where the document was originally issued.

You will need to submit the original document with a request to have the Apostille attached.

The easiest way to obtain up to date information is to go into any search engine and enter the word Apostille. You will obtain various options how to order the Apostille.