

## How should legal translations be worded?

We'd like to hear your thoughts on how translators choose the register (or writing style) of legal translations and what is expected by lawyers (and translation buyers).

Which translation do you prefer for the following sentences? These examples are taken from Spanish contracts, but you don't necessarily need to be a Spanish translator as we're interested in seeing how you think the English version should read. We appreciate that there are many ways of working, but for simplicity we only provide two options each time.

You can skip any questions you don't want to answer and the questionnaire should take around 5 minutes.

We will present the results at the Mediterranean Editors and Translators Meeting (October 2018). The data (not including email addresses) will be made publicly available.

### 1. Are you...

*Mark only one oval.*

- A lawyer
- A lawyer and translator
- A translator specialising in legal translation
- A translator not specialising in legal translation, but who sometimes translates contracts
- A translator working in another field
- A translation buyer
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Which translation do you prefer for "02 de agosto de dos mil dieciocho"?

*Mark only one oval.*

- 02 August of two thousand and eighteen
- 02 August 2018

### 3. Which translation do you prefer for "EI VENDEDOR se compromete a vender..."

*Mark only one oval.*

- The SELLER shall sell
- The Seller shall sell

### 4. Which translation do you prefer for "El periodo máximo es de tres (3) meses"?

*Mark only one oval.*

- The maximum period is three (3) months
- The maximum period is three months

**5. Which translation do you prefer? "El Arrendatario podrá desistir del contrato..."**

Mark only one oval.

- The Tenant will be able to withdraw from the contract...
- The Tenant may withdraw from the contract...

**6. Which translation do you prefer for "El Arrendatario estará obligado a pagar el arriendo"**

Mark only one oval.

- The Tenant shall pay the rent
- The Tenant will be obliged to pay the rent

**7. Which translation do you prefer for "A partir de la recepción del aviso, el Ministro..."**

Mark only one oval.

- As from the reception of the notice, the Minister...
- Once the Minister receives the notice...

**8. Which translation do you prefer for "gerente de la Sociedad XXX"**

Mark only one oval.

- Manager of the XXX Company
- Manager of XXX

**9. Which translation do you prefer for "ha sido presentado en fecha de [date]"**

Mark only one oval.

- Was filed on the date of [date]
- Was filed on [date]

**10. Which translation do you prefer? "La rescisión anticipada por voluntad del arrendatario deberá ser en todo caso notificada fehacientemente a la propiedad con tres meses de antelación."**

Mark only one oval.

- Early termination initiated by the lessee must in any case be notified in writing to the owner three months in advance.
- If terminating early, the lessee shall duly notify the owner three months in advance.

**11. And for the last multiple choice question, which translation do you prefer? "El arrendatario podrá practicar obras de acondicionamiento del local a la nueva actividad, previo permiso por escrito de la propiedad, el arrendatario con carácter previo al inicio de las obras, deberá enviar el proyecto técnico de ejecución y planos de las mismas."**

Mark only one oval.

- The lessee may refurbish the office for the new business with the owner's written approval. Before starting the refurbishment work, the lessee shall send the technical execution plan and the blueprints of the office.
- The lessee may refurbish the office for the new business with the owner's written approval and before starting the refurbishment work, the lessee shall send the technical execution plan and the blueprints of the office.

**12. How do you feel about using plain legal English in contract translations?**

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**13. What do you think is the translator's role in choosing register?**

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**14. If you would like to discuss further, please leave your email address here.**

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