

Federal trademark searching: Field tag searching with regex

Overview

Practical tips

- You can only use regular expressions (“regex”) with field tag searching.
- You cannot use regex with the drop-down search options.
- Only use regex when you want to conduct phonetic equivalent and alternate spelling searches.
- Turn on “expert mode” to tag results and conduct combined line searches.

How to trigger regex searching

Every regex begins and ends with a forward slash (“/”).

Symbol	Explanation	Search example
/	Unlocks ability to pattern match	/trademark/

Wildcards

Use regex wildcards in your search term to match any character except for an empty space. You can use them anywhere in the search term and in any field, but **don't** use them inside quotations.

Wildcard	Explanation	Search example
.	Match exactly one instance of any character except space	d.g
.{n}	Match exactly a specific number (<i>n</i>) of instances of any character except space	a.{2}orney
.{0,n}	Match 0 to <i>n</i> instances of any character except space	test.{0,2}r
.*	Match 0 or more instances of any character except space	.*[ckq]a{1,2}n{1,2}.*t.*

Logical operators

You can use logical operators with regex to create multiple line searches, but **cannot** use them inside the forward slashes of a regex search term ("/ /").

Operator	Explanation	Search example
AND	Only returns results that meet additional search statements	CM:/. *dog.*/ AND LD:true
OR or space	Returns results that meet one of multiple search statements	IC:009 OR IC:016 CM:(/. *hip.*/ /. *hop.*/)
AND NOT	Exclude results that meet search statements	GS:/toy.*/ AND NOT GS:/pet.*/
()	Groups together search statements to be modified by field or operator	IC:(009 a b 200) (1 AND 2) OR 4

Common phonetic equivalent combinations

Regex allows you to find marks that sound like your mark (the phonetic equivalent).

Sound	Sound example	Search example
Hard K	CAT; KITE; FOX	[ckqx] or [ckqx]{1,2}
Soft S	SOUP; SCENE; ZEN	[scz] or [scz]{1,2}
F/PH	FUN, PHONICS	[fph] or [fph]{1,2}
J/G	GENIUS, JEANS, LEDGER	d{0,1}[gj][eiy]{1,2}
Soft Y	CANYON, HALLELUJAH	[jy]{1,2}
SH	OCEAN, SURE	[scz]h{0,1}
CH	MATCH, INCH	t{0,1}c[ch]
TION	ACTION, FASHION	[scth]{1,3}[aeiouy]{1,2}n
ITE/IGHT	MITE, MIGHT	[iy][gh]{0,2}t

Advanced wildcards

Use these wildcards to easily search for repeating characters or for groups of characters.

Wildcard	Explanation	Search example
*	Repeats the preceding character 0+ times	/cat*/ matches <i>ca, cat, catt, cattt</i> , but not <i>cats</i>
?	Repeats the preceding character 0-1 times	/fis?t/ matches <i>fit</i> and <i>fist</i>
+	Repeats the preceding character 1+ times	/com+/ matches <i>com, comm, and commm</i>
()	Forms a group treated as a single character	/abc(def)?/ matches <i>abc</i> and <i>abcdef</i> , but not <i>abcd</i>

Advanced operators

Use these operators as shortcuts or for specific types of searches.

Operator	Explanation	Search example
" "	Matches an exact term	ON:"nike inc" returns all marks owned by Nike, Inc.
~	Returns words in a certain proximity	CM:"zebra star"~3 returns <i>zebra star, star zebra, and zebra on a star</i>
	Acts as the OR operator Matches a character or string on the left side or the right side of the bar	/abc xyz/ matches <i>abc</i> or <i>xyz</i>
[^]	Acts as the AND NOT operator by negating the characters or string in the brackets Matches any character that's not listed inside the brackets	/[^abc]/ matches characters except <i>a, b, or c</i> /[^a-c]/ matches characters except <i>a, b, or c</i>
\	Allows you to search a reserved character such as: . ? + * { } [] () " \ / # @ & < > ~ - : ; Matches any character to the right of the backslash	/disney\+/ matches <i>disney+</i>
[]	Allows you to search a reserved character such as: . ? + * { } [] () " \ / # @ & < > ~ - : ; Matches any character inside the brackets	/disney[+]/ matches <i>disney+</i>

Sample regex searches

Single line searches

Use the search strings below as examples to construct your own searches.

- Search for alternate spellings of this trademark: CAT.
 - `CM:/[ckq]a{1,2}t/`
- Search for alternate spellings of this trademark: RABBITY.
 - `CM:/r[aeiouy]b{1,2}[aeiouy]t.*`
- Search for alternate spellings of this trademark: RRRRABBITY.
 - `CM:/.*[aeiouy]b{1,2}[aeiouy]t.*`
- Search for alternate spellings of this trademark: CAN'T.
 - `CM:/.*[ckq]a{1,2}n{1,2}.*t.*` / OR `CM:"can not"`
- Search for live versions of alternate spellings of this trademark: CAT.
 - `CM:/.*[ckq]a{1,2}t.*` / AND `LD:true`
- Search for live, registered versions of alternate spellings of this trademark: CAT.
 - `CM:/.*[ckq]a{1,2}t.*` / AND `LD:true` AND `RN:*`
- Search for live, registered versions on the Principal Register of alternate spellings of this trademark: CAT.
 - `CM:/.*[ckq]a{1,2}t.*` / AND `LD:true` AND `RN:*` AND `RG:p*`

Combined line searches

Let's say you want to search for live applications and registrations that contain the mark: CAT FOOD. Compare two alternative ways of searching.

- Alternative 1
 1. `CM:/.*[ckq]a{1,2}t.*` / AND `LD:true`
 2. `CM:/.*[fph]{1,2}[ou]{1,2}d.*` / AND `LD:true`
 3. 1 AND 2
- Alternative 2
 - `CM:(/.*[ckq]a{1,2}t.* / AND /.*[fph]{1,2}[ou]{1,2}d.*) / AND LD:true`

Alternative 1 allows you to search the words CAT and FOOD both individually and together. To execute combined line searches, make sure you are in expert mode.

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