

June 2020 Update Regarding Certain Patent-Related Timing Deadlines under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Other Relief Available to Patent Applicants and Patentees

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed significant hardships on many of our stakeholders. As a result, the USPTO has waived certain fees under existing authority, through the [March 16, 2020 Notice](#), and has extended certain Patent and Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) deadlines three times under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), through the [March 31, 2020 notice](#), the [April 28, 2020 Notice](#) and the [May 27, 2020 notice](#). As businesses begin to reopen or resume operations, some stakeholders will continue to require relief, particularly small businesses and individuals. By this notice, under the CARES Act authority and its existing authority, the USPTO will extend or otherwise begin to direct relief as described below. Further, although some relief provided in past notices is ending, other extensions of time and other relief remain available to those who need it on a case-by-case basis.

(1) CARES Act Relief for Certain Fee Payments by Small and Micro Entities:

For small and micro entities only, any:

- a) basic filing fee, search fee, examination fee, and late filing surcharge (37 CFR § 1.16(f), 1.16(g), or 1.492(h)) due in reply to an Office notice issued during pre-examination processing;
- b) basic national fee;
- c) issue fee; or
- d) maintenance fee;

due between, and inclusive of both, March 27, 2020, and September 29, 2020, will be considered timely if paid on or before September 30, 2020, provided that the payment is accompanied by a statement that the delay in payment was due to the COVID-19 outbreak, as defined in the [April Notice](#).

(2) Relief by Petitions for an Extension of Time, Petitions to Revive, and Petitions to Accept Delayed Maintenance Fees

In addition to the relief in section (1) above, other extensions of time and other relief remain available to those who need it on a case-by-case basis. Such requests can be submitted through one of the following petitions, together with the applicable petition fees (unless waived pursuant to section (3) below):

- a) extensions of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 remain available for filing replies to Office actions and notices issued during patent application processing or examination;
- b) petitions under 37 CFR § 1.137 to revive an application remain available if an inability to file or pay patent-related documents or fees by their due date has resulted in the abandonment of an application or termination or limiting of prosecution in a reexamination proceeding; and
- c) petitions under 37 CFR § 1.378 to accept a delayed maintenance payment remain available if a maintenance fee has not been paid by its due date.

(3) Waiver of the Petition to Revive Fee

As explained in the [April 28, 2020 notice](#), and extended in the [May 27, 2020 notice](#), the USPTO has waived the fee for petitions to revive for patent applicants or patent owners who, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, were unable to timely submit a filing or payment such that the application became abandoned or the reexamination prosecution became terminated or limited. By this notice, the USPTO requires that all such petitions to waive the petition fee in 37 CFR § 1.17(m) be filed by July 31, 2020.

The notice entitled “May 2020 Update Regarding Certain Patent-Related Timing Deadlines under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Other Relief Available to Applicants, Patent Owners, and Others,” published May 27, 2020, did not specify a time limit within which a petition under 37 CFR § 1.137(a) must be filed to be eligible for the waiver of the petition fee in 37 CFR § 1.17(m). This notice supersedes the May notice to the extent that any petition under 37 CFR § 1.137(a) must be filed by July 31, 2020, to be eligible for the waiver of the petition fee in 37 CFR § 1.17(m).

(4) PTAB

For proceedings before the PTAB, a request for an extension of time where the COVID-19 outbreak has prevented or interfered with a filing before the PTAB can be made by contacting the PTAB at (571) 272-9797 or by email at Trials@uspto.gov (for AIA trials), PTAB_Appeals_Suggestions@uspto.gov (for PTAB appeals), or InterferenceTrialSection@uspto.gov (for interferences).

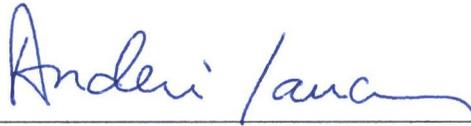
Comments and Contact Information

The USPTO recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose various hardships, especially on small businesses and individuals, and will continue to evaluate the evolving situation around the COVID-19 outbreak and the impact on the USPTO’s operations and

stakeholders. At this time, however, the USPTO does not anticipate any further broad-based extensions beyond what is outlined in this Notice.

Comments and patent-related inquiries concerning this notice may be sent by email to Covid19PatentsRelief@uspto.gov. If email submission of comments is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please call the Office of Patent Legal Administration at 571-272-7704 for special instructions.

Date: JUN 29 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrei Iancu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrei Iancu

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office