

# Sample USPTO External Quality Survey

## QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU, OUR CUSTOMER

1. What is your affiliation?
  - ① Law Firm or Sole Practitioner
  - ② Corporation
  - ③ Independent Inventor
  - ④ Other (University, Federal Government, etc.)
  
2. Which technology field listed below best describes the majority of patent applications you have filed over the past 3 months? (SELECT ONLY ONE)
  - ① Chemical (Technology Centers 1600 or 1700)
  - ② Electrical (Technology Centers 2100, 2400, 2600, or 2800)
  - ③ Mechanical (Technology Centers 3600 or 3700)
  - ④ Designs (Technology Center 2900)
  - ⑤ Did not file a patent application in the past 3 months
  
3. Approximately how many Office Actions have you received during the past 3 months?
  - ① 1 to 10
  - ② 11 to 20
  - ③ 21 to 30
  - ④ 31 to 50
  - ⑤ 51 or more
  - ⑥ Have not received an Office Action in the past 3 months

## PATENT EXAMINERS' DECISIONS

4. Consider your experiences over the past 3 months. Please think about the rules and procedures Patent Examiners must adhere to in their decisions. To what extent did the Patent Examiners you worked with adhere to the following rules and procedures with respect to:

	<b>Not At All</b>	<b>Small Extent</b>	<b>Moderate Extent</b>	<b>Large Extent</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Citing appropriate prior art	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Treating all claims	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Providing enough information to advance prosecution	①	②	③	④	⑤
d. Substantively addressing your responses to Office Actions	①	②	③	④	⑤
e. Following appropriate restriction practice	①	②	③	④	⑤

## REJECTIONS PRACTICE

This section is about Title 35 U.S.C. rejections. The questions ask about correctness, clarity, and consistency of rejections using the following definitions:

**Correctness:** Compliance with all requirements of Title 35 U.S.C. as well as the relevant case law at the time of issuance. Decisions to reject were proper and contained sufficient evidence to support a conclusion of unpatentability.

**Clarity:** Sufficiently allows anyone reviewing a rejection to readily understand the position taken.

**Consistency:** A similar manner of treatment and examination standards between applications and examiners.

### Title 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejections

5. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 101** reasonable in terms of ....

	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>All of the time</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Correctness	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Clarity	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Consistency	①	②	③	④	⑤

### Title 35. U.S.C. 102 Rejections

6. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 102** reasonable in terms of ....

	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>All of the time</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Correctness	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Clarity	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Consistency	①	②	③	④	⑤

### Title 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

7. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under 35 U.S.C. 103 reasonable in terms of ....

	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>All of the time</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Correctness	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Clarity	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Consistency	①	②	③	④	⑤

### Title 35 U.S.C. 112(a) Rejections

8. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under 35 U.S.C. 112(a) reasonable in terms of ....

	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>All of the time</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Correctness	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Clarity	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Consistency	①	②	③	④	⑤

### Title 35 U.S.C. 112(b) Rejections

9. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under 35 U.S.C. 112(b) reasonable in terms of ....

	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>All of the time</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Applicable</b>
a. Correctness	①	②	③	④	⑤
b. Clarity	①	②	③	④	⑤
c. Consistency	①	②	③	④	⑤

## OVERALL EXAMINATION & SEARCH QUALITY

10. For examinations in the past 3 months, would you rate the overall quality of the prior art found by patent examiners as...

- ① Very Poor
- ② Poor
- ③ Fair
- ④ Good
- ⑤ Excellent

11. In the past 3 months, how would you rate overall examination quality....

- ① Very Poor
- ② Poor
- ③ Fair
- ④ Good
- ⑤ Excellent

12. In the past 3 months, overall examination quality has....

- ① Significantly Declined
- ② Slightly Declined
- ③ Stayed the Same
- ④ Slightly Improved
- ⑤ Significantly Improved

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

13. What, if any, other quality issues or concerns would you like to bring to our attention?

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14. You may be selected to participate in this survey again. If you are interested in completing this survey online, please provide your email address below:

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*Thank you for completing this survey.  
Your information will be invaluable as we improve the quality  
of our services for you, our customer!*