

# Chapter 1000 Applications Under Section 44

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## 1001 Section 44 Applications - General

The United States has assumed certain obligations from agreements adopted at the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of 1883 and subsequent revisions to these agreements. The United States is also a member of the Inter-American Convention for Trademarks and Commercial Protection (also known as the “Pan-American Convention”), the Buenos Aires Convention for the Protection of Trade Marks and Commercial Names, the World Trade Organization, and certain other treaties and agreements. See [TMEP](#)

[§1002.03](#) and [Appendix B](#) of this Manual for additional information about treaties and international agreements.

Section 44 of the Trademark Act, [15 U.S.C. §1126](#), implements these agreements. Section 44 applications fall into two basic categories: (1) United States applications relying on foreign applications to secure a priority filing date in the United States under §44(d); and (2) United States applications relying on ownership of foreign registrations as a basis for registration in the United States under §44(e). See [TMEP §§1003](#) *et seq.* regarding §44(d), and [TMEP §§1004](#) *et seq.* regarding §44(e).

Section 44(d) of the Act provides only a basis for receipt of a priority filing date, *not* a basis for publication or registration. See [TMEP §1003.03](#).

An applicant may file an application based solely on §44, or may claim §44 in addition to §1(a) or §1(b) as a filing basis. An applicant who claims more than one basis must comply with all application requirements for each basis asserted. [37 C.F.R. §2.34](#). See [TMEP §§806.02–806.02\(g\)](#) regarding multiple-basis applications and [§§806.03\(j\)-806.03\(j\)\(iii\)](#) regarding amending the basis after publication.

In an application based solely on §44, the applicant must submit a verified statement that the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce, but use in commerce is not required prior to registration. [TMEP §1009](#).

In limited circumstances, applicants domiciled in the United States may be entitled to file under §44, if they meet the requirements of the Act. See [TMEP §1002.05](#).

See [TMEP Chapter 1900](#) regarding international registration under the Madrid Protocol.

## **1002 Eligible Applicants Under §44**

### **1002.01 Eligible Applicants Under §44(e)**

To be eligible for registration under §44(e), an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant's country of origin must be a party to a treaty or agreement with the United States that provides for registration based on ownership of a foreign registration, or must extend reciprocal registration rights to nationals of the United States ([15 U.S.C. §1126\(b\)](#)); and
- (2) The applicant must be the owner of a valid registration *in the applicant's country of origin* ([15 U.S.C. §1126\(c\)](#), (e)).

See [TMEP §1002.04](#) regarding the applicant's country of origin, and [TMEP §1002.03](#) and [Appendix B](#) for information about how to determine whether a particular country is a party to a treaty or agreement, or provides reciprocal registration rights to United States nationals.

If an applicant does not meet the requirements listed above, the examining attorney must refuse registration under §44(e). See *SARL Corexco v. Webid Consulting Ltd.*, 110 USPQ2d 1587, 1590-91 (TTAB 2014). The applicant may amend the application to claim §1(a) or §1(b) as a basis. See [TMEP §§806.03](#) *et seq.* regarding amendment of the basis.

An applicant domiciled in the United States cannot obtain registration under §44(e) unless the applicant is the owner of a registration from an eligible country other than the United States and the applicant can establish that the foreign country is the applicant's country of origin. See [TMEP §1002.05](#).

See [TMEP §§1004 et seq.](#) for additional information about the requirements for registration under §44(e).

## **1002.02 Eligible Applicants Under §44(d)**

To be eligible for a priority filing date under §44(d), an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant's country of origin must be a party to an international treaty or agreement with the United States that provides a right of priority, or must extend reciprocal rights to priority to United States nationals; and
- (2) The foreign application that is the basis for the priority claim must be filed in a country that either is a party to a treaty or agreement with the United States that provides a right of priority, or extends reciprocal rights to priority to United States nationals.

[15 U.S.C. §§1126\(b\), \(d\)](#).

See [TMEP §1002.04](#) regarding the applicant's country of origin, and [TMEP §1002.03](#) and [Appendix B](#) for information about how to determine whether a particular country is a party to an international treaty or agreement that provides a right of priority to U.S. nationals.

If an applicant does not meet the requirements listed above, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that it is not entitled to priority. If the applicant has not claimed another filing basis, the examining attorney must require the applicant to claim and perfect an acceptable basis before the application can be approved for publication or registration on the Supplemental Register. See [TMEP §1003.03](#) regarding registration basis for §44 applications and [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendment of the basis. The examining attorney must ensure that the priority claim is deleted from the Trademark database and conduct a new search of the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") for conflicting marks.

To obtain a priority filing date under §44(d), the foreign application does *not* have to be filed in the applicant's country of origin. However, to obtain registration under §44(e) based on the foreign registration that will issue from the application on which the applicant relies for priority, the applicant must establish that the country in which the application was filed is its country of origin. [TMEP §1002.01](#). Therefore, if the applicant files a §44(d) priority claim based on an application from a treaty country other than the country in which the applicant is domiciled, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that in order to rely on the registration issuing from the identified foreign application as its basis for registration, the applicant will be required to establish that the country where the foreign application was filed is its country of origin.

It is important to keep in mind that while §44(d) provides a basis for filing and a priority filing date, it does not provide a basis for publication or registration. A party who files under §44(d) must establish a basis for registration. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(iii\)](#); [TMEP §1003.03](#). For example, a French corporation may rely on a first-filed application in Canada for its priority claim under §44(d), regardless of whether Canada is the applicant's country of origin. However, before the mark can be published for opposition in the United States, the French corporation must do one of the following: (1) establish Canada as its country of origin and rely on the prospective Canadian registration as its basis for registration in the United States ( see [TMEP §§1002.01, 1002.04](#)); (2) assert use in commerce under §1(a) and/or a bona fide intention to use in commerce

under §1(b) as its basis for publication in the United States; or (3) rely on a registration from France as its basis for registration in the United States.

An applicant domiciled or organized in the United States may claim priority under §44(d) based on ownership of an application *in a treaty country other than the United States*. See [TMEP §1002.05](#).

See [TMEP §§1003](#) *et seq.* for additional information about the requirements for obtaining a priority filing date under §44.

### 1002.03 Establishing Entitlement Under a Treaty

In a §44 application, the examining attorney must confirm that: (1) both the applicant's country of origin and the country where the applicant has filed the application or obtained registration are parties to a treaty or agreement with the United States (or that they extend reciprocal rights to U.S. nationals by law); *and* (2) the specific benefit that the applicant is claiming under §44 (i.e., the right to a priority filing date under §44(d) and/or the right to registration under §44(e)) is provided for under the treaty or agreement. See [TMEP §§1002.01](#), [1002.02](#).

To determine whether a particular country has a treaty with the United States that provides for the benefit that the applicant is claiming under §44, examining attorneys should consult [Appendix B](#) of this manual.

Appendix B lists the members of the Paris Convention, Inter-American Convention, Buenos Aires Convention, World Trade Organization, European Union ("EU"), and certain countries entitled to reciprocal treatment under other international agreements, as well as websites where examining attorneys can obtain updated information about these treaties or agreements.

Some EU member states maintain special relationships with overseas countries and territories (OCTs), which include Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Generally, these OCTs are not parties to a relevant treaty or agreement with the United States, nor do they extend reciprocal rights to U.S. nationals by law, as required by Trademark Act Section 44. Therefore, if the applicant's country of origin, or the country that issued the foreign registration, is one of these OCTs, the application is not entitled to priority under §44(d) or registration under §44(e). See [15 U.S.C §1126\(b\)](#), [\(d\)](#), [\(e\)](#); [TMEP §§1002.01](#), [1002.02](#). Note, however, that there is an exception allowing a United Kingdom territory to rely on a United Kingdom registration if the territory has an address in the United Kingdom or in the Isle of Man. For more information about OCTs, see [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/octs\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/octs_en).

In a §44 application or an amendment adding or substituting §44 as a basis, an eligible applicant may rely on an application filed in or registration issued by certain common offices of several states. A "common office of several states" refers to an entity serving as the issuing office for trademark registrations for an established group of countries. Examples include the Benelux Trademark Office, servicing Belgium, The Netherlands, and Luxembourg; and the African Intellectual Property Organization ("OAPI"), which issues registrations covering all member states (i.e., Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo).

An applicant may also claim the benefits of §44 based on an application for or registration of a Community Trade Mark, if the applicant has a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment in a country or state that is a member of the EU, formerly known as the European Community (EC) or European Economic Community (EEC). See Appendix B for a list of these countries.

If an eligible applicant filed an application or obtained a registration in a country that is a member of the Paris Convention, Inter-American Convention, World Trade Organization, or European Union, the applicant can claim the benefits of either §44(d) or §44(e), if the applicant meets the requirements of those sections. An eligible applicant may also file under *either* §44(e) or §44(d) based on an application filed or registration obtained in Taiwan. On the other hand, if the applicant filed an application or obtained a registration in a country that is a member of the Buenos Aires Convention, the applicant may seek registration under §44(e), but may *not* obtain a priority filing date under §44(d). See [Appendix B](#) for additional information.

In the case of agreements not covered in [Appendix B](#), an applicant can establish its eligibility for the benefits of §44 by providing evidence of statutes or agreements establishing reciprocity between the United States and the relevant country. Examining attorneys may also consult sources such as *Trademarks Throughout the World* (Anne-Laure Covin, 5th ed. 2008) and *World Trademark Law and Practice* (Ethan Horwitz, 2d ed. 2008), available to USPTO employees in the Trademark Law Library, for information about the trademark laws of foreign countries. Additional resources are listed in Appendix B.

See [TMEP §1002.01](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to registration under §44(e), and [TMEP §1002.02](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to priority under §44(d).

## 1002.04 Establishing Country of Origin

To obtain registration under §44(e), the applicant must be the owner of a valid registration from the applicant's country of origin. *Kallamni v. Khan*, 101 USPQ2d 1864 (TTAB 2012) (finding that registrant's shipment of product did not create a bona fide and effective commercial establishment in the European Union, that registrant had not established the European Union as his country of origin, and therefore registrant's European Union registration could not serve as a basis for registration under §44(e)); [TMEP §1002.01](#). To obtain a priority filing date under §44(d), the applicant's country of origin must be a treaty country, but the foreign application that is the basis for the priority claim does not have to be filed in the applicant's country of origin. [TMEP §1002.02](#). An applicant domiciled or organized in the United States may be entitled to registration under §44(e) if the applicant can also claim a country of origin other than the United States. See [TMEP §1002.05](#).

Section §44(c) of the Trademark Act defines the applicant's country of origin as "the country in which he has a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment, or if he has not such an establishment, the country in which he is domiciled, or if he has not a domicile in any of the countries described in paragraph (b) of this section, the country of which he is a national." Under this definition, an applicant can have more than one country of origin.

If a §44 applicant is domiciled or incorporated in the country claimed, the examining attorney should presume that the country is the applicant's country of origin, and should not issue any inquiry about the applicant's country of origin.

If a §44(d) applicant is not currently domiciled, incorporated, or organized in a treaty country, the examining attorney must require the applicant to establish that it was domiciled, incorporated, or organized, or had a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment, in a treaty country during the six-month priority period beginning at the date of filing of the foreign application. See [TMEP §1002.02](#).

If a §44(e) applicant is not currently domiciled, incorporated, or organized in the country that issued the foreign registration, the examining attorney must require the applicant to establish that the country was its country of origin as of the date of issuance of the foreign registration. In this context, applicant is to be construed broadly, as defined in [15 U.S.C. §1127](#), to embrace the legal representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns of the original owner of the foreign application or registration. Thus, an applicant for registration in the United States who is the assignee of a foreign registration, but cannot establish that the country which issued the registration was its country of origin as of the date of the conveyance or is its country of origin as of the date of the filing of the U.S. application, may still claim the benefit of registration under §44(e). In such a case, the requirement that the "applicant" be the owner of a valid registration from its country of origin was perfected by applicant's predecessor in interest. However, under such circumstances, the applicant must establish that it is otherwise entitled to the benefits of Section 44(b), i.e., the applicant's country of origin must be a party to a treaty or agreement with the United States that provides for registration based on ownership of a foreign registration or must extend reciprocal registration rights to nationals of the United States. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(b\)](#).

Generally, a written statement by the applicant or the applicant's attorney that the applicant has had a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the relevant country during the six-month priority period beginning at the date of filing of the foreign application (for §44(d) applicants), or as of the date of issuance of the foreign registration (for §44(e) applicants), will be sufficient to establish that the country is the applicant's country of origin. This statement does not have to be verified. If a §44(d) applicant establishes its country of origin by submitting this statement, and later perfects its §44 basis by submitting a foreign registration issued by the same country, it is not necessary to require another statement as to the foreign registration.

If the application is otherwise eligible for approval for publication, or in condition to be allowed for registration on the Supplemental Register, the examining attorney may attempt to contact the applicant by telephone or e-mail to obtain the statement. If the examining attorney is unable to reach the applicant by telephone or e-mail, he or she must issue an Office action. If the applicant responds by telephone or e-mail, the examining attorney must issue an examiner's amendment to enter the statement into the record.

If any evidence in the record contradicts the applicant's assertion that it has a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the relevant country, the examining attorney should require the applicant to set forth the specific circumstances which establish that the applicant maintains a bona fide and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the country. Relevant factors include the presence of production facilities, business offices, and personnel.

The presence of an applicant's wholly owned subsidiary in a country does not, by itself, establish country of origin. See *In re Aktiebolaget Electrolux*, 182 USPQ 255 (TTAB 1974). The fact that the applicant is wholly owned by a foreign company does not establish country of origin. See *Karsten Mfg. Corp. v. Editoy AG*, 79 USPQ2d 1783 (TTAB 2006).

The sale of goods or services outside the United States through related companies or licensees does not create a bona fide commercial establishment and thus does not establish country of origin. *Id.*; see also *Ex parte Blum*, 138 USPQ 316 (Comm'r Pats. 1963) (country of origin cannot be established by relying on contractual relationships with a licensee in another country).

The United States, by definition, is not a country that has a treaty with the United States. Therefore, the term "country of origin" in §44(b) and (c) means a country other than the United States. *In re Fisons Ltd.*, 197 USPQ 888 (TTAB 1978); see [TMEP §1002.05](#).



See [TMEP §1002.01](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to registration under §44(e), and [TMEP §§1002.02](#) and [1003.01](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to priority under §44(d).

### 1002.05 United States Applicants

Section 44(b) of the Trademark Act provides that, “Any person whose country of origin is a party to any convention or treaty relating to trademarks, trade or commercial names, or the repression of unfair competition, to which the United States is also a party, or extends reciprocal rights to nationals of the United States by law, shall be entitled to the benefits of this section . . . .”

Section 44(i) of the Act provides that “[c]itizens or residents of the United States shall have the same benefits as are granted by this section to persons granted by this section to persons described in subsection [44](b) . . . .” However, §44(i) does not provide an independent basis for a U.S. applicant to register a mark under §44(e). See *In re Pony Int’l Inc.*, 1 USPQ2d 1076 (Comm’r Pats. 1986).

The United States, by definition, is not a country that has a treaty with the United States. Therefore, the term “country of origin” in §44(b) means some country other than the United States, and the term “person” in §44(b) means a person who can claim a country of origin other than the United States. See *In re Fisons Ltd.*, 197 USPQ 888 (TTAB 1978) .

An applicant domiciled in the United States may claim priority under §44(d) based on ownership of an application in a treaty country *other than the United States*, even if the other country is not the applicant’s country of origin. See *In re ETA Sys. Inc.*, 2 USPQ2d 1367 (TTAB 1987) ; *In re Int’l Barrier Corp.*, 231 USPQ 310 (TTAB 1986) ; [TMEP §1002.02](#).

However, an applicant domiciled in the United States may not obtain registration under §44(e) unless the applicant is the owner of a registration from an eligible country other than the United States *and* the applicant can establish that the foreign country is the applicant’s country of origin. See *Karsten Mfg. Corp. v. Editoy*, 79 USPQ2d 1783 (TTAB 2006) ; *In re Int’l Barrier Corp.*, *supra*; *In re Fisons*, *supra*; [TMEP §1002.01](#).

For example, a Texas corporation may assert a priority claim under §44(d) based on ownership of an application in Mexico, regardless of whether Mexico is its country of origin. However, this applicant must also assert a valid basis for registration ( see [TMEP §1003.03](#)). The applicant may do so by asserting use in commerce under §1(a) and/or a bona fide intention to use in commerce under §1(b) as its basis for publication. The applicant cannot obtain registration in the United States under §44(e) unless the applicant establishes that Mexico is one of its countries of origin.

See [TMEP §1002.04](#) regarding the applicant’s country of origin, and [TMEP §1002.03](#) and [Appendix B](#) for information about how to determine whether a particular country is a party to an international treaty or agreement that provides for priority and/or registration based on ownership of a foreign registration.

See also [TMEP §1002.01](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to registration under §44(e), and [TMEP §§1002.02](#) and [1003.01](#) for information about how the examining attorney should handle an application in which the applicant is not entitled to priority under §44(d).

## 1003 Section 44(d) - Priority Filing Date Based on a Foreign Application

Section 44(d) of the Trademark Act, [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)](#), provides for a priority filing date to eligible applicants ( *see* [TMEP §1002.02](#)) who have filed an application in a treaty country as defined by §44(b) ( *see* [TMEP §1002.03](#)). If an eligible applicant files the U.S. application claiming §44(d) priority within six months of filing the first application to register the mark in a treaty country, the filing date of the first-filed foreign application is the effective filing date of the U.S. application.

The requirements for receipt of a priority filing date under §44(d) for a trademark or service mark application are:

(1) The eligible applicant must file a claim of priority within six months of the filing date of the first-filed foreign application. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)\(1\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §§2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\)](#), [2.35\(b\)\(5\)](#); [TMEP §§1003.01](#) and [1003.02](#).

(2) The applicant must: (a) specify the filing date and country of the first regularly filed foreign application; or (b) state that the application is based upon a subsequent regularly filed application in the same foreign country, and that any prior-filed application has been withdrawn, abandoned, or otherwise disposed of, without having been laid open to public inspection and without having any rights outstanding, and has not served as a basis for claiming a right of priority. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §§2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\)](#).

(3) The applicant must provide a verified statement that the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)\(2\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#). If the verified statement is not filed with the initial application, the verified statement must also allege that the applicant had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#).

(4) Both the non-United States applicant's country of origin and the country where the foreign application is filed must be a party to an international treaty or agreement with the United States that provides a right of priority, or must extend reciprocal rights to priority to U.S. nationals. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(b\)](#), (d); [TMEP §§1002.02](#), [1002.03](#), [1002.04](#).

(5) The scope of the identification covered by the §44 basis may not exceed the scope of the identification in the foreign application. [37 C.F.R. §2.32\(a\)\(6\)](#); [TMEP §1402.01\(b\)](#).

(6) The applicant must specify the serial number of the foreign application. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\)\(A\)](#); Paris Convention Article 4(D)(5).

For requirements for the receipt of a priority filing date under §44(d) for collective and certification marks, see [TMEP §1303.01\(a\)\(iii\)](#) for collective trademark or collective service mark applications, [TMEP §1304.02\(a\)\(iii\)](#) for collective membership mark applications, and [TMEP §1306.02\(a\)\(iii\)](#) for certification mark applications.

If the applicant is not domiciled in the United States, the applicant may designate a domestic representative, that is, a person residing in the United States on whom may be served notices or process in proceedings affecting the mark. [15 U.S.C. §1051\(e\)](#); [TMEP §610](#). This can be done through the Trademark Electronic Application System ("TEAS"), at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

The priority filing date also constitutes a constructive date of first use in the United States under [15 U.S.C. §1057\(c\)](#) (*see* [TMEP §201.02](#)), if the application matures into a registration. *See SCM Corp. v. Langis Foods Ltd.*, 539 F.2d 196, 190 USPQ 288 (D.C. Cir. 1976). Therefore, the priority date cannot be later than the filing date of the U.S. application.

Section 44(d) of the Trademark Act provides only a basis for receipt of a priority filing date, *not* a basis for publication or registration. *See* [TMEP §1003.03](#).



In a §44(d) application, both the actual date the application was received in the USPTO and the priority date will appear in the Trademark database.

### 1003.01 The “First-Filed” Requirement

The application relied upon under §44(d) must be the applicant’s first application filed in any treaty country for the same mark and for the same goods or services. The USPTO will presume that the application identified as the basis for the priority claim was the first filed, unless there is contradictory evidence in the record (e.g., in the application itself or submitted via a Letter of Protest that has been accepted; see [TMEP §1715.01](#) regarding appropriate subjects to be raised in a letter of protest). If the first-filed application was withdrawn, abandoned, or otherwise disposed of without having any rights outstanding, and did not serve as a basis for claiming a right of priority, the §44(d) priority claim may be based upon a subsequently filed application in the same foreign country or common office of several states. Generally, a written explanation by the applicant or the applicant’s attorney that the first-filed application was withdrawn, abandoned, or otherwise disposed of without having any rights outstanding, and did not serve as a basis for claiming a right of priority, will be sufficient.

The requirement for the same goods or services means that the identification may not exceed the scope of the identification in the foreign application and must be different from the identification covered by any previous application or registration for the mark in a treaty country. See [37 C.F.R. §2.32\(a\)\(6\)](#); [TMEP §1402.01\(b\)](#). Thus, for example, if evidence in the record indicates that an applicant who owns a French registration for “coats, hats, and ties” subsequently files an EU trademark application with the European Union Intellectual Property Office for “coats, hats, ties, and shoes,” and then files a U.S. application within six months seeking a priority filing date for “coats, hats, ties, and shoes” based on the EU trademark application, the §44(d) priority claim would be valid only as to “shoes” because the EU trademark application was not the first filed in a treaty country for “coats, hats, and ties.” Note, however, that if the foreign application that formed the basis for the French registration was itself filed within six months of the filing date of the U.S. application, the French application may serve as a basis for priority for the “coats, hats, and ties” in the U.S. A single U.S. application may claim priority for different goods and services on the basis of different foreign applications for the same mark as long as all foreign applications claimed were the first-filed for the identified goods/services and were filed no earlier than six months prior to the U.S. application filing date.

If the examining attorney determines that the application relied on was not the first filed in any treaty country as to some or all of the goods/services, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that it is not entitled to priority as to the relevant goods/services. If the applicant has not claimed another filing basis, the examining attorney must require the applicant to claim and perfect a basis for any goods/services not entitled to priority before the application can be approved for publication or for registration on the Supplemental Register. See [TMEP §1003.03](#) regarding registration basis for §44 applications and [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendment of the basis.

If the applicant is not entitled to priority as to any goods/services, the examining attorney must ensure that the priority claim is deleted from the Trademark database. If the applicant is entitled to priority as to some, but not all, of the goods/services, the examining attorney must ensure that the identification in the Trademark database indicates those goods/services that have priority. See [TMEP §806.02\(a\)](#). The examining attorney must also conduct a new search of USPTO records for conflicting marks as to any goods/services not entitled to priority.

## 1003.02 Priority Claim Must Be Filed Within Six Months of Foreign Filing

An applicant must file a claim of priority within six months *after* the filing date of the foreign application. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)\(1\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §§2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\), 2.35\(b\)\(5\)](#); Paris Convention Article 4(C)(3). The applicant can submit the priority claim after the filing date of the U.S. application, as long as the claim of priority is submitted within six months of the foreign filing and the claimed priority date is earlier than the filing date of the U.S. application.

*Example:* If an eligible applicant files in France on December 6, 2011, and in the United States on January 12, 2012, the applicant can add a priority claim to the United States application on or before June 6, 2012, if the applicant meets the requirements of §44(d). The applicant cannot add a priority claim to the U.S. application after June 6, 2012.

If an applicant claims priority under §44(d), but does not specify the filing date of the foreign application, the examining attorney must require that the applicant specify the date of the foreign filing.

If the applicant submits a claim of priority more than six months after the date of the foreign filing, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that it is not entitled to priority. See [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §§2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\), 2.35\(b\)\(5\)](#). If the applicant has not claimed another filing basis, the examining attorney must require the applicant to claim and perfect an acceptable basis before the application can be approved for publication or for registration on the Supplemental Register. See [TMEP §1003.03](#) regarding registration basis for §44 applications and [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendment of the basis. The examining attorney should ensure that the priority claim is deleted from the Trademark database, and should conduct a new search of USPTO records for conflicting marks.

If the priority period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, the priority claim may be filed no later than the following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. Paris Convention Article 4(C)(3); [35 U.S.C. §21\(b\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.196](#).

## 1003.03 Basis for Registration Required

Section 44(d) of the Act provides a basis for receipt of a priority filing date, but not a basis for publication or registration. Before an application may be approved for publication, or allowed for registration on the Supplemental Register, the applicant must establish a basis for registration under §1(a), §1(b), or §44(e) of the Act. See [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(iii\)](#). See [TMEP §1002.02](#) regarding applications that are entitled to a priority filing date under §44(d), but are not entitled to registration under §44(e) because the foreign application was filed in a treaty country that is not the applicant's country of origin.

An applicant may claim more than one basis for registration (i.e., §44(e) in addition to §1(a) or §1(b)). If the applicant claims a §1(b) basis, the applicant must file an allegation of use (i.e., either an amendment to allege use under [15 U.S.C. §1051\(c\)](#) or a statement of use under [15 U.S.C. §1051\(d\)](#)) before the mark can be registered. See [TMEP §806.01\(b\)](#) regarding the requirements for a §1(b) basis and [TMEP §§1004-1004.02](#) regarding the requirements for registration under §44(e).

A §44(d) applicant may not assert a basis under §66(a) of the Trademark Act, based on an extension of protection of an international registration to the United States. See [37 C.F.R. §§2.34\(b\), 2.35\(a\)](#).

## 1003.04 Suspension Awaiting a Foreign Registration

### 1003.04(a) Applications Based Solely on Section 44

In a §44(d) application filed via TEAS, the applicant is asked to specifically indicate that it does not intend to rely on §44(e) as a basis for registration, but wishes only to assert a valid claim of priority. If the applicant does not do so, an intent to rely on §44(e) is presumed and, when filed, the application will include a statement that the applicant intends to rely on §44(e) as a basis for registration.

If, on initial examination of the application, there are no refusals, requirements, or prior pending applications, the examining attorney will suspend action on the application pending receipt of the foreign registration. The suspension notice must include a search clause ( *see* [TMEP §704.02](#)).

If, on initial examination, the examining attorney issues any refusals or other requirements, the Office action must also include a requirement that the applicant submit the foreign registration when it becomes available. Depending upon the applicant's response, the examining attorney will take appropriate action to place the application in condition for approval for publication, allowance for registration on the Supplemental Register, or final action on all other issues, and will then suspend further action pending receipt of the foreign registration. In the notice of suspension, the examining attorney must reference any continued refusals or requirements. See [TMEP §716.01](#).

If, on initial examination, the only other issue is a prior pending application, the examining attorney will suspend action on the application pending receipt of the foreign registration and resolution of the prior pending application. The suspension notice must include a search clause (see [TMEP §704.02](#)). If the foreign registration is submitted while the prior pending application is pending, the application will be re-suspended and the suspension letter will state that the foreign registration has been received but will not be examined until the prior pending application either abandons or registers. If the prior pending application abandons before the applicant submits the foreign registration, the examining attorney will re-suspend the application pending receipt of the foreign registration. The suspension letter must state that the prior pending application has abandoned and no longer poses a potential bar to registration. However, if the prior pending application registers before the foreign registration is submitted, the examining attorney will issue a non-final Office action with a §2(d) refusal and a requirement that the applicant submit the foreign registration when it becomes available. If the applicant responds, but the foreign registration cannot yet be provided, the application will be re-suspended. The suspension notice must indicate whether the §2(d) refusal is continued or withdrawn. See [TMEP §716.01](#).

If the TEAS application indicates that the applicant is not relying on §44(e) and no other basis for registration is claimed, the examining attorney must inquire since the application lacks a basis for registration. If, on initial examination, there are no refusals or requirements that would otherwise necessitate issuance of an Office action, this inquiry may be made via telephone or e-mail, if e-mail communication is authorized. The following actions should be taken based on the applicant's response to the inquiry:

If the applicant responds that it intends to rely on §44(e) as the basis, the examining attorney must enter a Note to the File in the record and suspend the application pending receipt of the foreign registration. The suspension letter must include a search clause. See [TMEP §§704.02, 1003.04\(a\)](#). If the applicant responds that it intends to rely solely on §1(b) as the basis, the examining attorney must issue an examiner's amendment so specifying.

If the applicant responds that it intends to rely solely on §1(a) and the application does not include a specimen, dates of use, and/or the proper declaration, the examining attorney must issue a priority action specifying what actions the applicant must take. See [TMEP §708.01](#).

If, however, there are other refusals or requirements, or the applicant cannot be reached by telephone or e-mail, the examining attorney must issue an Office action that includes the inquiry regarding whether the applicant intends to rely on §44(e) as a registration basis and note that, if so, the foreign registration is required when it becomes available.

If a §44(d) application filed on paper is silent as to whether the applicant intends to rely on §44(e), the USPTO will presume that the applicant intends to rely on §44(e) as a basis for registration and follow the same procedures as for TEAS applications.

### **1003.04(b) Multiple-Basis Applications**

If an applicant properly claims §44(d) as a basis for receipt of a priority filing date and asserts §1 as a second basis, the applicant may elect not to perfect the §44 basis and still retain the priority filing date. [37 C.F.R. §2.35\(b\)\(3\)-\(4\)](#). If the application is filed via TEAS and indicates that the applicant is relying on §44(e) as a basis for registration, the examining attorney must follow the procedures in [TMEP §1003.04\(a\)](#) with respect to the §44(e) basis. If the application indicates that the applicant is not relying on §44(e) as an additional basis for registration and is only asserting §44(d) to receive a priority filing date, the examining attorney must ensure that the Trademark database is updated accordingly. See [TMEP §§806.02\(f\)](#) and [806.03\(j\)](#) regarding the addition or substitution of a §44(e) a basis after a mark has been published for opposition.

When an application filed on paper is silent as to whether the applicant intends to rely on §44(e) as an additional basis for registration, the examining attorney must inquire as to whether the applicant intends to rely on the §44(e) basis. If, on initial examination, there are no refusals or requirements that would otherwise necessitate issuance of an Office action, this inquiry may be made via telephone or e-mail, if e-mail communication is authorized. If the applicant intends to perfect the §44 basis, the examining attorney must enter a Note to the File in the record and suspend the application pending receipt of the foreign registration.

If the applicant does not wish to perfect the §44 basis, the examining attorney must issue an examiner's amendment to this effect. If the applicant cannot be reached by telephone or e-mail, the examining attorney must enter a Note to the File in the record indicating the unsuccessful attempt to contact the applicant and suspend action on the application pending receipt of the foreign registration. The suspension notice must include a search clause (see [TMEP §704.02](#)).

If the application was filed on paper and it is necessary to issue an Office action regarding any refusals or requirements, including a prior pending application, the examining attorney must inquire as to whether the applicant intends to perfect §44 as a second basis for registration and note that, if so, the foreign registration is required when it becomes available. If the response indicates that the applicant is *not* relying on §44(e) as an additional basis for registration, the examining attorney will approve the application for publication or allowance on the Supplemental Register, or will issue a final action, as appropriate. If the response indicates that the applicant intends to rely on §44(e) as a second basis, or fails to indicate whether the applicant intends to perfect the §44 basis, the examining attorney will suspend further action pending submission of the foreign registration and, if appropriate, resolution of the prior pending application. In the notice of suspension, the examining attorney must reference any refusals or requirements that are continued. See [TMEP §716.01](#).

See [TMEP §1003.04\(a\)](#) with respect to suspension procedures when there is a prior pending application.

### **1003.04(c) Periodic Inquiries Issued as to Status of Foreign Application**

Examining attorneys must issue inquiries as to the status of the foreign application in applications that have been suspended for more than six months. See [TMEP §716.05](#). If the applicant does not respond to this inquiry within six months of the issuance date, the application will be abandoned for failure to respond to an Office action.

If the applicant is unable to furnish a copy of the foreign registration before the expiration of time to respond to the inquiry, the applicant should advise the examining attorney of this fact. This may be done by telephone or e-mail.

If the applicant states that the foreign registration has not yet issued, the examining attorney will issue a new notice of suspension.

If the applicant states that the foreign registration has issued, but fails to send a copy, the examining attorney must issue an Office action requiring a copy. See [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#).

To expedite processing, the USPTO recommends that the applicant's response to a suspension inquiry be filed through TEAS, at <http://www.uspto.gov>, using the Response to Suspension Inquiry or Letter of Suspension form.

### **1003.05 Section 44(d) and Priority for Publication**

To determine priority for publication under [37 C.F.R. §2.83](#), an application filed in the United States under §44(d) will be treated as if it were filed in the United States on the same date as the filing in the foreign country. The §44(d) application will receive priority over any application filed after the §44(d) applicant's priority filing date that might otherwise be a possible bar to registration under §2(d) of the Trademark Act due to a likelihood of confusion. See [TMEP §§1208](#) *et seq.* regarding conflicting marks in pending applications.

In some cases, another U.S. application filed after the §44(d) applicant's priority date may proceed to publication or registration because the §44(d) applicant had not yet filed in the United States when the examining attorney searched USPTO records for conflicting marks. If the USPTO learns that a §44(d) application is entitled to priority over another pending application before the other mark registers, the USPTO will take appropriate action to give the §44(d) application the priority to which it is entitled. The §44(d) applicant may bring the priority-date issue to the USPTO's attention by submitting a letter of protest in the other pending application. See [TMEP §1715](#) regarding letters of protest.

If an examining attorney discovers a conflicting application entitled to priority under §44(d) after taking action in a case, the examining attorney must issue a supplemental action correcting the situation. If the mark has been published, the examining attorney must request jurisdiction before issuing the action, unless a notice of allowance has issued. See [TMEP §§1504.01](#) and [1504.04\(a\)](#) regarding the examining attorney's jurisdiction.

However, if the conflicting mark has already registered, the USPTO does not act to cancel the registration *sua sponte*. The §44(d) applicant may seek to cancel the registration by filing a petition for cancellation with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

### 1003.06 Applicants May File Under both §§44(d) and 44(e)

In some cases, a §44 applicant may have already received, before filing in the USPTO, a foreign registration as a result of the same foreign application upon which the applicant relies for priority under §44(d). This may occur in countries that do not examine applications prior to registration. In this situation, the applicant may file under both §44(d) and §44(e).

An applicant may also claim priority under §44(d) based upon a foreign application, and proceed to registration under §44(e) based upon a different foreign registration. Both foreign countries must be parties to a treaty or agreement with the United States and the foreign registration must be from a country of origin of the applicant. If the applicant amends an application to rely on a different foreign registration, this is not considered a change in basis, but may require republication. See [TMEP §1004.02](#).

### 1003.07 Application May Be Based on More than One Foreign Application

An applicant may file an application in the United States based on more than one foreign application for different goods or services, or for different classes, if the applicant meets the requirements of §44(d) with respect to each foreign application on which the U.S. application is based. The applicant must specify which goods or services, or which classes, are covered by which foreign application. The mark in each foreign application must be the same mark for which registration is sought in the U.S. application.

### 1003.08 Abandonment of the Foreign Application

If the foreign application relied on under §44(d) is abandoned during the prosecution of the U.S. application, the applicant may amend the application to rely on another basis. See [TMEP §806.03](#). If the applicant met the requirements of §44(d) on the filing date of the U.S. application, the applicant will retain the priority filing date even if the foreign application is abandoned. See [37 C.F.R. §2.35\(b\)\(4\)](#).

In this situation, the USPTO will presume that the applicant had a continuing valid basis, because the applicant had at least a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date, unless there is contradictory evidence in the record. See [37 C.F.R. §2.35\(b\)\(3\)](#); [TMEP §806.03\(h\)](#).

## 1004 Applications Based on Foreign Registrations Under §44(e)

If an eligible applicant ( see [TMEP §1002.01](#)) owns a valid registration from the applicant's country of origin, the applicant may base its U.S. application on that foreign registration under §44(e).

A §44(e) application for a trademark or service mark must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant must be the owner of a valid registration in the applicant's country of origin. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(c\), \(e\)](#). See [TMEP §1002.01](#) and [§1002.04](#) regarding country of origin.
- (2) The applicant's country of origin must be a party to a treaty or agreement with the United States that provides for registration based on ownership of a foreign registration, or must extend reciprocal registration rights to nationals of the United States. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(b\)](#); see [TMEP §§1002.03, 1002.04, 1002.05](#).
- (3) The applicant must submit a true copy, a photocopy, a certification, or a certified copy of the registration in the applicant's country of origin. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#); [TMEP §1004.01](#).



- (4) The applicant must provide a verified statement that the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#). If the verified statement is not filed with the initial application, the verified statement must also allege that the applicant had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#).
- (5) The scope of the identification covered by the §44(e) basis may not exceed the scope of the identification in the foreign registration. [37 C.F.R. §2.32\(a\)\(6\)](#); [TMEP §1402.01\(b\)](#).

For the requirements under §44(e) for collective and certification marks, see [TMEP §1303.01\(a\)\(iv\)](#) for collective trademark or collective service mark applications, [TMEP §1304.02\(a\)\(iv\)](#) for collective membership mark applications, and [TMEP §1306.02\(a\)\(iv\)](#) for certification mark applications.

If the applicant is not domiciled in the United States, the applicant is encouraged to designate a domestic representative, i.e., a person residing in the United States on whom may be served notices or process in proceedings affecting the mark. [15 U.S.C. §1051\(e\)](#); [TMEP §610](#). This can be done through TEAS, at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

An applicant may not file an application under §44(e), or amend an application to add or substitute a §44(e) basis, before the registration in the applicant's country of origin has issued. An applicant can file under §44(d) within six months after the filing date of an application in the applicant's country of origin ( *see* [TMEP §§1003 et seq.](#)). However, once this six-month priority period has passed, an applicant cannot file an application in the United States based on a pending foreign application.

## 1004.01 Copy of Foreign Registration Required

Section 44(e) of the Trademark Act, [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#), requires “a true copy, a photocopy, a certification, or a certified copy of the registration in the country of origin of the applicant.” If a copy of the foreign registration is not included with the application as filed, the examining attorney must require submission of a copy of the foreign registration in the first Office action. *See* [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#). The copy must show the name of the owner, the mark, and the goods or services for which the mark is registered.

If the applicant submits a copy of the foreign registration, it must be a copy of a document that has been issued to the applicant by or certified by the intellectual property office in the applicant's country of origin. A photocopy of the intellectual property office's publications or a printout from the intellectual property office's website is not sufficient to establish that the mark has been registered in that country and that the registration is in full force and effect, unless accompanied by a certification from the issuing office.

An English translation of a registration from the country of origin by itself is not an acceptable “copy” of the foreign registration. A certification or copy of the registration as issued by the intellectual property office of the country of origin is required, along with an English translation. *See* [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#). *See* [TMEP §1004.01\(b\)](#) regarding translation of foreign registrations.

If an applicant files more than one application in the United States based on the same foreign registration, the applicant must file a copy of the foreign registration (and its English translation, if applicable), in each of the U.S. applications. *See* [37 C.F.R. §2.193\(g\)](#).

In a §44(e) application, the examining attorney will not suspend the application pending submission of a copy of the foreign registration, unless the applicant establishes that it cannot obtain a copy of the foreign registration due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., war or natural disaster). However, the examining

attorney may suspend the application pending receipt of proof of renewal of the foreign registration ( [see TMEP §1004.01\(a\)](#)).

### **1004.01(a) Status of the Foreign Registration**

The foreign registration must be in force at the time the United States issues the registration based on that foreign registration. *In re Societe D'Exploitation de la Marque Le Fouquet's*, 67 USPQ2d 1784 (TTAB 2003) ; *Marie Claire Album S.A. v. Kruger GmbH & Co. KG*, 29 USPQ2d 1792 (TTAB 1993) ; *Fioravanti v. Fioravanti Corrado S.R.L.*, 230 USPQ 36 (TTAB 1986). [Appendix B](#) of this manual lists the terms of registration in various foreign countries.

If the record indicates that the foreign registration has expired or will expire before the U.S. registration will issue, the examining attorney must require that an applicant submit a certificate of renewal or other certification from the intellectual property office of the foreign country, or a copy of the foreign registration that shows that the foreign registration has been renewed and will be in force at the time the registration issues in the United States, along with an English translation. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(iii\)](#). See [TMEP §1004.01\(b\)](#) regarding translation of foreign registrations and renewal documents. A photocopy of the intellectual property office's publications or a printout from the intellectual property office's website is not sufficient to establish that the registration has been renewed in that country and is in full force and effect, unless accompanied by a certification from the issuing office. Currently, the only exception is for renewals of Singapore registrations. As of January 1, 2009, Singapore ceased issuing certificates confirming that a registration has been renewed. Therefore, a printout from the Singapore intellectual property office website showing the extended expiration date of the foreign registration is acceptable as proof of renewal.

Generally, the examining attorney must require proof of renewal if it appears that the foreign registration will expire within six months after the date of approval for publication. If the applicant states that renewal is pending in the foreign country, the examining attorney should suspend the application pending receipt of proof of renewal.

If an applicant submits a certified copy or certification of the foreign registration that is certified by the foreign government agency who issued the foreign registration, the examining attorney should inquire concerning renewal only if the certified copy of the foreign registration indicates that the registration will expire *after* the date on which the foreign government agency issued the certified copy or certification of the foreign registration. For example, if a certified copy of a foreign registration was issued by the trademark agency in the foreign country on January 5, 2009, and the certified copy indicates that the registration expired on June 1, 2008, no inquiry is necessary. The USPTO presumes that the foreign country would not have issued a certified copy of the registration unless the registration had been renewed. This applies *only* to a certified copy or certification issued *by the foreign trademark agency*. If the copy of the registration is not certified by the foreign trademark agency, and the record indicates that the foreign registration will expire before the U.S. registration will issue, the examining attorney must require that the applicant submit a copy of the foreign registration showing that the registration has been renewed.

If the examining attorney determines that the foreign registration is not in force, the examining attorney will refuse registration under §44(e) of the Trademark Act, [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#). The applicant may amend the application to claim another basis. See [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendments to the basis.

For information about recent changes in the term of registration in a foreign country, examining attorneys may consult resources such as *Trademarks Throughout the World* (Anne-Laure Covin, 5th ed. 2008) and *World Trademark Law and Practice* (Ethan Horwitz, 2d ed. 2008), available to USPTO employees in the Trademark Law Library. Additional resources are listed in [Appendix B](#).

### 1004.01(b) Translation of the Foreign Registration or Renewal Document

If the foreign registration, certificate of renewal, or other certification of renewal from the intellectual property office of the foreign country is not in English, the applicant must provide a translation. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)-\(iii\)](#). The translator should sign the translation, but does not have to swear to the translation.

### 1004.02 Application May Be Based on More than One Foreign Registration

A U.S. application may be based on more than one foreign registration. The applicant must meet all requirements of the Trademark Act and rules for each foreign registration upon which the U.S. application is based, and must specify which goods/services are covered by which foreign registration.

If a §44 applicant amends an application to rely on a different foreign registration after publication, this is not considered a change in basis. However, if the amendment is acceptable, the application must be republished. See [TMEP §1505.03\(a\)](#) regarding post-publication amendments that require republication.

## 1005 Ownership of the Foreign Application or Registration

### *Section 44 Claimed in Original Application*

If an applicant claims §44 as the filing basis in the original U.S. application, or if the applicant omits the basis from the original U.S. application and subsequently claims §44 as the basis, the applicant must be the owner of the foreign application or registration on the filing date of the U.S. application. See *In re De Luxe, N.V.*, 990 F.2d 607, 26 USPQ2d 1475 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *SARL Corexco v. Webid Consulting Ltd.*, 110 USPQ2d 1587 (TTAB 2014); *In re Tong Yang Cement Corp.*, 19 USPQ2d 1689 (TTAB 1991).

Generally, the applicant is not required to submit a copy of the foreign application to receive a priority filing date. See [TMEP §1003](#). However, if other evidence in the record calls into question the applicant's ownership of the foreign application on the filing date of the U.S. application, the examining attorney must require the applicant to establish its ownership of the foreign application on the date of filing in the United States. For example, if the U.S. application includes a priority claim under §44(d), and the applicant then attempts to perfect its §44 filing basis by submitting a foreign registration showing a different owner name from that of the U.S. applicant, this difference raises a question as to the applicant's ownership of the underlying foreign application. Therefore, the examining attorney must issue a request for information under §2.61(b), requiring the applicant to establish its ownership of the foreign application on the date of filing in the United States, and advise the applicant that if it did not own the foreign application on the filing date of the U.S. application, the applicant is not entitled to priority and the claim will be deleted. The examining attorney must also refuse registration under §44(e) because the record indicates that the applicant is not the owner of a valid registration in the applicant's country of origin. See [15 U.S.C. §1126\(c\)](#), [\(e\)](#); [TMEP §1002.01](#). If the applicant provides proof that it was the owner of the foreign application on the date of filing in the United States, the application will retain the priority filing date. However, the applicant must additionally satisfy the requirements for registration under §44(e).

Proof of ownership must show the applicant for registration in the United States as the owner of the foreign application or registration as of the date of filing in the United States and may consist, for example, of a copy of an assignment document, a statement from the agency administering the trademark register in the foreign country establishing that the applicant was the owner of the foreign application or registration as of the U.S. application filing date, or a printout from the intellectual property office's website. Note that while a website printout may suffice for purposes of establishing ownership, for purposes of proof of the status

of a foreign registration, a printout generally is not acceptable. See [TMEP §§1004.01, 1004.01\(a\)](#). If the transfer of ownership took place before the U.S. application filing date, the §44 basis will be considered valid.

If a §44(d) applicant was not the owner of the foreign application on the U.S. application filing date, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that it is not entitled to priority, ensure that the priority claim is deleted from the Trademark database, and conduct a new search of the USPTO's records for conflicting marks. [TMEP §1002.02](#).

If a §44(e) applicant was not the owner of the foreign registration on the U.S. application filing date, the examining attorney must refuse registration under §44(e). The applicant may amend the application to claim §1(a) or §1(b) as a basis. See [TMEP §§806.03–806.03\(l\)](#) regarding amendment of the basis.

#### *Section 44 Added to or Substituted for Valid Section 1 Basis*

If an application is properly filed based on §1(a) or §1(b), and the applicant later amends the application to add or substitute §44 as a basis, the applicant must be the owner of the foreign application or registration as of the filing date of the amendment adding or substituting a §44 claim of priority or basis for registration.

See *SARL Corexco v. Webid Consulting Ltd.*, 110 USPQ2d 1587, 1590-91 (TTAB 2014). Note that the applicant may amend to add a claim of priority under §44(d) only within the six-month priority period following the filing date of the foreign application. [37 C.F.R. §2.35\(b\)\(5\)](#). See [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendments to change the basis.

If the applicant owned the foreign application or registration on the filing date of the amendment, but did not own the foreign application or registration on the filing date of the U.S. application, the applicant will retain the original filing date in the United States, as long as there was a continuing valid basis since the application filing date. See [37 C.F.R. §2.35\(b\)\(3\)](#); [TMEP §806.03\(h\)](#).

If the applicant was not the owner of the foreign application on the filing date of an amendment adding a §44(d) priority date, the examining attorney must advise the applicant that it is not entitled to priority and ensure that the priority claim is not entered into the Trademark database. [TMEP §1002.02](#).

If the applicant was not the owner of the foreign registration on the filing date of the amendment adding or substituting a §44(e) basis, the examining attorney must refuse registration under §44(e). The applicant may amend the application to reassert or claim §1(a) or §1(b) as the basis.

See [TMEP §§806.03–806.03\(l\)](#) regarding amendment of the basis and [TMEP §1006](#) regarding assignment of §44 applications.

## **1006 Assignment of §44 Applications**

A §44 applicant may assign the foreign application or registration and/or the U.S. application from the original applicant to another party.

#### *Assignee Must Be Eligible for the Benefits of §44*

To continue to claim the benefits of §44 after such an assignment, the assignee of the U.S. application must be eligible for the benefits of §44. *Karsten Mfg. Corp. v. Editoy*, 79 USPQ2d 1783 (TTAB 2006); *Nestle Co., Inc. v. Grenadier Chocolate Co.*, 212 USPQ 214 (TTAB 1981) ; *In re Fisons Ltd.*, 197 USPQ 888

(TTAB 1978) . See [TMEP §1002.01](#) regarding applicants eligible for registration under §44(e) and [TMEP §1002.02](#) regarding applicants eligible for a priority filing date under §44(d).

To be eligible for registration under §44(e), the assignee must establish that the country that issued the relevant registration is the assignee's country of origin. [TMEP §§1002.01, 1002.04](#). See also [TMEP §1004](#) regarding the requirements for registration under §44(e).

To be eligible for a priority filing date under §44(d), any non-United States assignee must establish that the assignee's country of origin is a party to an international treaty or agreement with the United States that provides a right of priority, or extends reciprocal rights of priority to U.S. nationals. See [TMEP §§1002.02, 1002.03, 1002.04](#); see also [TMEP §1003](#).

In an application based solely on §44, if the assignee is not entitled to registration under §44(e), the examining attorney must refuse registration under that basis. The applicant may amend the application to claim §1(a) or §1(b) as a basis. In *Karsten*, *supra*, the Board held that the assignment of a properly filed §44 application to a party who is not eligible to claim the benefits of §44 does not render the application void, as long as there is a continuing valid basis for registration. See [TMEP §806.03](#) regarding amendment of the basis.

In a §44(d) application, if the assignee is not eligible for a priority filing date (i.e., a non-United States applicant whose country of origin is not a party to any convention or treaty as outlined in §44(b)), the examining attorney must advise the assignee that it is not entitled to priority, ensure that the priority claim is deleted from the Trademark database, and conduct a new search of USPTO records for conflicting marks. [TMEP §1002.02](#).

#### *Assignee Does Not Have To Be the Owner of the Underlying Foreign Application or Registration*

The Trademark Act requires that an applicant own the underlying application or registration at the time of filing in the United States (or as of the filing date of the amendment adding or substituting §44 as a basis, for an application originally based on §1(a) or §1(b), and later amended to add or substitute §44 as a basis).

[TMEP §1005](#). However, if the applicant was the owner of the foreign application or registration on the filing date of the U.S. application (or amendment adding or substituting §44 as a basis), the applicant may assign the U.S. application to another party without assigning the underlying foreign application or registration to that party. See *In re De Luxe N.V.*, 990 F.2d 607, 26 USPQ2d 1475 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Therefore, examining attorneys should not require proof of assignment of the underlying foreign application or registration when an applicant assigns the U.S. application.

#### *Designation of Domestic Representative Encouraged*

If the U.S. application is assigned to a party who is not domiciled in the United States, the assignee may file an appointment of a domestic representative with the assignment of the U.S. application. [15 U.S.C. §1060\(b\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §3.61](#); see [TMEP §610](#). The USPTO encourages parties who do not reside in the United States to designate domestic representatives. This can be done through TEAS, at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

### **1007 Standards for Registration Under Section 44**

Although §44 exempts eligible applicants from the use requirements of §1 of the Trademark Act, §44 applicants must meet all other requirements for registration set forth in the Trademark Act and relevant rules. Registration in a foreign country does not automatically ensure eligibility for registration in the United States. *In re Rath*, 402 F.3d 1207, 1214, 74 USPQ2d 1174, 1179 (Fed. Cir. 2005) ("[I]t is impossible to



read section 44(e) to require the registration of foreign marks that fail to meet United States requirements for eligibility. Section 44 applications are subject to the section 2 bars to registration . . . ."); *In re Mastic Inc.*, 829 F.2d 1114, 4 USPQ2d 1292 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re Etablissements Darty et Fils*, 759 F.2d 15, 225 USPQ 652 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *Order Sons of Italy in Am. v. Marofa S.A.*, 38 USPQ2d 1602 (TTAB 1996).

The foreign registration that is the basis for the U.S. application may include disclaimers or may be on a secondary register, equivalent to the Supplemental Register. The U.S. application will be reviewed according to the standards for registrability in the United States, and the examining attorney will not require a disclaimer, amendment to the Supplemental Register, or any other amendment unless it is required under U.S. law and USPTO policy.

## 1008 Bona Fide Intention to Use the Mark in Commerce

A trademark or service mark application filed under §44(d) or §44(e) on either the Principal or the Supplemental Register must include a verified statement that the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(i\), \(a\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#). See [TMEP §1101](#) for additional information about this requirement. If the verified statement is not filed with the initial application, the verified statement must also allege that the applicant had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(i\), \(a\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#).

The allegation of the applicant's bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce is required even if use in commerce is asserted in the application. See *In re Paul Wurth, S.A.*, 21 USPQ2d 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1991); see also *In re Unisearch Ltd.*, 21 USPQ2d 1559 (Comm'r Pats. 1991) (requirement for verified statement of bona fide intent to use the mark in commerce held not contrary to Paris Convention). This applies similarly to the verified bona fide intent statements required for collective or certification mark applications where use is also asserted.

For the verified statement required in applications filed under §44(d) or §44(e) for collective and certification marks, see [TMEP §1303.01\(b\)\(i\)](#) for collective trademark or service mark applications, [TMEP §1304.02\(b\)\(i\)](#) for collective membership mark applications, and [TMEP §1306.02\(b\)\(i\)](#) for certification mark applications.

## 1009 Allegation of Use and Specimen of Use Not Required Prior to Registration

Although §44 applicants must assert a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce, §44 applicants are not required to allege use or provide specimens or dates of use prior to registration on either the Principal or Supplemental Register in an application based solely on §44. *Crocker Nat'l Bank v. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce*, 223 USPQ 909 (TTAB 1984). However, if a §44 applicant wishes to assert use in commerce under §1(a) or a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce under §1(b) as an additional basis, then the applicant must comply with *all* applicable requirements related to the second basis asserted.

If the applicant provides specimens gratuitously in a §44 application, the examining attorney may refer to the specimens to determine issues unrelated to use, such as whether the mark is merely descriptive.

When the §44 application, as submitted, raises questions concerning the registrability of the mark, the examining attorney may request an explanation, information, literature, or other materials to assist in consideration of the application. [37 C.F.R. §2.61\(b\)](#); [TMEP §814](#).



## 1010 Proof of Acquired Distinctiveness in §44 Applications

A §44 applicant may assert that a mark has acquired distinctiveness under [15 U.S.C. §1052\(f\)](#) if the applicant establishes that the mark has become distinctive of applicant's goods or services *in commerce* in the same manner that any other applicant must. See [37 C.F.R. §2.41](#). For these purposes, the applicant may not rely on use other than use in commerce that may be regulated by the U.S. Congress, that is, the applicant may not rely on use solely in a foreign country or between two foreign countries. See [TMEP §1212.08](#) and cases cited therein for further information about claims of acquired distinctiveness in §44 applications. See also [TMEP §1212](#) for general information regarding the three basic types of evidence that may be used to establish acquired distinctiveness for trademarks, service marks, collective marks, and certification marks.

## 1011 Drawings

Applicants filing under §44 must comply with the drawing requirements of [37 C.F.R. §§2.51](#) through 2.54. See [TMEP §§807](#) *et seq.* regarding drawings.

### 1011.01 Substantially Exact Representation of Mark in Foreign Registration

The drawing of the mark must be “a substantially exact representation of the mark as it appears in the drawing in the registration certificate of a mark duly registered in the country of origin of the applicant.” [37 C.F.R. §2.51\(c\)](#); [TMEP §807.12\(b\)](#).

The “substantially exact representation” standard is construed narrowly. Only slight, inconsequential variations between the mark in the U.S. application and the mark shown in the foreign registration are permitted. *In re Hacot-Colombier*, 105 F.3d 616, 618, 41 USPQ2d 1523, 1525 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Larios S.A.*, 35 USPQ2d 1214, 1216 (TTAB 1995) ; *United Rum Merchants Ltd. v. Distillers Corp. (S.A.) Ltd.*, 9 USPQ2d 1481, 1484 (TTAB 1988). For example, non-material informational matter such as net weight or contents may be deleted. Beyond such limited exceptions, however, any difference between the mark on the drawing and the mark in the foreign registration requires the examining attorney to refuse registration. *In re Hacot-Colombier*, 105 F.3d at 619, 41 USPQ2d at 1525.

If the foreign registration shows a series of marks, the mark on the drawing in the U.S. application must be a substantially exact representation of one of the marks depicted in the foreign registration. See [TMEP §1011.02](#) regarding only one mark per application.

The standard for determining whether the mark in the drawing agrees with the mark in the foreign registration is stricter than the standard used to determine whether specimens support use of a mark in an application under §1 of the Trademark Act. In *United Rum Merchants*, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board reasoned that a stricter standard is appropriate in §44 cases because §44 applications represent an exception to the use requirements of the Act, and that this exception should be construed narrowly to ensure that a foreign applicant cannot obtain a registration in the United States of matter that could not have been registered in the foreign country. *United Rum Merchants Ltd. v. Distillers Corp. (S.A.) Ltd.*, 9 USPQ2d at 1483-84.

If the mark in the foreign registration is in standard characters, the mark in the U.S. application must also be in standard characters. If the foreign registration certificate does not indicate that the mark is in standard characters (or the legal equivalent), the examining attorney must inquire whether the foreign registration includes a claim that the mark is in standard characters. The applicant must either submit an affirmative statement that the foreign registration includes a claim that the mark is in standard characters (or the legal equivalent), or delete the standard character claim in the U.S. application. See [TMEP §807.03\(f\)](#) for further

information. See also Appendix E, which lists countries that register marks in standard characters or the equivalent.

Likewise, if the mark in the foreign registration is in special form, the drawing of the mark in the U.S. application must appear in the same special form. If the mark in the foreign registration shows color, the applicant must submit a color photocopy of the foreign registration. All claims of color made in the foreign registration must also be made in the U.S. application. The applicant must also comply with all requirements for a color drawing of the mark. See [37 C.F.R. §2.52\(b\)\(1\)](#) and [TMEP §§807.07](#) *et seq.* regarding the requirements for claiming color.

If the foreign registration is not issued in color, the examining attorney may require evidence to establish that a colored mark in a U.S. application is a substantially exact representation of the mark in the foreign registration. For example, the examining attorney may require evidence of the foreign country's procedure for designating color when the foreign registration does not reflect the colors shown in the U.S. application.

If a §44 application is based on a foreign registration that depicts the mark in color, but no claim of color is made in the registration document, the examining attorney must inquire whether the foreign registration includes a claim of color(s) as a feature of the mark. The applicant must either: (1) submit an affirmative statement that color is claimed as a feature of the mark in the foreign registration; or (2) submit a statement that although the mark is registered in its country of origin featuring a color depiction of the mark, no claim of color is made in that registration. If the examining attorney determines that the color is a non-material element of the drawing, the applicant may be given the option of submitting a black-and-white drawing. See [TMEP §807.07\(b\)](#).

The mark on the drawing in the U.S. application may not be a translation or transliteration of the mark in the foreign registration.

If the U.S. application is based on both a foreign registration and use in commerce, the mark on the drawing in the U.S. application must not only be a substantially exact representation of the mark in the foreign registration, but also may not differ in a material way from the mark shown on the specimen(s) of record. See [TMEP §§807.12\(b\)](#), [807.14](#) *et seq.*

## **1011.02 One Mark Per Application**

If the foreign application or registration covers a series of distinct marks, the applicant must file separate applications in the United States to register each of the marks the applicant wishes to register in the United States. For example, some countries permit registration of several versions of a mark in a single application. In the United States, separate applications are required. The drawing in the U.S. application must show only one mark, which must be a substantially exact representation of one of the marks in the foreign registration. [37 C.F.R. §2.52](#); [TMEP §§807.01](#), [807.12\(b\)](#), [1011.01](#).

## **1011.03 Amendment of Drawing**

Section 44 applicants often try to amend the mark in the U.S. application to overcome an objection that the mark in the drawing does not agree with the mark in the foreign registration. Amendments to drawings in §44 applications are governed by [37 C.F.R. §2.72\(c\)](#). An applicant cannot amend the drawing in the U.S. application to conform to the mark in the foreign registration if the amendment would result in a material alteration of the mark on the drawing submitted with the original application in the United States. *In re Hacot-Colombier*, 105 F.3d 616, 41 USPQ2d 1523 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Wine Soc'y of Am. Inc.*, 12

USPQ2d 1139 (TTAB 1989) . Thus, when a §44 applicant proposes to amend its drawing, the examining attorney must consider: (1) whether the proposed amendment of the drawing would result in a material alteration of the mark on the original drawing; *and* (2) whether the proposed amendment would result in a mark that is a substantially exact representation of the mark in the foreign registration. In *In re Larios S.A.*, 35 USPQ2d 1214, 1216 (TTAB 1995), the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board held that the mark “GRAN VINO MALAGA LARIOS” and design on the drawing originally filed with the U.S. application was not a substantially exact representation of the mark “VINO DE MALAGA LARIOS” with a similar design in the foreign registration; however, the Board found that amendment of the drawing to conform to the foreign registration was *not* a material alteration within the meaning of [37 C.F.R. §2.72](#). The Board noted that “[t]he material alteration test . . . is not quite as rigorous as the substantially exact representation standard and thus allows for a bit more leeway or flexibility with respect to . . . amendment of the drawing . . .” *In re Larios S.A.*, 35 USPQ2d at 1217. See [TMEP §§807.14](#) *et seq.* regarding material alteration.

#### **1011.04 Drawings and Descriptions of Three-Dimensional and Non-Visual Marks**

If the foreign application or registration depicts several views of a three-dimensional mark, the examining attorney must require the applicant to comply with [37 C.F.R. §2.52\(b\)\(2\)](#), and submit an acceptable drawing that depicts a single rendition of the mark. See generally [TMEP §§807](#) *et seq.* regarding drawings. In the alternative, the applicant may petition the Director, pursuant to [37 C.F.R. §2.146\(a\)\(5\)](#), to waive the requirement and accept a drawing featuring multiple views of the mark. See [TMEP Chapter 1700](#) regarding petitions to the Director.

In all such cases, the applicant must indicate that the mark is three-dimensional. [37 C.F.R. §2.52\(b\)\(2\)](#); [TMEP §807.10](#). If necessary to adequately depict the commercial impression of the mark, the applicant may be required to submit a drawing that shows the placement of the mark by surrounding the mark with a proportionately accurate broken-line representation of the particular goods, packaging, or advertising on which the mark appears. The applicant must also use broken lines to show matter not claimed as part of the mark. For any drawing using broken lines to indicate placement of the mark, or matter not claimed as part of the mark, the applicant must include a written description of the mark and explain the purpose of the broken lines, e.g., by indicating that the matter shown by the broken lines is not a part of the mark and that it serves only to show the position of the mark. [37 C.F.R. §2.52\(b\)\(4\)](#); [TMEP §807.08](#).

With respect to sound, scent, and other non-visual marks, an applicant is not required to submit a drawing, but must submit a detailed description of the mark. [TMEP §807.09](#). If the foreign registration includes a drawing, such as a musical staff depicting the notes of which a sound mark is comprised, the U.S. application need not include such a drawing. As the drawing of the mark must be a substantially exact representation of the mark in the foreign registration, and the description of the mark defines the mark sought to be registered in a non-visual mark, the description of the mark in the U.S. application must be substantially comparable to any description of the mark in the foreign application or registration. [37 C.F.R. §§2.51\(c\)](#), [2.52\(e\)](#).

#### **1012 Identification of Goods and Services**

The identification of goods and services in a §44 application must comply with the same standards that govern other applications. See [TMEP §1402.01\(b\)](#) for more information about the identification of goods or services in a §44 application. See also [TMEP §1304.02\(c\)](#) for information regarding the identification in a collective membership mark application and [TMEP §1306.02\(c\)](#) regarding the identification in a certification mark application.

If the U.S. application is based on §44, the identification of goods and services covered by the §44 basis may not exceed the scope of the goods and services identified in the foreign application or registration. [37 C.F.R. §2.32\(a\)\(6\)](#); see *Marmark Ltd. v. Nutrexp S.A.*, 12 USPQ2d 1843 (TTAB 1989) ; *In re Löwenbräu München*, 175 USPQ 178 (TTAB 1972) .

### **1013 Designation of Domestic Representative by Applicants Not Domiciled in the United States**

An applicant not domiciled in the United States may file a document designating the name and address of a person residing in the United States upon whom notices or process in proceedings affecting the mark may be served. [15 U.S.C. §1051\(e\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.24](#); [TMEP §610](#). The USPTO encourages parties who do not reside in the United States to designate domestic representatives. This can be done through TEAS, at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

### **1014 Section 44 Applications for the Supplemental Register**

A §44 applicant may apply to register a mark on the Supplemental Register, and a §44 applicant may amend an application from the Principal Register to the Supplemental Register without filing any allegation of use. It is not necessary to change the application filing date after an amendment to the Supplemental Register in a §44 application. See [TMEP §1008](#) regarding the requirement for an allegation of the applicant's bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce in a §44 application.

### **1015 Section 44 Registration Independent of Underlying Foreign Registration**

Once issued, the U.S. registration issuing from a §44 application exists independent of the underlying foreign registration and is subject to all provisions of the Trademark Act that apply to all other registrations, such as affidavits of use, renewals, amendments under [15 U.S.C. §1057\(e\)](#), assignments, and similar matters. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(f\)](#); see *Imperial Tobacco Ltd. v. Philip Morris, Inc.*, 899 F.2d 1575, 14 USPQ2d 1390 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *Exxon Corp. v. Oxon Italia S.p.A.*, 219 USPQ 907 (TTAB 1982); *Reynolds Televator Corp. v. Pfeffer*, 173 USPQ 437 (TTAB 1972) .

### **1016 International Registration As Basis for §44 Application**

An international registration issued by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization ("IB") can be the basis for a §44(e) application only if the international registration shows that there is an extension of protection of the international registration to applicant's country of origin. See [TMEP Chapter 1900](#) regarding international registration. A request for an extension of protection of the international registration to applicant's country of origin is not sufficient.

An applicant should submit a copy of the registration (or certificate of extension of protection) issued by the national trademark office in the applicant's country of origin. See [15 U.S.C. §1126\(e\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#). If the applicant's country of origin does not issue registrations or certificates of extension of protection, the applicant may submit a copy of the international registration, showing that protection of the international registration has been extended to applicant's country of origin. A copy of a request for an extension of protection of the international registration to applicant's country of origin is not sufficient.

If the grant of protection, registration, or certificate of extension issued by the designated trademark office of the applicant's country of origin does not specify goods/services for which protection has been granted, the applicant should submit both an extract of the International Register issued by WIPO that lists the

goods/services of the international registration and the document issued by the designated trademark office to establish the scope of protection of the §44(e) application. A user-generated printout from the WIPO database is not sufficient.

If the applicant is not domiciled or incorporated in the relevant country, the examining attorney must require the applicant to establish that the country is its country of origin. See [TMEP §1002.04](#).

The applicant must meet all the requirements of the Trademark Act and the Trademark Rules of Practice for §44(e) applications. The requirements for §66(a) applications are not applicable.

The identification of goods/services covered by the §44(e) basis may not exceed the scope of the goods/services identified in the registered extension of protection in the applicant's country of origin. [37 C.F.R. §2.32\(a\)\(6\)](#); [TMEP §1012](#).

An extension of protection of an international registration may not be the basis for a §44(d) application, because neither the international application nor the request for extension of protection is the first application filed in a treaty country for the same mark for the same goods or services. [15 U.S.C. §1126\(d\)](#); [37 C.F.R. §2.34\(a\)\(4\)\(i\)\(A\)-\(B\)](#); [TMEP §1003.01](#). The basic application or basic registration upon which the international registration is based was likely the first-filed application.

If an applicant wants to base a §44(e) application on the basic registration that was the basis for the international registration, the applicant must submit a copy of the basic registration issued by the Office of Origin, i.e., the country or intergovernmental organization who issued the registration which provided the basis for the international registration (see [TMEP §1901](#) regarding the Office of Origin). The applicant cannot submit the international registration, because an international registration does not provide protection in the territory of the Contracting Party whose office is the Office of Origin. Madrid Protocol Article 3 *bis*.