

Subject: Examination time and quality

Purpose: To determine the effect of examination time on examination quality with respect to identifiable examination errors.

Nature: Select multiple discreet examination parameters that are quantifiable and generally related to poor examination quality. Common errors such as (1) improper restriction; (2) over-restriction; (3) unnecessary or forced RCEs; (4) improper rejections (e.g., improper anticipation or obviousness rejections, missed limitations, use of art that is not prior art, incorrect citation of art, etc.) are suggested parameter for analysis. Investigate how these poor examination practices change with respect to examination time. For example, divide examiners in art units or a technology center into 3 groups. Give group 1 less examination time, group 2 more examination time, and group 3 no change in examination time. Graphical representation of the outcomes for each parameter is suggested. Note that such a quantitative study may also help identify art units that may benefit from more examination time and art units that have proper time or too much time already allocated; it appears some art units are still operating in a rushed manner.

*The views expressed herein are those of the respondent alone and do not represent the views of the respondent's organization, Dynamics Inc.

Elizabeth Capan
Assistant Chief Patent Counsel
Dynamics Inc.