

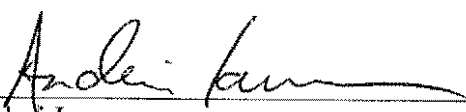
**Closing of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
on Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

In view of the official closing of the Federal Government offices in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, the USPTO will consider Wednesday, February 20, 2019, to be a "Federal holiday within the District of Columbia" under 35 U.S.C. § 21 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.2(d), 2.195, and 2.196. Any action or fee due on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, will be deemed as timely for the purposes of, e.g., 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051(d), 1058, 1059, 1062(b), 1063, 1064, 1126(d), and 1141k, or 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 120, 133, and 151, if the action is taken, or the fee paid, on the next succeeding business day on which the USPTO was open, that is, Thursday, February 21, 2019 (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.7(a) and 2.196), no later than 11:59 pm EST.

As indicated in the preceding paragraph, the USPTO will consider actions or fees due on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, to be timely if taken or paid on the next business day on which the USPTO was open, that is, Thursday, February 21, 2019. An actual filing date of Wednesday, February 20, 2019, also was available under existing procedures. Specifically, 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6(a)(2), 2.195(a)(4), and 2.198 provide that any correspondence properly deposited in the Priority Mail Express® service of the United States Postal Service (USPS) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.10 or 2.198 will be deemed filed on the date of deposit (as shown by the "date accepted" on the mailing label) with the USPS. Thus, any correspondence properly deposited in the Priority Mail Express® service of the USPS on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.10 or 2.198, will be deemed filed on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 (as shown by a "date accepted" of Wednesday, February 20, 2019, on the mailing label). See the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 513 and the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMEP) § 305.03. For correspondence being mailed or transmitted with a certificate or mailing or transmission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 and 2.197, see MPEP § 512 and TMEP § 305.02, respectively.

In addition, 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6(a)(4) and 2.195(a)(2) provide that patent- and trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO will be deemed filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Thus, any patent- or trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, will be deemed filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Patent correspondence successfully received by the USPTO through the Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web) and filed in compliance with the EFS-Web Legal Framework will receive the date indicated on the Acknowledgement Receipt. See MPEP § 502.05 and the USPTO website. Trademark filings properly filed through TEAS, TEASi, and ESTTA will receive the date indicated in the e-mail confirmation sent at the time of a successful filing. See TMEP § 301 and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure § 110.09 regarding electronic filing.

Date: 3/1/2019

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrei Iancu  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office