



# United States Patent and Trademark Office

## **EFS-Web and PAIR eMod Text Pilot Program Participant Guidelines Starting July 2016**

### **Participant Guidelines:**

The guidelines below express the understanding between eMod (eCommerce Modernization) Text Pilot Program participants and the USPTO regarding the activities related to the testing of the new features that will be incorporated into the new patent electronic filing and management system in development, which will henceforth be referred to as Patent Center. During the eMod Text Pilot Program, the existing electronic patent application filing and viewing tools, EFS-Web and Private PAIR, will be leveraged to learn about the text usage to include into Patent Center. The goal of the eMod Text Pilot Program is to have applicants utilize new features to file patent applications (specifically specification, claims and abstract for new utility applications) in text, and provide feedback to the eMod Team for further improvements. eMod Text Pilot participants will be able to submit and receive text via EFS-Web and Private PAIR. By agreeing to participate in the eMod Text Pilot Program, participants are expected to follow the guidelines defined below. Participants who do not abide by these guidelines may be removed from the eMod Text Pilot Program.

- Participants are encouraged to submit .docx documents for new utility applications. Docx application parts are limited to the Specification, Claims, and Abstract for the first phase of the eMod Text Pilot Program. All other applications parts will be submitted as .pdf. Please refrain from submitting both .docx and .pdf for the same documents associated with application parts listed above.
- Participants have the responsibility of reviewing all documents prior to final submission.
- Participants understand that the .docx requirements are still the same as the current eFiling and paper filing requirements listed in the MPEP.
- Participants understand that the Text functionality used during the eMod Text Pilot Program is experimental.

- Participants agree to use the Text features frequently during the eMod Text Pilot Program.
- Participants are aware that they have the ability to opt-in or opt-out of the eMod Text Pilot Program at any time for any discrete action, but are strongly encouraged to maintain their opt-in status during the pilot phase.
- Participants are aware that if they opt-out of the eMod Text Pilot Program that they will not be automatically re-enrolled upon request.
- Participants agree to receive training prior to and/or during the eMod Text Pilot Program.
- Training materials, Quick Start Guides and EBC support will be made available for how to file in .docx in the eMod Text Pilot Program.
- Participants understand that eMod Text Pilot Program incentives will only be available for customer numbers participating in the pilot program including filing .docx and receiving Office actions in structured text. If the customer number is removed from the pilot program after filing .docx the Office actions will be available only in .pdf.
- Participants understand that once they have approved and submitted a generated PDF, that PDF will replace all previously submitted .docx and become the final submission.
- Participants understand that the original word documents attached in EFS-Web, prior to the system check, will be saved for the eMod team to study so future enhancements can be implemented. These documents will be saved for up to 6 months, or until no longer needed for Agency/IT administrative purposes, whichever is sooner.
- Participants are urged to complete actions using Text functionality in the same way the existing EFS-Web and PAIR systems features have been used, and to note that use of the electronic filing and viewing systems will not change any statutory requirements.
- Participants agree to fill out and submit the “eMod Text Pilot Program Report Form” via email, as provided by the USPTO eCommerce Modernization project team, to document errors, problems, or questions during the pilot program period.

- Participants understand that any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of the USPTO eCommerce Modernization project team for investigation.
- Participants agree to participate in a survey, as provided by the USPTO eCommerce Modernization project team, to document the overall user experience during the pilot program period.
- Participants in the eMod Text Pilot Program will have priority for participation in the upcoming Patent Center Beta Program, which is soon to be announced.

Thank you for your interest in participating in this exciting USPTO eMod Project to enhance the patent submission and review processes for applicants, by leveraging text.