

**Closing of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
on Thursday, February 18, 2021**

Due to the closing of Federal government offices in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, including the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), on Thursday, February 18, due to inclement weather, the USPTO will consider Thursday, February 18, to be a “Federal holiday within the District of Columbia” under 35 U.S.C. 21 and 37 CFR 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.2(d), 2.195, and 2.196. Thus, any action or fee due on Thursday, February 18, will be deemed as timely for the purposes of 15 U.S.C. 1051(d), 1058, 1059, 1062(b), 1063, 1064, 1126(d), 1141g, and 1141k, or 35 U.S.C. 119, 120, 133, and 151, if the action was taken or the fee was paid no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, February 19, which was the next business day the USPTO was open (37 CFR 1.7(a) and 2.196).

An actual filing date of Thursday, February 18, was also available under existing procedures. Specifically, 37 CFR 1.6(a)(2), 2.195(b), and 2.198 provide that any correspondence properly deposited in the Priority Mail Express<sup>®</sup> service of the United States Postal Service (USPS), in accordance with 37 CFR 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<sup>®</sup> service of the USPS on Thursday, February 18, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10 or 2.198, will be deemed filed on Thursday, February 18 (as shown by a “date accepted” of Thursday, February 18, 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 of mailing or transmission in accordance with 37 CFR 1.8 and 2.197, see MPEP § 512 and TMEP § 305.02, respectively. It must be noted that, in general, trademark customers may not submit any trademark filings through the USPS. With limited exceptions, all trademark correspondence must be submitted through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). 37 CFR 2.23(a).

In addition, 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4) and 2.195(a) 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 Thursday, February 18, 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 USPTO’s patent electronic filing systems (EFS-Web or Patent Center) and filed in compliance with the Legal Framework for Patent Electronic System will receive the date indicated on the Acknowledgement Receipt. See, e.g., MPEP § 502.05. Trademark filings properly filed through TEAS, the Trademark Electronic Application System International (TEASi), and the Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals (ESTTA) will receive the date indicated in the email 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: 3/4/21

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Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the  
United States Patent and Trademark Office