

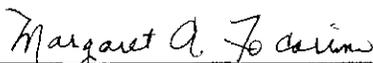
**Closing of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
on Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

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 Tuesday, December 10, 2013, the USPTO will consider Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 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 Tuesday, December 10, 2013, will be considered as timely for the purposes of, e.g., 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051(b), 1058, 1059, 1062(b), 1063, 1064, and 1126(d), or 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 120, 133 and 151, if the action was taken, or the fee paid, on the next succeeding business day on which the USPTO was open; that is, Wednesday, December 11, 2013 (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.7(a) and 2.196).

37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6(a)(2), 2.195(a)(4) and 2.198 provide that certain correspondence deposited in the Express Mail Service (now "Priority Mail Express") of the United States Postal Service (USPS) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.10 or 2.198 will be considered filed on the date of deposit (as shown by the "date-in" or "date accepted" on the mailing label) with the USPS. Thus, any paper or fee properly deposited in the Express Mail Service ("Priority Mail Express") of the USPS on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.10 or 2.198 will be considered filed on its respective date of deposit in the Express Mail Service ("Priority Mail Express") of the USPS (as shown by a "date-in" or "date accepted" of December 10, 2013, on the mailing label).

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 considered filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Thus, any patent and/or trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, will be considered filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the complete 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 as indicated on the Acknowledgement Receipt. See the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 502.05 and the USPTO Web site at www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/guidance/New_legal_framework.jsp. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) filings will receive the date indicated in the e-mail confirmation sent at the time of a successful filing.

Date: 12/30/13



Margaret A. Focarino

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