

Commissioner for Patents

Sir;

With regard to the proposed Rule 1,251, I approve and provide the following comments:

1. The period for response should be set at a minimum of three (3) months, and this should be indicated in the rule.
2. The period for response should be extendable for up to an additional three (3) months upon petition and payment of the fee for an extension of time, the fees being those set forth in 37 CFR 1.17.

Comment

Due to many demergers, acquisitions, sales of businesses, corporate or firm moves, and the like, it is sometimes difficult to locate a file, even an active one. The file might have been inadvertently placed in the records of the sold business or might be in an unlabeled box, or may have been lost or misplaced by movers. In such cases, it might take several weeks to locate it and respond to the notice to provide a record of the correspondence with the PTO.

Consequently, I suggest a minimum time for response of three (3) months.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Douglas
Chief Intellectual Property &
Technology Counsel
Celanese Acetate LLC