

Chapter 500 Receipt and Handling of Mail and Papers

- 501 Papers Received by Correspondence and Mail Division
- 502 Depositing Papers
- 503 Serial Number and Filing Receipt
- 504 Register of Applications
- 505 "Office Date" Stamp of Receipt
- 506 Completeness of Original Application
 - 506.01 Return of Incomplete Application
- 507 Drafting Division
- 508 Distribution
 - 508.01 Papers Sent to Wrong Group
 - 508.02 Papers Received After Patenting or Abandonment
 - 508.03 Unmatched Papers
- 509 Payment of Fees
- 510 Patent and Trademark Office Business Hours

501 Papers Received by Correspondence and Mail Division [R-45]

Rule 1. *All communications to be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.* All letters and other communications intended for the Patent and Trademark Office must be addressed to "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks," Washington, D.C. 20231. When appropriate, a letter may be marked for the attention of a particular officer or individual.

The official mailing address for all communications sent to the Patent and Trademark Office remains:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

The physical location of the Office is 2021 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. This address should not be used on mail sent to the Patent and Trademark Office.

All mailed communications are received by the Incoming-Mail Section of the Correspondence and Mail Division, which opens and distributes all official mail.

502 Depositing Papers [R-47]

Rule 5. *Identification of application, patent or registration.* (a) When a letter concerns an application for patent, it should state the name of the applicant, the title of the invention, the serial number of the application, the date of filing the same, and, if known,

the group art unit and name of the examiner to which it has been assigned (see rule 55).

(b) When the letter concerns a patent, it should state the number and date of issue of the patent, the name of the patentee, and the title of the invention.

(c) A letter relating to a trademark application should identify it as such and by the name of the applicant and the serial number and filing date of the application. A letter relating to a registered trademark should identify it by the name of the registrant and by the number and date of the certificate.

Rule 6. *Receipt of letters and papers.* (a) Letters and other papers received in the Patent and Trademark Office are stamped with the date of receipt. No papers are received in the Patent and Trademark Office on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays within the District of Columbia.

(b) Mail placed in the Patent and Trademark Office pouch up to midnight on weekdays, excepting Saturdays and holidays, by the post office at Washington, D.C., serving the Patent and Trademark Office, is considered as having been received in the Patent and Trademark Office on the day it was so placed in the pouch.

(c) In addition to being mailed or delivered by hand during office hours, letters and other papers may be deposited up to midnight in a box provided at the guard's desk at the lobby of building 3 of the Patent and Trademark Office at Crystal Plaza, Arlington, Virginia and at the main entrance of the Department of Commerce building, Washington, D.C., on weekdays except Saturdays and holidays, and all papers deposited therein are considered as received in the Patent and Trademark Office on the day of deposit.

Applications, amendments and other papers may be sent to the Patent and Trademark Office by mail, or they may be deposited in the Correspondence and Mail Division or in a box which is kept in the lobby of building 3 of the Patent and Trademark Office for this purpose.

The Patent and Trademark Office ZIP Code designation "20231" should be used when writing the Patent and Trademark Office for any matter. In addition, the sender's own ZIP Code designation should be given.

The Office often experiences difficulty in matching incoming papers with the application file to which they pertain because insufficient or

erroneous information is given. This applies especially to amendments, powers of attorney, changes of address, status letters, requests for extension of time, and petitions.

Frequently, there are errors in the serial number or in the group art unit number, or the incoming paper uses the old group art unit number where an application has been transferred and acted on by a different examining group.

Where the group art unit number is entirely omitted, the routine operations of the Application Division must be interrupted solely for the purpose of determining the location of the application so that the communication can be properly routed. Under these circumstances the efficiency of the Application Division is impaired and the incoming paper is delayed in reaching its proper destination. Where such papers are not essential to compliance with a statutory period or time limit for response, they may be returned for completion to identify the location of the files.

It would be of great assistance to the Office if *all* incoming papers pertaining to a filed application carried the following items:

1. Serial number (checked for accuracy).
2. Group art unit number (copied from filing receipt or most recent Office Action).
3. Filing date.
4. Name of the examiner who prepared the most recent Office Action.
5. Title of invention.

To further reduce the burden on the Application Division and the examining groups, it is also requested that the submission of additional or supplemental papers on a newly filed application be deferred until a filing receipt has been received. In the same vein, it would be appreciated if the filing of additional papers relating to an allowed application were deferred until a notice of allowance (POL-85) is received.

If the above suggestions are adopted the processing of both new and allowed applications could proceed more efficiently and promptly through the Patent and Trademark Office.

HAND DELIVERY OF PAPERS

Any paper which relates to a pending application may be personally delivered to an examining group. However, the examining group will accept the paper only if: (1) the paper is accompanied by some form of receipt which can be handed back to the person delivering the paper; and (2) the examining group being asked to receive the paper is responsible for acting on the paper.

The receipt may take the form of a duplicate copy of such paper or a card identifying the

paper. The identifying data on the card should be so complete as to leave no uncertainty as to the paper filed. For example, the card should contain the applicant's name(s), Serial No., the filing date and a description of the paper being filed. If more than one paper is being filed for the same application, the card should contain a description of each paper or item.

Under this procedure, the paper and receipt will be date stamped with the group date stamp. The receipt will be handed back to the person hand delivering the paper. The paper will be correlated with the application and made an official paper in the file, thereby avoiding the necessity of processing and forwarding the paper to the examining group via the Mail Room.

If duplicate copies of a request for an extension of time are hand delivered to an examining group, both copies are dated, either stamped approved or indicated as being denied, and signed. The duplicate copy is returned to the delivering person regardless of whether the request was signed by a registered attorney or agent, either of record or acting in a representative capacity, the applicant or the assignee of record of the entire interest.

The examining group will accept and date stamp a paper even though the paper is accompanied by a check or the paper contains an authorization to charge a Deposit Account. However, in such an instance, the paper will be hand carried by group personnel to the Office of Finance for processing and then made an official paper in the file.

All such papers, together with the cash, checks, or money orders, shall be hand carried to the Cashier's Window, Room 2-1B01, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The papers shall be processed by the accounting clerk, Office of Finance, for pickup at the Cashier's Window by 3:00 p.m. the following work day. Upon return to the group, the papers will be entered in the application file wrappers.

A duplicate copy of officially date-stamped papers may be hand delivered. See §§ 104, 710.02(e) and 713.01.

EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

There are two types of Express Mail delivery offered by the U.S. Postal Service—"Post Office to Addressee" and "Post Office to Post Office." The only type of service which can be used for Express Mail directed to the Patent and Trademark Office is "Post Office to Addressee." This service provides for delivery to one of our employees in Room 1627, Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D.C., no later than 3:00 p.m. of the next workday following its deposit

before 5:00 p.m. at any postal facility with an Express Mail window.

The only address that should be used for Express Mail sent to the Patent and Trademark Office is:

"Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231."

"Post Office to Post Office" Express Mail *does not* provide for delivery but instead is retained at the postal facility of the addressee for pickup. The Postal Service *does not* notify the addressee that this type of Express Mail has been received and is awaiting pickup. If not picked up, this mail is held for 15 days and then returned to the sender.

Therefore, since the Patent and Trademark Office does not have resources for picking up any mail, including Express Mail, the "Post Office to Post Office" Express Mail will not reach the Patent and Trademark Office.

503 Serial Number and Filing Receipt [R-45]

Serial Numbers are assigned in the Correspondence and Mail Division immediately after mail has been opened.

With the implementation of this new procedure, it is no longer necessary to submit two self-addressed post cards when early notification of the serial number is desired. If a self-addressed post card is submitted with a patent application, that post card will be stamped with both the receipt date and serial number prior to returning it to the addressee.

The identifying data on the post card should include: (1) applicant's name(s); (2) title of invention; (3) number of pages of specification, claims, and sheets of drawing; (4) whether oath or declaration used; and (5) amount and manner of paying the fee.

A return post card should be attached to *each* patent application for which a receipt is desired.

It should be recognized that the identification of an application by Serial Number does not necessarily signify that the Patent and Trademark Office has accepted the application as complete. After the application has been reviewed for statutory compliance and given an official filing date, the usual filing receipt will be mailed.

In the Application Division each application which meets the formal requirements as to completeness is given a filing date. It is important, when referring to application files, to identify them by their filing dates as well as by serial numbers.

The Application Division mails a receipt to the attorney or agent, if any, otherwise to the applicant, for each complete application filed,

giving the serial number, filing date, and group to which assigned. See § 506.

In the Application Division the application papers are placed in a file wrapper and certain data placed thereon.

RETURN POST CARD

If a receipt of any paper filed in the Patent and Trademark Office is desired, it may be obtained by enclosing with the paper a self-addressed post card identifying the paper. The Patent and Trademark Office will stamp the receipt date on the card and place it in the outgoing mail.

The identifying data on the card should be so complete as to match the paper with the application or other document to which it is to be associated. For example, the document should be identified by the applicant's name(s), serial number, filing date, interference number, etc., and the paper should be identified by specifying the type thereof, namely, affidavit, amendment, appeal, application papers, brief, drawings, fees, motions, supplemental oath or declaration, petition, etc.

When papers for more than one document are filed under a single cover a return addressed post card should be attached to the paper for *each* document for which a receipt is desired.

504 Register of Applications [R-35]

The Application Division assigns the application to the examining group to which it appears to belong. A list of all applications arranged by serial numbers as well as an alphabetically arranged card index of the applicants is kept by the Application Division and the identification of the group to which each application is sent is made part of this record.

505 "Office Date" Stamp of Receipt [R-35]

In whatever manner an application or any part thereof, or an amendment, letter, or other paper is transmitted, the date of its receipt is stamped thereon by either the Correspondence and Mail Division or examining group. The stamp is referred to as the "Office Date" stamp and, if the application is complete (See rule 55), establishes the "filing date."

506 Completeness of Original Application [R-47]

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

If the application papers are too informal to be given a filing date, the case is held in the Application Division as an *incomplete* applica-

tion and the applicant, is informed of the shortcomings of the papers. No filing date is granted until the incompleteness is corrected.

Form PO-1123 (rev. 1-73), Notice of Incomplete Application Papers, is prepared and mailed by the Application Division when application papers are deemed incomplete under 35 U.S.C. 111.

Such incompleteness may consist of the omission of any one of the component parts of an application. The component parts of an application are:

1. A declaration or oath, 35 U.S.C. 111.
2. A specification, 35 U.S.C. 112.
3. A claim, 35 U.S.C. 112.
4. A drawing, 35 U.S.C. 113.
5. Basic statutory filing fee of \$65.

In the past the Application Division has reviewed the claimed subject matter of newly filed applications to determine whether a filing date should be granted. Such applications included those drawn to perpetual motion devices and methods of doing business and applications for reissue signed by assignees or filed more than two years after the grant of the patent which appear to contain broadened reissue claims.

Under the current practice, a filing date is normally granted in such cases if the application is otherwise complete, and then forwarded to the examiner for his consideration and decision during the regular course of examination.

INFORMAL APPLICATIONS

An application is *informal* if it is typed on both sides of the paper, or is not permanent, legible or reproducible. If such informalities are timely corrected, the application is given the filing date on which the original informal papers were filed.

Form PO-1094 (rev. 3-71), Notice of Insufficient Fee and/or Informal Drawings, is used when utility patent applications are filed with at least a \$65 filing fee but more money is required, or patent applications are received with informal drawings. This form is mailed by the examining group prior to the examiner's examination of the application.

The Application Division accords a filing date, as of the date of receipt in the Office, to application papers which include all of the necessary components of a complete application required by statute, but are informal because they do not comply with the rules or notices. In such applications, the Application Division prepares form PO-152 (rev. 1-73), Notice of Informal Application indicating the informality and places it in the file wrapper. The examining group mails the letter to applicant. Failure to correct the informality within the

specified time results in abandonment of the application.

An application too informal to be admitted for examination may receive as its filing date, the date it was originally presented only by petition under rule 183, and only when a satisfactory showing is made that a proper application could not be submitted originally and that applicant will suffer irreparable damage if the filing date sought is not accorded.

Inquiries directed to the Application Division, either in person or by telephone, concerning patent applications should not be made during the afternoon hours between 2:30 and 4:30.

The letter of transmittal accompanying the filing of continuing applications should include such additional information as the identification by serial number of the parent application, its status, and location in the Patent and Trademark Office. The supplying of this information will simplify the processing of these applications.

When a new application is filed with a request to transfer drawings under rule 88, the application papers should include drawing prints to enable the Application Division to process the case before transfer of the formal drawings is effected.

506.01 Return of Incomplete Application [R-35]

If a request is made, the parts of an incomplete application are returned by the Application Division. They may be used by applicant as part of a complete application if the missing parts are later supplied. See rule 53.

507 Drafting Division [R-35]

The drawing is sent to the Drafting Division to be inspected for formal compliance with the rules. If the drawing is satisfactory, it is stamped "approved". If the drawing contains defects which are not so serious as to warrant holding the application to be incomplete, the Draftsman checks the appropriate notation on the "Notice of Informal Patent Drawing" form PO-948.

See § 608.02(a) for handling of photoprints filed in lieu of drawings.

508 Distribution [R-35]

The Application Division has permanent prints made of the drawings of all complete applications and secures the prints in the file wrappers. The drawings and files are then assembled and forwarded to the proper examining group.

When a new or substitute drawing is received, a print is made and forwarded to the group to be placed in the file as an official paper.

As to the procedure to be followed when a model is filed, see §§ 608.03 and 608.03(a).

508.01 Papers Sent to Wrong Group [R-39]

If there is no Serial Register card, storage card or transfer card in the group for drawings, amendments or other papers delivered to the group, Application Division should be telephoned to determine the current assignment of the application. The current group assignment should be placed on the paper and then forwarded to the appropriate group. The assignment indicated by Application Division may be verified by calling the group indicated before forwarding the paper.

The Patent Application Locator and Monitoring System (PALM) Control Office may also be called for assistance in locating a pending application.

A terminal disclaimer should not be routed directly to an examining group. If such a paper (without the file) is received, it should be promptly forwarded *without the file* to the Patent Issue Division. In some situations the Patent Issue Division may be holding a terminal disclaimer. This may be checked by calling the Chief of the Patent Issue Division by telephone.

508.02 Papers Received After Patenting or Abandonment [R-28]

After an application is patented or abandoned, any incoming communication which is not to become part of the record is sent to the Correspondence and Mail Division for handling with the status of the application indicated thereon.

508.03 Unmatched Papers [R-42]

These instructions set forth procedures for handling unmatched papers in the examining groups. It is suggested that the unmatched papers within a group be frequently reviewed to determine which should be sent to the Paper Correlating Office (PCO).

Item 1 below treats the papers in the "Serial number too high" category. Items 2-6 below are directed to all other unmatched papers not in the "Serial number too high" category.

1. Unmatched papers in the "Serial No. Too High" category

This collection of papers being held by the group should be reviewed at least once a week. Any paper

having a serial number which clearly should have already been received by the group should be removed from this collection. Where the group does not have a corresponding application for any of these papers, inquiry should be made of the Application Division and PALM to determine the group of record. If another group number is indicated, the paper should be forwarded to that group. If neither Application Division nor PALM yields a new group number for the indicated Serial No., the paper should be sent to the PCO.

2. Unmatched papers having a serial number for which no serial register card is present in the group

It can be assumed that either the group number or the serial number on these papers is incorrect. Inquiry should be made of the Application Division and PALM to determine the group of record and the procedure set out in item 1 above followed. An exception to this practice should be made where the paper has thereon the name of an examiner in the group. In these situations a careful check of the group records and files as well as consultation with the indicated examiner should be made to determine the correct serial number. If this does not yield a new serial number the paper should be sent to the PCO.

3. Unmatched papers relating to cases abandoned from group

The file should be ordered from Abandoned Files. If the file is not received therefrom, the paper should be forwarded to the PCO. Charge Card, PO-125, returned by Abandoned Files should be stapled to the paper when it is sent to the PCO.

4. Papers for applications which have been sent to the Patent Issue Division

All papers for applications which PALM indicates to be located in any of the locations 730 through 765 should be forwarded to the Query and Correspondence Section of the Allowed Files Branch of the Patent Issue Division, room 2-10C28 via the Office of Publications messenger. Such papers may be left for pickup by the messenger in the "Allowed Files Pickup/Delivery" boxes which are located in each examining group.

The instructions of this section (4) apply to all files in Issue including those which have been assigned a Patent Number and Issue Date. Papers requiring examiner review and action will be returned to the examining group after the Patent Issue Division personnel have matched the paper to the appropriate file.

5. Papers for applications which have been sent to the Record Room

If PALM indicates that the application for a paper is in the Record Room (location code 810 or 820), the paper should be forwarded to the Paper Correlating Office for response.

6. Unmatched papers for cases which are known to be pending in the group but cannot be located

Generally these are applications for which a serial register card is present in the group, but the file is not

immediately available. These papers should be retained in the group for processing.

Each paper sent to the PCO must have a PCO Transmittal Form stapled thereto. Each form attached to a paper should be filled out as completely as possible. Transmittal Forms attached to papers in categories 1 and 2 must have an indication of the information obtained from both Application Division and PALM. The PALM information should be inserted in the large space at the bottom of the Form. This will help eliminate duplication of effort by PCO personnel. Papers received without transmittal forms or with incompletely filled out transmittal forms may be returned to the originating group. Additional copies of the PCO transmittal can be obtained by calling extension 73251.

509 Payment of Fees [R-47]

Rule 21. Patent and miscellaneous fees and charges. In addition to the fees prescribed by statute, the following fees and charges are established by the Patent and Trademark Office:

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|---|--------|
| (a) For typewritten copies of records, for each page produced (double-spaced) or fraction thereof..... | \$1.50 |
| (b) For photocopies or other reproductions of records, drawings, or printed material, per page of material copied..... | .30 |
| (c) For copies of plant patents in color..... | 1.00 |
| (d) For certified copies of patents in print: | |
| For specification and drawing, per copy | .50 |
| For the certificate..... | 1.00 |
| For the grant..... | 1.00 |
| (e) For abstracts of title to each patent or application: | |
| For the search, one hour or less, and certificate | 5.00 |
| Each additional hour or fraction thereof | 2.50 |
| For each brief from the digest of assignments, of 200 words or less..... | 2.00 |
| Each additional 100 words or fraction thereof | .20 |
| (f) For title reports required for Office use.. | 1.00 |
| (g) For translations from foreign languages into English, made only of references cited in applications or of papers filed in the Patent and Trademark Office insofar as facilities may be available: Written translations, for every 100 words of the original language, or fraction thereof.... | 5.00 |
| (h) For registration of an attorney agent: | |
| For admission to examination for registration to practice, fee payable upon application | 35.00 |
| On registration to practice..... | 25.00 |
| (i) For certificate of good standing as an attorney or agent..... | 5.00 |

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| (j) For making patent drawings, when facilities are available, the cost for making the same: | |
| Rate per hour..... | 12.00 |
| Minimum charge per sheet..... | 25.00 |
| (k) For correcting patent drawings, the cost of making the correction: | |
| Rate per hour..... | 12.00 |
| Minimum charge..... | 3.00 |
| (l) [deleted] | |
| (m) [deleted] | |
| (n) Search of Patent and Trademark Office records for purposes not otherwise specified in this rule, per half-hour of search or fraction thereof..... | 3.00 |
| (o) [Reserved] | |
| (p) Subscription order for printed copies of patents as issued: Annual service charge for entry of order and one subclass, \$2.00, and 20 cents for each additional subclass included; amount to be deposited (for price of copies supplied), as determined with respect to each order. | |
| (q) List of U.S. Patents: | |
| All patents in a subclass, per sheet (containing 100 patent numbers or less) | 1.00 |
| Patents in a subclass, limited by date or patent number, per sheet (containing 50 patent numbers or less) | 1.00 |
| (r) Local delivery box rental, annual..... | 12.00 |
| (s) For publication in the Official Gazette of a notice of the availability of a patent for licensing or sale, each patent..... | 3.00 |
| (t) For special service to expedite furnishing items or services ahead of regular order: | |
| On orders for copies of U.S. patents and trademark registrations, in addition to the charge for the copies, for each copy ordered..... | .50 |
| On all other orders or requests for which special service facilities are available, in addition to the regular charge, a special service charge equal to the amount of regular charge; minimum special service charge per order or request..... | 1.00 |
| (u) Deposit account, service charge for each month when the balance at the end of the month is below \$40..... | 2.00 |
| (v) For items and services, that the Commissioner finds may be supplied, for which fees are not specified by statute or by this section, such charges as may be determined by the Commissioner with respect to each such item or service. | |

Rule 22. Fees payable in advance. Fees and charges payable to the Patent and Trademark Office are required to be paid in advance, that is, at the time of

making application for any action by the Office for which a fee or charge is payable.

Rule 23. Method of payment. All payments of money required for Patent and Trademark Office fees should be made in United States specie, Treasury notes, national bank notes, post office money orders, or by certified checks. If sent in any other form, the Office may delay or cancel the credit until collection is made. Money orders and checks must be made payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Remittances from foreign countries must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the fee required. Money sent by mail to the Patent and Trademark Office will be at the risk of the sender; letters containing money should be registered.

Rule 24. Coupons. Coupons in denominations of twenty cents and fifty cents are sold by the Patent and Trademark Office for the convenience of regular purchasers of U.S. patents, designs, and trademark registrations; these coupons may not be used for any other purpose. The 20-cent coupons are sold individually and in books of 50 with stubs for record for \$10.00. The 50-cent coupons are sold individually and in pads of 10 for \$5.00 and in books of 50 with stubs for record for \$25.00. These coupons are good until used; they may be transferred but cannot be redeemed.

NOTE: Public document coupons issued by the Superintendent of Documents cannot be used in the Patent and Trademark Office, nor can the coupons issued by the Patent and Trademark Office be used at the Government Printing Office or elsewhere.

Rule 25. Deposit accounts. (a) For the convenience of attorneys, agents, and the general public in ordering services offered by the Office, copies of records, etc., special deposit accounts may be established in the Patent and Trademark Office. A minimum deposit of \$50.00 or more, depending on the activity of the individual account, is required. At the close of each month's business, a statement will be rendered. A remittance must be made promptly upon receipt of the statement to cover the value of items or services charged to the account and thus restore the account to its established normal deposit value. An amount sufficient to cover all services, copies, etc., requested must always be on deposit. A service charge will be assessed for each month that the balance at the end of the month is below \$40.00.

(b) Filing, issue, appeal, and petition fees may be charged against these accounts.

An overdrawn account will be immediately suspended and no charges will be accepted against it until a proper balance is restored, together with a payment of ten dollars to cover the work done by the Patent and Trademark Office incident to suspending and reinstating the account and dealing with charges which may have been made in the meantime. It is expected, however, that reasonable precautions will be

taken in all cases to avoid overdrafts, and if an account is suspended repeatedly it will be necessary to close it.

Similarly, because of the burden placed on the Patent and Trademark Office incident to the operation of deposit accounts, a charge of ten dollars will be made for opening each new account.

The Patent and Trademark Office will accept lists of fifty (50) or more patent numbers arranged in numerical sequence to be supplied and charged to deposit accounts. Service charges, such as Special Handling and Air Mail postage for these orders, may also be charged to Deposit Accounts.

Rule 26. Refunds. Money paid by actual mistake or in excess, such as a payment not required by law, will be refunded, but a mere change of purpose after the payment of money, as when a party desires to withdraw his application or to withdraw an appeal, will not entitle a party to demand such a return. Amounts of ten cents or less will not be returned unless specifically demanded, within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amount; amounts over ten cents but less than one dollar may be returned in postage stamps, and other amounts by check.

510 Patent and Trademark Office Business Hours [R-45]

This procedure is being published to bring to the attention of the public security provisions concerning the Patent and Trademark Office premises and Patent and Trademark Office files.

The public is reminded that the Patent and Trademark Office working hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays in the District of Columbia. Outside these hours, only Patent and Trademark Office employees are authorized to be in areas of the Patent and Trademark Office other than the Public Search Rooms.

The hours for the Public Search Room are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the hours for the Trademark Search Room are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays in the District of Columbia.

During working hours, all applicants, attorneys, and other members of the public should announce their presence to the Office personnel in the area of their visit. In the examining groups, visitors should inform the group receptionist of their presence before visiting other areas of the group.

511 Postal Service Emergency Contingency Plan [R-46]

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is establishing the following contingency plan for

filing any paper or paying any fee in the Office in the event of an emergency caused by any major interruption in the mail service in the United States. Upon determination by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks that such an emergency exists, a notice activating the plan will be issued by the Commissioner. The activating notice will be published in the Wall Street Journal and made available in a special recorded telephone message at area code 703, 557-3158. Also, certain publications, patent bar groups, and other organizations closely associated with the patent system, will be notified. Termination of the program will be similarly announced. Where the postal emergency is not nationwide, the Commissioner will designate the areas of the United States in which the procedures outlined below will be in effect.

U.S. Department of Commerce District Offices (formerly referred to as Department of Commerce Field Offices) will be designated on an emergency basis, as receiving stations for filing papers and paying fees in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Upon determination that an emergency exists, the following procedures may be followed: All papers and fees should be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Patent and Trademark Office and deposited in one of the District Offices. Such papers will be considered as received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the day of deposit. The District Office will date stamp each envelope and the accompanying receipt card which completely identifies the deposited papers. The receipt card will be returned to the depositor. Applicants or their representatives should assure the legibility of the date stamp.

District Office deposits should be limited to checks in payment of issue fees, new application papers wherein priority dates or statutory bars may be involved, amendments where the six month statutory period for response is about to expire, trademark oppositions, Section 8 affidavits, trademark renewals, and to other papers for which the patent and trademark statutes do not provide a remedy for failure to obtain a particular date.

Where papers originate from overseas, it is suggested that the papers be mailed to a registered agent in Canada, with a request that the papers be forwarded by courier to the nearest District Office in the United States.

In regard to pending applications, if the time for taking any action or paying any fee expires during the period that the Commissioner declares to be an emergency, the time will be extended until one month after the end of the

emergency period, provided that such extension does not exceed the maximum period for response provided for in the statutes.

Since this extension of time will be automatic, there will be no record in the individual files to indicate that a response filed during the extended period is in fact timely. In order to provide a complete record, applicants or their representatives should file a paper referring to this notice in each case in which a response is filed during the extended period.

The addresses of the Department of Commerce District Offices, subject to subsequent changes, are as follows:

- ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., 87101, Room 316, U.S. Courthouse (505) 766-2386.
- ANCHORAGE, 99501, 632 Sixth Ave., Hill Bldg., Suite 412 (907) 265-4597.
- ATLANTA, 30309, Suite 523, 1401 Peachtree St., NE. (404) 526-6000.
- BALTIMORE, 21202, 415 U.S. Customhouse, Gay and Lombard Sts. (301) 962-3560.
- BIRMINGHAM, ALA., 35205, Suite 200-201, 908 S. 20th St. (205) 325-3327.
- BOSTON, 02116, 10th Floor, 441 Stuart St. (617) 223-2312.
- BUFFALO, N.Y., 14202, Room 1312, Federal Bldg., 111 W. Huron St. (716) 842-3208.
- CHARLESTON, W. VA., 25301, 3000 New Federal Office Bldg., 500 Quarrier St. (304) 343-6181, Ext. 375.
- CHEYENNE, WYO., 82001, 6022 O'Mahoney Federal Center, 2120 Capitol Ave. (307) 778-2151.
- CHICAGO, 60603, Room 1406, Mid-Continental Plaza Bldg., 55 E. Monroe St. (312) 353-4450.
- CINCINNATI, 45202, 8028 Federal Office Bldg., 550 Main St. (513) 684-2944.
- CLEVELAND, 44114, Room 600, 666 Euclid Ave. (216) 522-4750.
- COLUMBIA, S.C., 29204, Forest Center, 2611 Forest Dr. (803) 765-5345.
- DALLAS, 75202, Room 3E7, 1100 Commerce St. (214) 749-1515.
- DENVER, 80202, Room 161, New Custom House, 19th and Stout Sts. (303) 837-3246.
- DES MOINES, IOWA, 50309, 609 Federal Bldg., 210 Walnut St. (515) 284-4222.
- DETROIT, 48226, 445 Federal Bldg. (313) 226-3650.
- GREENSBORO, N.C., 27402, 203 Federal Bldg., W. Market St., P.O. Box 1950. (919) 275-9111, Ext. 345.
- HARTFORD, CONN., 06103, Room 610-B, Federal Office Bldg., 450 Main St. (203) 244-3530.
- HONOLULU, 96813, 286 Alexander Young Bldg., 1015 Bishop St. (808) 546-8694.
- HOUSTON, 77002, 201 Fannin, 1017 Federal Office Bldg. (713) 226-4231.
- INDIANAPOLIS, 46204, 355 Federal Office Bldg., 46 E. Ohio St. (317) 269-6214.
- KANSAS CITY, MO., 64106, Room 1840, 601 E. 12th St. (816) 374-3142.

LOS ANGELES, 90024, 11201 Federal Bldg., 11000 Wilshire Blvd. (213) 824-7591.

MEMPHIS, 38103, Room 710, 147 Jefferson Ave. (901) 534-3213.

MIAMI, 33130, Rm. 821, City National Bank Bldg., 25 W. Flagler St. (305) 350-5267.

MILWAUKEE, 53203, Straus Bldg., 238 W. Wisconsin Ave. (414) 224-3473.

MINNEAPOLIS, 55401, 306 Federal Bldg., 110 S. Fourth St. (612) 725-2133.

NEW ORLEANS, 70130, Room 432, International Trade Mart, 2 Canal St. (504) 589-6546.

NEW YORK, 10007, 41st Floor, Federal Office Bldg., 26 Federal Plaza, Foley Sq. (212) 264-0634.

NEWARK, N.J., 07102, Gateway Bldg., (4th floor) (201) 645-6214.

PHILADELPHIA, 19106, 9448 Federal Bldg., 600 Arch St. (215) 597-2850.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., 85004, 508 Greater Arizona Savings Bldg., 112 N. Central Ave. (602) 261-3285.

PITTSBURGH, 15222, 431 Federal Bldg., 1000 Liberty Ave. (412) 644-2850.

PORTLAND, ORE., 97205, 921 SW. Washington St., Suite 521, Pittock Block. (503) 221-3001.

RENO, NEV., 89502, 2028 Federal Bldg., 300 Booth St. (702) 784-5203.

RICHMOND, VA., 23240, 8010 Federal Bldg., 400 N. Sth St. (804) 782-2246.

ST. LOUIS, 63105, Chromalloy Bldg., 120 S. Central Ave. (314) 622-4243.

SALT LAKE CITY, 84111, 1201 Federal Bldg., 125 S. State St. (801) 524-5116.

SAN FRANCISCO, 94102, Federal Bldg., Box 36013, 450 Golden Gate Ave. (415) 556-5860.

SAN JUAN, P.R., 00902, Room 100, Post Office Bldg. (809) 723-4640.

SAVANNAH, 31402, 235 U.S. Courthouse and Post Office Bldg., 125-29 Bull St. (912) 232-4204.

SEATTLE, 98109, 706 Lake Union Bldg., 1700 Westlake Ave. North (206) 442-5615.