

delivered to the Office via the USPS should be addressed: United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 371611, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-1611; and (4) a deposit account replenishment being delivered to the Office via the USPS should be addressed: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 70541, Chicago, Illinois 60673. Persons filing correspondence with the Office should check the rules of practice, the *Official Gazette*, or the Office's Internet Web site (<http://www.uspto.gov>) to determine the appropriate mailing address for such correspondence.

The Office appreciates that it will take some period of time before all persons filing correspondence with the Office become accustomed to these address changes. The Office plans to arrange for continued delivery of correspondence addressed to the Office's former Washington, DC 20231 address as a courtesy for a limited period of time. The Office, however, has been experiencing delays and other problems with correspondence routed through the USPS facility at Brentwood. *See Processing of, and Requirements for, the Filing of Duplicate Applications and Papers in Patent Applications in view of USPS Mail Delays*, 1254 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 92 (Jan. 15, 2002). Any correspondence addressed to the Office's former Washington, DC 20231 address that is delivered to the Office will still be subject to the delays and other problems associated with correspondence that is routed through the USPS facility at Brentwood.

In November of 2001, the Office also established a Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia (PO Box 2327, Arlington, Virginia 22202) for use on an emergency basis, and indicated that it would continue to accept patent-related correspondence at this Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box and treat such correspondence as if it were addressed as set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10 until further notice. *See Termination of the Suspension of the "Express Mail" Service of United States Postal Service for mail addressed to ZIP Codes 202xx through 205xx*, 1254 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 33 (Jan. 1, 2002). The Office is hereby providing notice that persons submitting correspondence to the Office should no longer use this Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box for any correspondence (including sequence listings in electronic format) after May 1, 2003.

In addition, the Office is changing the various special Box designations to corresponding Mail Stop designations (e.g., "Box 4" will now be "Mail Stop

4"). Since the address for certain correspondence includes a Post Office Box number, the continued use of special Box designations in the address might have resulted in confusion between the Post Office Box number and the special Box designation (especially when the special Box designation is a box number).

Finally, the titles "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks," "Assistant Commissioner for Patents," and "Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks" were changed to "Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office," "Commissioner for Patents," and "Commissioner for Trademarks," respectively, in § 4713 of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA). *See Pub. L. 106-113*, 113 Stat. 1501, 1501A-575 through 1501A-577 (1999).

This final rule also revises the rules of practice (with the exception of 37 CFR part 10) to reflect the current titles of Office officials as provided for in the AIPA.

Discussion of Specific Rules

Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

Part 1: Part 1 is amended to: (1) Change each reference to "Commissioner" to read "Director"; and (2) change each reference to "Commissioner's" to read "Director's".

Section 1.1 is amended to: (1) Change the address for general correspondence to: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 (with Mail Stop designations as appropriate); (2) change the address for patent-related correspondence to: Commissioner for Patents, PO. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450; and (3) add paragraph headings.

Section 1.1(a) is also amended to: (1) Place the mailing address for all Office of Public Records correspondence concerning both patents and trademarks (documents to be recorded by Assignment Services Division and requests for certified or uncertified copies of patent or trademark documents) in a new § 1.1(a)(4); and (2) eliminate the reference to the coupon orders as coupon practice was abolished in November of 2000 (*see Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications*, 65 FR 57023, 57030 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 63, 69 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule)).

Section 1.1(a) is also amended to provide that all correspondence in an application involved in an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and

Interferences (Board) during the period from when an appeal docketing notice is issued until a decision has been rendered by the Board as well as any request for rehearing of a decision by the Board should be mailed to: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. An appeal docketing notice is issued by the Board to notify the applicant that an appeal is ready for docketing at the Board. *See Revised Docketing Procedures for Appeals Arriving at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences*, 1260 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 18 (July 2, 2002). Section 1.1(a) is also amended to provide that notices of appeal, appeal briefs, reply briefs, requests for oral hearing, as well as all other correspondence in an application involved in an appeal to the Board not otherwise provided for should be addressed as set out in § 1.1(a)(1)(i) (*i.e.*, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450). Section 1.1(a) is also amended to include the provisions formerly located in § 1.1(e) concerning patent interference correspondence, namely that except as an administrative patent judge or the Board may otherwise direct, all correspondence relating to patent interferences, or relating to patent applications or patents involved in an interference, should be mailed to: Mail Stop INTERFERENCE, Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Sections 1.1(f) and 1.1(i) are redesignated as §§ 1.1(e) and 1.19(f), respectively. As discussed above, the provisions of § 1.1(e) are now located in § 1.1(a)(1)(iii). Section 1.1(g) was formerly reserved and § 1.1(h) is now deleted. Section 1.1(h) provided that an applicant should use "Box ITU" as part of the address when an applicant or the applicant's representative submits a statement of use under § 2.88, or a request for extension of time to file a statement of use under § 2.89. With this change, a statement of use and a request for an extension of time to file a statement of use will be considered properly filed if addressed to the general address for trademark documents in compliance with § 1.1(a)(2)(i): Commissioner for Trademarks, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513. The Office is eliminating Box ITU because the Office's experience has been that the use of that box is not helpful in sorting mail.

Section 1.6(b) is removed and reserved. The USPS no longer maintains