

practitioners associated with the Customer Number is changed by changing the data associated with the Customer Number (using, for example PTO/SB/124 (2 pages 124A & 124B), Request for Customer Number Data Change). No notice is given to the patent practitioners who are added or removed from the Customer Number when they are added or removed.

As to proposed paragraph (b) of § 1.36, the paragraph is proposed to be revised to state that when the power of attorney for an application is given to a Customer Number, all of the patent practitioners associated with the Customer Number may not be permitted to withdraw if an application with the power of attorney to the patent practitioners associated with the Customer Number has an Office action to which a reply is due and insufficient time remains in a period for reply for applicant to prepare a reply. See MPEP Section 402.06.

Section 3.1: The Office proposes to revise § 3.1 to identify which trademark applications are covered by 37 CFR part 3, and to delete “or a transfer of its entire right, title and interest in a” so that the definition of an assignment includes a transfer of part of the right, title and interest in a registered mark or a mark for which an application to register has been filed. The Office also proposes to revise § 3.1 to add “United States” before “Patent and Trademark Office” in the definition of “Office” to properly reflect the current name of the Office in the rule. See 35 U.S.C. 1(a).

Section 3.12: The Office proposes to add § 3.12 to identify those trademark applications or registrations that are not covered by 37 CFR part 3. In paragraph (a) of § 3.12, with regard to trademark applications or registrations that are not covered by 37 CFR part 3, the documents related to a holder's right to dispose of an international trademark registration are required to be recorded by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization. New paragraph (b) of § 3.12 provides that when the Office is notified by the International Bureau of an assignment or restriction of a holder's right of disposal of an international registration with an extension of protection to the United States, the Office will take note of the assignment or restriction in its records.

Section 3.24: The Office proposes to revise § 3.24 to include two paragraphs, namely, paragraphs (a) and (b).

Proposed new paragraph (a) addresses documents and cover sheets for electronic submissions, and requires all documents to be submitted electronically to be submitted as

digitized images in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF). In addition, when printed to a paper size of 8½ by 11 inches (21.6 by 27.9 cm) (“letter size”) or DIN size A4 (21.0 by 29.7 cm), the document must be legible and a one-inch (2.5 cm) margin must be present on all sides.

Proposed new paragraph (b) addresses documents and cover sheets for paper and facsimile submissions. Section 3.24(b) is proposed to provide that for paper submissions (e.g., documents that are mailed to the Office) the original document may no longer be submitted.

Proposed new paragraph (b) provides that “Either a legible true copy of the original document or a legible extract of the original document” may be submitted for recordation. Paragraph (b) also includes an explanation to explain why original documents should not be submitted for recording: “The Office will not return recorded documents, so original documents must not be submitted for recording.” As explained above, the Office is moving to uniform processing of incoming papers, with incoming papers being scanned upon receipt, electronically routed within the Office, and an appropriate reply being mailed. With this uniform procedure, the Office will not return assignment documents submitted for recordation. As a result, the Office is not permitting the submission of originals of assignment documents, and instead is requiring that a legible true copy or a legible extract of an original document be submitted. The term “an extract of the original document” is being added to reflect the current practice of submitting redacted copies of assignment documents, where part of an assignment discusses matters other than assignment of interests related to a patent or a trademark.

The Office further proposes to revise § 3.24 to provide, in paragraph (b), that documents (copies) submitted for recording must be on sheets of paper having a size of 8½ by 11 inches (21.6 by 27.9 cm) (“letter size”) or DIN size A4 (21.0 by 29.7 cm). That is, “legal-size” (8½ by 14 inch or 21.64 by 33.1 cm) sheets of paper are no longer permissible. If the original assignment document is on “legal size” sheets of paper, the assignment document should be reduced to 8½ by 11-inch or DIN size A4 paper for submission to the Office (e.g., by photocopying it onto letter-size paper). Sheets of paper that are either 8½ by 11 inches (21.6 by 27.9 cm) or DIN size A4 (21.0 by 29.7 cm) are required for scanning purposes.

Section 3.25: The Office proposes to amend § 3.25 to delete paragraph (a)(1) and renumber paragraphs (a)(2) through

(4) as (a)(1) through (3), respectively. Paragraph (a)(1) is being deleted to prohibit applicants from submitting the original assignment document (because applicants should retain the original of the assignment document). The Office also proposes to insert “original” before “document” in paragraph (a)(1), as renumbered, in order to make it clear that only a copy of an original assignment document may be submitted for recording.

The Office further proposes to revise paragraph (c) to add paragraph (1) to state that electronic submissions must be attached as a digitized image in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), to move the existing requirements for paper submissions into paragraph (2), and specify that the document (copy) submitted for recording must have a one-inch margin when printed on 8½ by 11 inch (21.6 by 27.9 cm) or DIN size A4 (21.0 cm by 29.7 cm) paper. Legal-size paper is no longer permitted. See the discussion of this change above for patents (§ 3.24).

Section 3.27: The Office proposes to revise § 3.27 to change “to be recorded” to “submitted for recordation by mail” because documents and cover sheets submitted for recording may be faxed or electronically submitted to the Office and need not be mailed. The proposed language clarifies that only documents submitted by mail need to be addressed as set forth in the rule. The Office also proposes to revise § 3.27 to delete “or with a request under § 3.81”. As explained with respect to § 3.81, when an applicant requests a patent to issue to an assignee, the assignment document should be separately submitted for recordation because inclusion of the assignment document with the request to issue the patent to the assignee slows down the recordation process.

Section 3.31: The Office proposes to revise § 3.31(a)(7) to set forth the requirements for signature of patent and trademark cover sheets filed electronically. These requirements correspond to the requirements set forth in §§ 1.4(d)(1)(iii) and 2.33(d) of this chapter for electronically transmitted trademark filings.

Trademark assignments may be submitted electronically with the Electronic Trademark Assignment System, which is available on the USPTO Internet site. See <http://etas.uspto.gov/>. Patent assignments should soon be able to be similarly electronically submitted. When submitting a copy of a trademark assignment using ETAS, the cover sheet is completed and signed electronically. As with electronic submission of a