

Abandonment Processing

Date: September 14, 2016

This Agreement between the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) and the Patent Office Professional Association (POPA or Union) describes the conditions under which Abandonment actions will be processed.

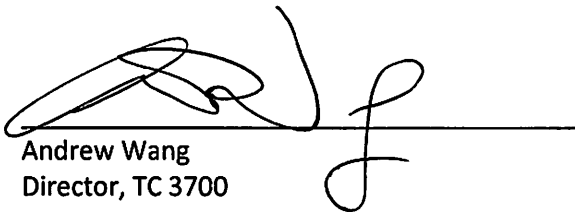
1. Examiners will continue to process abandonments after six months has passed since the date of the last office action or 7 months from the filing of a Notice of Appeal without the filing of an appeal brief.
2. Any abandonments that reach eight months without having been processed by Examiners will be processed by the Office.
3. Examiners will continue to receive credits for all processed abandonments.
4. Notwithstanding item 2 above, abandonments that reach the eighth month status date will not be processed by the Office during the last bi-week of the fiscal year unless requested by the examiner.
5. When an application is revived under 37 CFR 1.137(b), and the time between the mailing date of the last Office action and the date the revived case is forwarded to the examiner by the SPE or the LIE is more than 1 year, the count for reviving the application will not be deducted from the examiner's productivity.
6. Terms of the Partnership Working Group Recommendations New Patent Rule Changes Implementation, December 1, 1997, particularly paragraph IV regarding Revival of Abandoned Applications, remain in full force and effect.

General Reopener

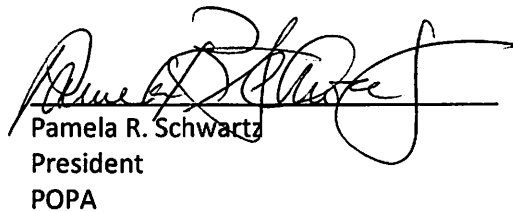
- A. The parties will meet upon request of either party to discuss potential changes to this Abandonment Processing Agreement. Agreed upon changes shall be implemented.
- B. If these discussions fail to resolve changes to the Abandonment Processing Agreement proposed by the Agency, the Agency will provide notice and negotiate to the extent required by law, if requested, pursuant to the parties' mid-term bargaining ground rules set out in the parties' collective bargaining agreement.
- C. If the union raises an issue that is not resolved through the discussions in A., the Union may request midterm bargaining. The Agency will negotiate to the extent required by law and will not assert the "covered by" doctrine referring to this Agreement.

This Agreement shall be effective Pay Period one (1) of Fiscal year 2017, which begins October 1, 2016.

Signatures



Andrew Wang
Director, TC 3700



Pamela R. Schwartz
President
POPA

9/14/2016
Date

9/14/2016
Date