

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent As:** ECOM103@USPTO.GOV  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)  
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

**U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO.** [REDACTED]

**MARK:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**CLICK HERE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:**  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**APPLICANT:** [REDACTED]

**CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET NO :**

[REDACTED]

**CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

[REDACTED]

**OFFICE ACTION**

**STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER**

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW.

**ISSUE/MAILING DATE:** [REDACTED]/2016

The referenced application has been reviewed by the assigned trademark examining attorney. Applicant must respond timely and completely to the issue(s) below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

**SEARCH FOR CONFLICTING MARKS**

The trademark examining attorney has searched the Office's database of registered and pending marks and has found no conflicting marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). TMEP §704.02; see 15 U.S.C. §1052(d).

## DOES NOT SHOW MARK WITH SPECIFIC CLASS(ES) – USE

Registration is refused because the specimen does not show the applied-for mark in use in commerce in connection with any of the goods and/or services specified in International Class(es) [REDACTED] in the application. Trademark Act Sections 1 and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051, 1127; 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); *In re Graystone Consulting Assocs., Inc.*, 115 USPQ2d 2035, 2037-38 (TTAB 2015); *In re Chengdu AOBi Info. Tech. Co.*, 111 USPQ2d 2080, 2081-82 (TTAB 2011); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a), 1301.04(d), (g)(i). Specifically, the specimens show the mark as [REDACTED] while the applied-for mark is [REDACTED]. In this case, the additional wording in the applied for mark, namely, [REDACTED] does not appear on the specimens.

An application based on Trademark Act Section 1(a) must include a specimen showing the applied-for mark in use in commerce for each international class of goods and/or services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. 15 U.S.C. §1051(a)(1); 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a).

**Examples of specimens for goods include tags, labels, instruction manuals, containers, photographs that show the mark on the actual goods or packaging, and displays associated with the actual goods at their point of sale. See TMEP §§904.03 et seq. Webpages may also be specimens for goods when they include a picture or textual description of the goods associated with the mark and the means to order the goods. TMEP §904.03(i).**

Applicant may respond to this refusal by satisfying one of the following for each applicable international class:

- (1) Submit a different specimen (a verified “substitute” specimen) that (a) was in actual use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of an amendment to allege use and (b) shows the mark in actual use in commerce for the goods and/or services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. A “verified substitute specimen” is a specimen that is accompanied by the following statement made in a signed affidavit or supported by a declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20: “The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of the amendment to allege use.” The substitute specimen cannot be accepted without this statement.
- (2) Amend the filing basis to [intent to use under Section 1\(b\)](#), for which no specimen is required. This option will later necessitate additional fee(s) and filing requirements such as providing a specimen.

For an overview of *both* response options referenced above and instructions on how to satisfy either option online using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form, please go to <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/law/specimen.jsp>.

If Applicant chooses to respond, Applicant must respond to the following requirements.

### DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENT

The applicant must insert a disclaimer of [REDACTED] in the application because the wording merely describes the nature of applicant's goods. See 15 U.S.C. §1056(a); TMEP §§1213, 1213.03(a). Please see attached internet evidence.

Specifically, Applicant's [REDACTED] describes Applicant's goods as follows:

[REDACTED]

The Office can require an applicant to disclaim an unregistrable part of a mark consisting of particular wording, symbols, numbers, design elements or combinations thereof. 15 U.S.C. §1056(a). Under Section 2(e) of the Trademark Act, the Office can refuse registration of an entire mark if the entire mark is merely descriptive, deceptively misdescriptive, or primarily geographically descriptive of the goods. 15 U.S.C. §1052(e). Thus, the Office may require an applicant to disclaim a portion of a mark that, when used in connection with the goods or services, is merely descriptive, deceptively misdescriptive, primarily geographically descriptive, or otherwise unregistrable (e.g., generic). TMEP §1213.03(a).

A “disclaimer” is a statement that applicant does not claim exclusive rights to an unregistrable component of a mark. TMEP §1213. A disclaimer does not affect the appearance of the applied-for mark. See TMEP §1213.10.

A disclaimer does not physically remove the disclaimed matter from the mark, but rather is a written statement that applicant does not claim exclusive rights to the disclaimed wording and/or design separate and apart from the mark as shown in the drawing. TMEP §§1213, 1213.10.

The following cases further explain the disclaimer requirement: *Dena Corp. v. Belvedere Int'l Inc.*, 950 F.2d 1555, 21 USPQ2d 1047 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Brown-Forman Corp.*, 81 USPQ2d 1284 (TTAB 2006); *In re Kraft, Inc.*, 218 USPQ 571 (TTAB 1983).

Applicant may submit the following standardized format for a disclaimer:

[REDACTED]

TMEP §1213.08(a)(i); see *In re Owatonna Tool Co.*, 231 USPQ 493 (Comm'r Pats. 1983).

**RESPONSE**

If applicant has questions regarding this Office action, please telephone or e-mail the assigned trademark examining attorney. All relevant e-mail communications will be placed in the official application record; however, an e-mail communication will not be accepted as a response to this Office action and will not extend the deadline for filing a proper response. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(c), 2.191; TMEP §§304.01-.02, 709.04-.05. Further, although the trademark examining attorney may provide additional explanation pertaining to the refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) in this Office action, the trademark examining attorney may not provide legal advice or statements about applicant's rights. See TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

**TEAS PLUS OR TEAS REDUCED FEE (TEAS RF) APPLICANTS – TO MAINTAIN LOWER FEE, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET, INCLUDING SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS ONLINE:** Applicants who filed their application online using the lower-fee TEAS Plus or TEAS RF application form must (1) file certain documents online using TEAS, including responses to Office actions (see TMEP §§819.02(b), 820.02(b) for a complete list of these documents); (2) maintain a valid e-mail correspondence address; and (3) agree to receive correspondence from the USPTO by e-mail throughout the prosecution of the application. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.22(b), 2.23(b); TMEP §§819, 820. TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants who do not meet these requirements must submit an additional processing fee of \$50 per international class of goods and/or services. 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(v), 2.22(c), 2.23(c); TMEP §§819.04, 820.04. However, in certain situations, TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants may respond to an Office action by authorizing an examiner's amendment by telephone without incurring this additional fee.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Attorney  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:** Go to [http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response\\_forms.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp). Please wait 48-72 hours from the issue/ mailing date before using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail [TEAS@uspto.gov](mailto:TEAS@uspto.gov). For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

**All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.**

**WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE:** It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

**PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION:** To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at [TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov](mailto:TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov) or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

**TO UPDATE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Use the TEAS form at <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/correspondence.jsp>.