111(a) is the inventor or joint inventors set forth in the application data sheet in accordance with §1.76 filed before or concurrently with the inventor’s oath or declaration. If an application data sheet is not filed before or concurrently with the inventor’s oath or declaration, the inventorship is the inventor or joint inventors set forth in the inventor’s oath or declaration, except as provided for in §§1.53(d)(4) and 1.63(d). Once an application data sheet or the inventor’s oath or declaration is filed in a nonprovisional application, any correction of inventorship must be pursuant to §1.48. If neither an application data sheet nor the inventor’s oath or declaration is filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is the inventor or joint inventors set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to §1.53(b), unless the applicant files a paper, including the processing fee set forth in §1.17(1), supplying the name or names of the inventor or joint inventors.

§ 1.42 Applicant for patent.

(a) The word “applicant” when used in this title refers to the inventor or all of the joint inventors, or to the person applying for a patent as provided in §§1.43, 1.45, or 1.46.

(b) If a person is applying for a patent as provided in §1.46, the word “applicant” refers to the assignee, the person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or the person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter, who is applying for a patent under §1.46 and not the inventor.

(c) If fewer than all joint inventors are applying for a patent as provided in §1.45, the phrase “the applicant” means the joint inventors who are applying for the patent without the omitted inventor(s).

(d) Any person having authority may deliver an application and fees to the Office on behalf of the applicant. However, an oath or declaration, or substitute statement in lieu of an oath or declaration, may be executed only in accordance with §1.63, and amendments and other papers must be signed in accordance with §1.33(b).

(e) The Office may require additional information where there is a question concerning ownership or interest in an application, and a showing may be required from the person filing the application that the filing was authorized where such authorization comes into question.

[77 FR 48815, Aug. 14, 2012]