

Title: Invention Promoters/Promotion Firms Complaints.

Form Number(s): PTO/SB/2048.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-0044.

Type of Request: Revision of a collection previously approved under an emergency clearance.

Burden: 50 hours annually.

Number of Respondents: 200 responses per year. The PTO expects to receive 100 complaints concerning invention promoters/promotion firms and 100 responses to such complaints.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it takes an average of 15 minutes (.25 hours) to gather the information, complete the complaint, and submit it to the USPTO. The USPTO estimates that it will take an invention promoter an average of 15 minutes (.25 hours) to gather the information, complete the response, and submit it to the USPTO.

Needs and Uses: The Inventors' Rights Act of 1999 requires the USPTO to publish complaints filed by independent inventors against invention promoters/promotion firms and publish any replies to such complaints. The Inventors' Rights Act requires the USPTO to publish these complaints and replies, but it does not require the USPTO to enforce the Act, to investigate the complaints, or to participate in any legal proceedings against the invention promoters/promotion firms. The USPTO has developed a form that complainants may choose to use to submit their complaints against an invention promoter/promotion firm to the USPTO. Use of this form, PTO/SB/2048 Complaint Regarding Invention Promoter, is not mandatory; however, its use will ensure that all of the necessary information is provided, which in turn enables the USPTO to make the complaint publicly available. At this time, there is no associated form for responses to the complaints. In addition, this information collection enables the invention promoters/promotion firms to respond to such complaints. The USPTO uses the complaint form to ensure that all of the necessary information is provided so that the complaints can be made publicly available. The USPTO then forwards the complaints to the invention promoter/promotion firm and makes sure that any responses to these complaints are also made publicly available.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and farms.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Thao P. Nguyen, Acting Records Officer, Office of Data Management, Data Administration Division, (703) 308-7397, USPTO, Suite 310, 2231 Crystal Drive, Washington, DC 20231.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before August 7, 2000, to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: June 29, 2000.

Thao P. Nguyen,

Acting Records Officer, USPTO, Office of Data Management, Data Administration Division.

[FR Doc. 00-17029 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

RIN 0651-ABXX

Notice of Intellectual Property Symposium of the Americas: Protecting Intellectual Property in the Digital Age

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is announcing that it will hold a two-day symposium on the enforcement of intellectual property in the Western Hemisphere. The symposium is expected to provide an opportunity for high-ranking government intellectual property officials and members of the business and intellectual property communities in the Western Hemisphere to discuss and formulate an agenda for cooperation in the critical area of intellectual property enforcement. Particular attention during the symposium will be paid to the Internet, Optical Media Piracy, and Business Software and Business Methods Patent enforcement issues, and to developing a basis for closer Hemispheric coordination in the enforcement of intellectual property rights generally.

DATES: The symposium will be held on Monday, September 11, 2000, and Tuesday, September 12, 2000, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at approximately 5:30 p.m. each day. Due

to security concerns, attendance at the symposium will be limited to 150 people. Requests to attend the symposium must be made in writing no later than July 31, 2000, and must comply with the requirements set forth in this notice. Because seating is limited, only one request to participate per firm, agency or organization will be granted. For purposes of determining eligibility, affiliates and subsidiaries in different countries will be considered separate organizations.

ADDRESSES: The symposium will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Directions to the symposium location will be available inside the lobby of the Sheraton Crystal City.

Requests to attend the symposium should be made to Doris Long by electronic mail to soa2k@uspto.gov, by facsimile transmission marked to the attention of Doris Long at (877) 786-4220, or by mail marked to the attention of Doris Long and addressed to the Office of Legislative and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231. Symposium attendees will be accepted as their requests are received on a first-come, first-serve basis according to the time and date of receipt of each request, and subject to the restrictions that: (1) Only written requests will be accepted; (2) only one request (one person) per company, firm, agency or organization will be accepted (for purposes of determining eligibility, affiliates and subsidiaries in different countries will be considered separate organizations); (3) only requests which contain the information set forth below under "Further Registration Information" will be accepted; and (4) only requests received on or before July 31, 2000, will be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Long by telephone at (877) 786-4220; by electronic mail to soa2k@uspto.gov; by fax at (877) 786-4220; or by mail marked to her attention and addressed to the Office of Legislative and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

Over the past several decades, the global economy has undergone a fundamental change, where the principal engine of economic growth and job creation is not based on raw natural resources, but on the use of knowledge, ideas and innovation. From the Internet and E-commerce, to

computer software and technology, countries increasingly rely on knowledge-based products and services to fuel their economic and technological growth. Intellectual property protection forms an integral part of any knowledge-based economy, since intellectual property laws traditionally serve as a source of protection for knowledge, ideas and innovation. At the same time, the rights of intellectual property owners are being increasingly threatened by the widespread use of the Internet and other digital technologies in facilitating global piracy.

As of January 1, 2000, most countries in the Western Hemisphere are obligated to have domestic laws and enforcement mechanisms that comply with the international standards set forth under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In order to assure continuing growth for the countries of the Western Hemisphere, enforcement mechanisms must be designed to take into account the needs and issues of a knowledge-based economy and be built on traditional methodologies for enforcement of intellectual property rights against infringing physical goods and services. At the same time such mechanisms must be designed to combat the increasing use of the Internet and other digital technologies in the development and distribution of pirated and counterfeit goods.

In light of the Hemispheric importance of effective intellectual property enforcement programs capable of dealing with the challenges posed by digital piracy, this symposium will feature structured dialogues and round-table discussions regarding cutting edge intellectual property enforcement policy issues. These discussions will occur between high-level government officials from every country in the Western Hemisphere with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations.

The goals of the symposium are:

A. To assist government officials from the Western Hemisphere in developing effective enforcement systems based on an interdisciplinary approach in which civil, criminal, administrative, and border (customs) measures work together and separately to aid in protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights in the Digital Age.

B. To strengthen regional cooperation for the improvement of the enforcement of intellectual property rights in order to meet international treaty obligations, including those under TRIPS.

C. To provide Western Hemisphere countries with a detailed review of the emerging intellectual property treaty regimes of the Digital Age. Included

among the topics would be the WIPO Copyright Treaty, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and the enforcement requirements of TRIPS and NAFTA.

D. To discuss ways to generally improve the enforcement of intellectual property rights throughout the Hemisphere.

2. Draft Agenda

A draft agenda for the symposium is set forth below:

Intellectual Property Symposium of The Americas: Protecting Intellectual Property in The Digital Age

Monday, September 11

Plenary Round Table I

E-Commerce and Other Strategies For Turning Intellectual Property Protection into Investment Opportunities.

Break Out Round Table A

Intellectual Property Rights and the Internet: Digital Distribution and the Technological Threat to Intellectual Property.

Break Out Round Table B

Establishing a Workable Enforcement System under TRIPS: Practical Problems and Potential Solutions.

Break Out Round Table C

Adapting "Hard" Goods Enforcement Techniques to Cyberspace.

Break Out Round Table D

Legal and Technological Obstacles to Protecting Intellectual Property in the Digital Age: Practical Problems and Realistic Solution.

Break Out Round Table E

Prevention v. Cure: Creating Effective Educational and Public Awareness Enforcement Campaigns.

Break Out Round Table F

Creating an Effective Enforcement Program With Limited Resources: Some Models for Facilitating Information and Resource Sharing.

Break Out Round Table G

Resolving Domain Name Problems in Cyberspace.

Break Out Round Table H

Copyright and the WIPO Treaties: Protecting Content on the Internet.

Tuesday, September 12

Plenary Round Table II

Technology Transfers, Business Method Patents and the Pitfalls of Licensing.

Break Out Round Table J

Creating an Effective Enforcement Program for New Technologies: Protecting Trade Secrets and Technology Patents.

Break Out Round Table K

Trademark Counterfeiting and the Net: Enforcing Rights on the Internet Frontier.

Plenary Round Table III

Future Issues in Intellectual Property Enforcement: Technology Patents and Confidential Information.

Plenary Round Table IV

An Action Plan for the Future: A Dialogue Among the Participants on Future Problems and Solutions.

3. Further Registration Information

This symposium, and all program-related materials, are offered free of charge. As noted above, due to security concerns, admission to the symposium will be limited to 150 participants who are pre-registered and whose registration has been accepted in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Requests to attend the symposium should be made to Doris Long by electronic mail to soa2k@uspto.gov, by facsimile transmission marked to the attention of Doris Long at (877) 786-4220, or by mail marked to the attention of Doris Long and addressed to the Office of Legislative and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231.

2. All requests to attend must be in writing and must contain the following information:

- A. Name;
- B. Company/ Firm/Agency or Organization Affiliation (if any);
- C. Mailing Address;
- D. Facsimile, or Email Address where notification of acceptance of registration can be sent.

3. Symposium attendees will be accepted as their requests are received on a first-come, first-serve basis according to the time and date of receipt of each request. To be considered "received," a request to attend must contain all of the information required in this section; and must be received on or before the July 3, 2000, application deadline.

4. Only one request (one person) per company, firm, agency or organization will be accepted. For purposes of determining eligibility, affiliates and subsidiaries in different countries will be considered separate organizations.

5. It would be helpful for purposes of determining space needs, but is not required, if the applicant would also indicate which Break Out sessions he or she intends to attend. For convenience, a registration form has been placed on the USPTO web-site at www.uspto.gov.

Dated: June 29, 2000.

Q. Todd Dickinson,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 00-17030 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Notice of Statement of Commission Policy Regarding the Listing of New Futures and Option Contracts by Foreign Boards of Trade That Have Received Staff No-Action Relief To Place Electronic Trading Devices in the United States

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") has issued a Statement of Policy in which it expresses the view that foreign boards of trade that have placed automated trading systems in the U.S. pursuant to a Commission staff no-action letter shall be permitted to list certain additional futures and option contracts without obtaining supplemental no-action relief, subject to specified filing and certification requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Statement of Policy is effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jocelyn B. Brone, Attorney-Advisor, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Center, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. Telephone: (202) 418-5450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 2, 1999, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") issued an order which, among other things, withdrew proposed rules that would have governed automated access to foreign boards of trade ("June 2 Order").¹ The June 2 Order also instructed the Commission staff to "begin immediately processing no-action requests from foreign boards of trade seeking to place trading terminals

in the United States, and to issue responses where appropriate, pursuant to the general guidelines included in the Eurex (DTB) no-action process,² or other guidelines established by the Commission. * * *"³ In accordance with these instructions, Commission staff has issued seven no-action letters that permit foreign boards of trade to place in the U.S. electronic trading devices that provide access to those boards of trade, without obtaining contract market designation ("Foreign Trading System No-Action Letters").⁴ The relief is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in each no-action letter and applies exclusively to the futures and option contracts delineated therein. Foreign boards of trade that wish to list additional futures and option contracts for trading through their U.S.-located trading systems are required to request and receive supplemental no-action relief

² In February 1996, Commission staff issued no-action relief to Deutsche Termibourse ("DTB"), an automated international futures and options exchange headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, that permitted DTB, subject to certain terms and conditions, to place computer terminals in the U.S. offices of its members for principal trading. See CFTC Interpretative Letter No. 96-28 (1996-1997 Transfer Binder) Comm. Fut. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 26,669 (Feb. 20, 1996.) In June 1998, DTB changed its name to Eurex Deutschland.

³ Access to Automated Boards of Trade, 64 FR 32829 (June 18, 1999).

⁴ Commission staff has issued Foreign Trading System No-Action Letters to Eurex Deutschland; the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd.; the International Petroleum Exchange of London Limited; LIFFE Administration and Management ("LIFFE"); Parisbourse^{SBF} SA; the Singapore Exchange Ltd. (formerly known as the Singapore International Monetary Exchange); and, collectively, the Sydney Futures Exchange Limited and the New Zealand Futures and Options Exchange Limited. The text of these letters may be accessed through the Commission's website, located at www.cftc.gov. See Letter from I. Michael Greenberger, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Edward J. Rosen, Esq., Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton (Aug. 10, 1999); Letter from John C. Lawton, Acting Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Philip McBride Johnson, Esq., Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (June 9, 2000); Letter from John C. Lawton, Acting Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Arthur W. Han, Esq., Katten Muchin & Zavis (Nov. 12, 1999); Letter from I. Michael Greenberger, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Arthur W. Hahn, Esq., Katten Muchin & Zavis (July 23, 1999); Letter from I. Michael Greenberger, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Catherine Langlais, Senior Vice President, Parisbourse^{SBF} SA (Aug. 10, 1999); Letter from John C. Lawton, Acting Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission to Jane Kang Thorpe, Esq., Brown & Wood LLP (Dec. 17, 1999); Letter from I. Michael Greenberger, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Philip McBride Johnson, Esq., Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (Aug. 10, 1999).

("Supplemental Relief") from Commission staff prior to doing so. To date, Commission staff has granted two requests for Supplemental Relief.⁵

Almost one year has passed since the first Foreign Trading System No-Action Letter was issued.⁶ In that time, Commission staff has not learned of any significant problems or concerns regarding the operation of U.S.-located foreign trading systems nor has Commission staff learned that foreign boards of trade are listing impermissible products through such systems. Also within the past year, the Commission has promulgated Rule 5.3 which generally permits domestic boards of trade to list new futures and option contracts for trading without acquiring Commission approval of such contracts or their respective terms and conditions.⁷ In light of Commission staff's successful experience with the relief provided by the Foreign Trading System No-Action Letters and in consideration of the relief provided to domestic boards of trade via Rule 5.3, the Commission believes that it is appropriate to permit foreign boards of trade that are operating electronic trading devices in the U.S. pursuant to Commission staff no-action relief to be permitted to list certain new futures and option contracts for trading through those devices, without requiring additional regulatory action. Accordingly, it has issued the following Statement of Policy setting forth this view.

⁵ Commission staff has granted two separate requests from LIFFE to list additional futures and option contracts through LIFFE CONNECT™, its automated trading and order matching system. See Letter from John C. Lawton, Acting Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Arthur W. Han, Esq., Katten Muchin & Zavis (Dec. 10, 1999) and Letter from John C. Lawton, Acting Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Arthur W. Han, Esq., Katten Muchin & Zavis (Mar. 14, 2000).

⁶ The first Foreign Trading System No-Action Letter was issued to LIFFE on July 23, 1999. See Letter from I. Michael Greenberger, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to Arthur W. Han, Esq., Katten Muchin & Zavis (July 23, 1999).

⁷ Rule 5.3 allows a domestic board of trade that has been designated as a contract market in at least one non-dormant commodity to list new futures and option contracts for trading upon satisfaction of specified filing and certification requirements. A domestic board of trade is permitted, but not required, to list new contracts through this filing and certification procedure in lieu of compliance with either the regular or fast-track procedure for contract market designation. Revised Procedures for Listing New Contracts, 64 FR 66373 (Nov. 26, 1999).

¹ Access to Automated Boards of Trade, 64 FR 32829 (June 18, 1999).