The LBC plant (105 employees/9.7 acres) is located at 1200 South Etrawa Avenue in Ontario, California. The facility is used to manufacture household bedding products, including mattress pads and pillows (up to 10 million pillows and 2 million mattress pads annually) for the U.S. market and export. LBC is requesting authority to utilize foreign-origin wide roll (80 inches and wider), high thread count (180 threads per inch and higher) cotton, polyester, and synthetic woven fabric and pillow shells (classified under HTSUS Headings 5208, 5210, 5512, 5513, and 6307; duty rate range: 7 14.9%) to be cut, sewn, quilted and assembled into the bedding products noted above under FTZ procedures. The company has also submitted an application to the Board for subzone status for its Louisville, Kentucky, facilities (Docket 28–2010, 75 FR 24572, 5–5–2010).

FTZ procedures could exempt LBC from customs duty payments on the foreign–origin fabrics and pillow shells used in export production. On its shipments for the domestic market, the finished household bedding products would be entered for consumption from the proposed subzone classified under HTSUS 9404.90, and LBC is seeking authority to elect the various finished bedding product duty rates (4.4 - 7.3%, ad valorem) for the foreign–origin fabric and pillow shell material inputs. Domestic–status fibers would be used to fill the foreign pillow shells. The application indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures would help improve the facility’s international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board’s regulations, Pierre Duy of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to evaluate and analyze the facts and information presented in the application and case record and to report findings and recommendations to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board’s Executive Secretary at the following address: Office of the Executive Secretary, Room 2111, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230–0002. The closing period for receipt of comments is July 20, 2010. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to August 4, 2010.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Foreign–Trade Zones Board’s Executive Secretary at the address listed above and in the “Reading Room” section of the Board’s website, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz. For further information, contact Pierre Duy at Pierre.Duy@trade.gov or (202) 482–1378.


Andrew McGilvray,
Executive Secretary.

Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 98 / Friday, May 21, 2010 / Notices

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2010–0042]

Elimination of Classification Requirement in the Green Technology Pilot Program


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) implemented the Green Technology Pilot Program on December 8, 2009, which permits patent applications pertaining to environmental quality, energy conservation, development of renewable energy resources, and greenhouse gas emission reduction to be advanced out of turn for examination and reviewed earlier (accorded special status). The program is designed to promote the development of green technologies. However, the pilot program was limited to only applications classified in a number of U.S. classifications to assist the USPTO to balance the workload and gauge resources needed for the program. The USPTO has determined that the classification requirement is unnecessary because the workload has been balanced with other mechanism, and this requirement was causing the denial of petitions for applications that are drawn to green technologies. The USPTO is hereby eliminating the classification requirement for any petitions that are decided on or after the publication date of this notice. This will permit more applications to qualify for the program, thereby allowing more inventions related to green technologies to be advanced out of turn for examination and reviewed earlier.

DATES: Effective Date: This change to the Green Technology Pilot Program is effective May 21, 2010.

Duration: The Green Technology Pilot Program will run for twelve months from December 8, 2009, and the USPTO will only accept the first 3,000 grantable petitions to make special under the Green Technology Pilot Program in new applications filed before December 8, 2009. Accordingly, if less than 3,000 grantable petitions are received, the pilot program will end on December 8, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pinchus M. Laufer and Joni Y. Chang, Senior Legal Advisors, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at 571–272–7726 or 571–272–7720; by facsimile transmission to 571–273–7726, marked to the attention of Pinchus M. Laufer; or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO published a notice for the implementation of the Green Technology Pilot Program on December 8, 2009. See Pilot Program for Green Technologies Including Greenhouse Gas...
The Green Technology Notice indicated that an applicant may have an application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination, if the application pertained to green technologies including greenhouse gas reduction (applications pertaining to environmental quality), energy conservation, development of renewable energy resources or greenhouse gas emission reduction and met other requirements specified in the Green Technology Notice. The pilot program was designed to promote the development of green technologies. The USPTO received positive feedback and suggestions from the stakeholders regarding the pilot program.

The Green Technology Notice required inter alia that the application be classified in one of the U.S. classifications listed in the Green Technology Notice to be accorded special status under the Green Technology Pilot Program. Limiting the pilot program to only applications classified in these U.S. classifications assisted the USPTO to balance the workload and gauge resources needed for the program. The USPTO has determined that the classification requirement in the Green Technology Notice is unnecessary because the workload has been balanced with other mechanisms, and this requirement was causing the denial of petitions for applications that are drawn to green technologies. Therefore, the USPTO is hereby eliminating the classification requirement for any petitions that are decided on or after the publication date of this notice. This will permit more applications to qualify for the pilot program, thereby allowing more inventions related to green technologies to be advanced out of turn for examination and reviewed earlier. Applicants whose petitions were dismissed or denied solely on the basis that their applications did not meet the classification requirement may file a renewed petition. If the renewed petition is filed within one month of the publication date of this notice, it will be given priority as of the date applicant filed the initial petition.

To participate in the pilot program, applicant must file a petition to make special status (accorded special status) for examination, if the application pertained to green technologies including greenhouse gas reduction (applications pertaining to environmental quality), energy conservation, development of renewable energy resources or greenhouse gas emission reduction and met other requirements specified in the Green Technology Notice. For example, to satisfy the eligibility requirements, the petition must contain the following statements. The petition must include a statement providing the basis for the special status (e.g., for an application pertaining to environmental quality, the petition must state that special status is sought because the invention materially enhances the quality of the environment by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining natural elements). The petition must also include a statement explaining how the materiality standard is met, unless (1) the application clearly discloses that the claimed invention materially enhances the quality of the environment by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of one of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, or (2) the application disclosure is clear on its face that the claimed invention materially contributes to (a) development of renewable energy or energy conservation, or (b) greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Dated: May 12, 2010.

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

[FR Doc. 2010–12328 Filed 5–20–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Executive Green ICT & Energy Efficiency Trade Mission to Mexico City, Mexico

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

Mission Description

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, and U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service are organizing an Executive Green ICT & Energy Efficiency Trade Mission to Mexico City from September 27–29, 2010. This Executive led mission will focus on assisting U.S. providers of “Green Information & Communication Technology (ICT)” solutions, as well as energy efficiency technologies to enter or increase their presence in various sectors of the Mexican market. This will include data centers, telecommunications, utilities, and construction. Green ICTs—or smart technologies—provide monitoring, supervision and automation capabilities to reach energy efficiency in the mentioned industries, such as smart grids and smart buildings. The mission will support U.S. delegates to gain market insight, local private and public contacts, and identify potential business opportunities and partners. In addition to the welcome reception and Matchmaking Services, a 1-day Green ICT & Energy Efficiency conference will take place at the World Trade Center in Mexico City. Relevant issues on energy efficiency in data centers, smart grids, and green buildings will be discussed. Mission delegates will have an opportunity to exhibit outside of the conference hall during this event. Furthermore, this mission will take place during the same days as The Green Expo at the World Trade Center in Mexico City. As a separate activity and independent of the mission, delegates will be granted a discount by EJ Krause, organizer of The Green Expo, to exhibit at the show in the USA Pavilion.

Commercial Setting

On August 10, 2009 during the North American Leaders Summit, Presidents Obama and Calderón committed their two countries to work together on environmental cooperation, sustainable development, and clean energy research, development, and deployment issues.

President Felipe Calderon in his 2007 National Strategy on Climate Change recognized the importance and need for environmentally friendly policies and solutions within Mexico and set a target of reducing 107 million tons of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2014 in the energy sector alone. Mexico currently has several green friendly projects funded by the World Bank, including wind technologies, waste management, renewable energy development projects, modernization of the water and sanitation sectors, and a hybrid solar thermal power plant. With a demonstrated interest in expanding environmentally friendly projects and policies, Mexico provides a growing market for green technologies.

The Information and Communications Technology industry (ICT), which includes telecom service operators (fixed, wireless, cable, Internet, etc.) as well as IT service and management firms, integrators, software developers, and equipment manufacturers, have a fundamental role in reducing the negative environmental impact of emissions.

ICT has increased productivity and competitiveness, and supported economic growth around the world. Today, ICT is an important supporter of a sustainable environment becoming an enabler of energy efficiencies in multiple industrial sectors, particularly...