

**Closing of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
on Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

Due to the official closing of federal government offices in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area on Tuesday, December 24, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) considers that date a “Federal holiday within the District of Columbia” under 35 U.S.C. 21 and 37 CFR 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.2(d), 2.195, and 2.196. Since Wednesday, December 25, was also a holiday, any action or fee due on Tuesday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 25, will be deemed as timely for the purposes of 15 U.S.C. 1051(d), 1058, 1059, 1062(b), 1063, 1064, 1126(d), 1141g, and 1141k, or 35 U.S.C. 119, 120, 133, and 151, if the action was taken or the fee was paid no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Thursday, December 26, which was the next business day the USPTO was open (37 CFR 1.7(a) and 2.196).

An actual filing date of Tuesday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 25, was also available under existing procedures. Specifically, 37 CFR 1.6(a)(2), 2.195(b), and 2.198 provide that any correspondence properly deposited in the Priority Mail Express<sup>®</sup> service of the United States Postal Service (USPS), in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10 or 2.198, will be deemed filed on the date of deposit (as shown by the “date accepted” on the mailing label) with the USPS. Thus, any correspondence properly deposited in the Priority Mail Express<sup>®</sup> service of the USPS on Tuesday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 25, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10 or 2.198, will be deemed filed on its respective date of deposit (as shown by a “date accepted” of Tuesday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 25, on the mailing label). See the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 513 and the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMEP) § 305.03. For correspondence being mailed or transmitted with a certificate of mailing or transmission in accordance with 37 CFR 1.8 and 2.197, see MPEP § 512 and TMEP § 305.02, respectively.

That said, in general, trademark customers may not submit any trademark filings through the USPS. With limited exceptions, all trademark correspondence must be submitted through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). 37 CFR 2.23(a). Additionally, in general, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) customers may not submit any TTAB filings through the USPS. With limited exceptions, all TTAB correspondence must be submitted through the Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals (ESTTA). See Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP) § 110. As for the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), in general, customers may not submit documents in connection with the inter partes disputes established under the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) through the USPS. Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the PTAB, all AIA documents must be submitted through the Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System. See 37 CFR 42.6(b).

As for patent- and trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4) and 2.195(a), those papers will be deemed filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Thus, any patent- or trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO on Tuesday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 25, will be deemed filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Patent correspondence successfully received by the USPTO through the USPTO patent electronic filing system (Patent Center) and filed in compliance with the Legal Framework for Patent Electronic System will receive the date indicated on the Acknowledgement Receipt. See, e.g., MPEP § 502.05. Trademark and TTAB filings properly filed through TEAS, the Trademark Electronic Application System International (TEASi), and ESTTA will receive the date indicated in the email confirmation sent at the time of a successful filing. See TMEP § 301 and TBMP § 110.09 regarding electronic filing.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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