

they have been entered, the proposed amendments will not be effective until the reexamination certificate is issued.

(5) The form of amendments other than to the patent drawings must be in accordance with the following requirements. All amendments must be in the English language and must be legibly written either by a typewriter or mechanical printer in at least 11 point type in permanent dark ink or its equivalent in portrait orientation on flexible, strong, smooth, non-shiny, durable, white paper. All amendments must be presented in a form having sufficient clarity and contrast between the paper and the writing thereon to permit the direct reproduction of readily legible copies in any number by use of photographic, electrostatic, photo-offset, and microfilming processes and electronic reproduction by use of digital imaging or optical character recognition. If the amendments are not of the required quality, substitute typewritten or mechanically printed papers of suitable quality will be required. The papers, including the drawings, must have each page plainly written on only one side of a sheet of paper. The sheets of paper must be the same size and either 21.0 cm. by 29.7 cm. (DIN size A4) or 21.6 cm. by 27.9 cm. (8½ by 11 inches). Each sheet must include a top margin of at least 2.0 cm. (¾ inch), a left side margin of at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a right side margin of at least 2.0 cm. (¾ inch), and a bottom margin of at least 2.0 cm. (¾ inch), and no holes should be made in the sheets as submitted. The lines must be double spaced, or one and one-half spaced. The pages must be numbered consecutively, starting with 1, the numbers being centrally located, preferably below the text, or above the text.

(6) *Drawings.* (i) The original patent drawing sheets may not be altered. Any proposed change to the patent drawings must be by way of a new sheet of drawings with the amended figures identified as "amended" and with added figures identified as "new" for each sheet change submitted in compliance with § 1.84.

(ii) Where a change to the drawings is desired, a sketch in permanent ink showing proposed changes in red, to become part of the record, must be filed

for approval by the examiner and should be in a separate paper.

(7) The disclosure must be amended, when required by the Office, to correct inaccuracies of description and definition and to secure substantial correspondence between the claims, the remainder of the specification, and the drawings.

(8) All amendments to the patent must be made relative to the patent specification, including the claims, and drawings, which is in effect as of the date of filing of the request for reexamination.

[46 FR 29185, May 29, 1981, as amended at 62 FR 53200, Oct. 10, 1997]

§ 1.535 Reply by requester.

A reply to the patent owner's statement under § 1.530 may be filed by the reexamination requester within two months from the date of service of the patent owner's statement. Any reply by the requester must be served upon the patent owner in accordance with § 1.248. If the patent owner does not file a statement under § 1.530, no reply or other submission from the reexamination requester will be considered.

§ 1.540 Consideration of responses.

The failure to timely file or serve the documents set forth in § 1.530 or in § 1.535 may result in their being refused consideration. No submissions other than the statement pursuant to § 1.530 and the reply by the requester pursuant to § 1.535 will be considered prior to examination.

§ 1.550 Conduct of reexamination proceedings.

(a) All reexamination proceedings, including any appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, will be conducted with special dispatch within the Office. After issuance of the reexamination order and expiration of the time for submitting any responses thereto, the examination will be conducted in accordance with §§ 1.104, 1.110 through 1.113 and 1.116, and will result in the issuance of a reexamination certificate under § 1.570.

(b) The patent owner will be given at least thirty days to respond to any Office action. Such response may include further statements in response to any