

Subpart D—Due Diligence Petitions

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AUTHORITY: 35 U.S.C. 156; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(m).

SOURCE: 58 FR 11369, Feb. 25, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 124.1 Scope.

(a) This part sets forth procedures and requirements for APHIS review of applications for the extension of the term of certain patents for veterinary biological products pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 156—Extension of patent term. Responsibilities of APHIS include:

- (1) Assisting PTO in determining eligibility for patent term restoration;
- (2) Determining the length of a product's regulatory review period;
- (3) If petitioned, reviewing and ruling on due diligence challenges to APHIS's regulatory review period determinations; and
- (4) Conducting hearings to review initial APHIS findings on due diligence challenges.

(b) The regulations in this part are designed to be used in conjunction with regulations issued by PTO concerning patent term extension which may be found at 37 CFR 1.710 through 1.791.

[58 FR 11369, Feb. 25, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 43045, Aug. 9, 1999]

§ 124.2 Definitions.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The agency in the Department of Agriculture responsible for licensing veterinary biological products under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

Applicant. Any person who submits an application or an amendment or supplement to an application under 35 U.S.C. 156 seeking extension of the term of a patent.

Due diligence petition. A petition submitted under § 124.30 of this part.

Informal hearing. A hearing which is not subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 554, 556, and 557 and which is conducted as provided in 21 U.S.C. 321(y).

License applicant. Any person who, in accordance with part 102 of this chapter, submits an application to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a U.S. Veterinary Biological Product License.

Patent. A patent issued by the Patent and Trademark Office of the United States Department of Commerce.

Person. Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, educational institution, State or local government agency, or other organized group of any of the foregoing, or any agent, officer, or employee of any thereof.

PTO. The Patent and Trademark Office of the United States Department of Commerce.

Subpart B—Eligibility Assistance

§ 124.10 APHIS liaison with PTO.

Upon receipt of a copy of an application for extension of the term of a veterinary biologic patent from PTO, APHIS will assist PTO in determining whether a patent related to a biological product is eligible for patent term extension by:

(a)(1) Verifying whether the product was subject to a regulatory review period before its commercial marketing or use;

(2) Determining whether the permission for commercial marketing or use of the product after the regulatory review period was the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product under the provision of law under which such regulatory review period occurred, and, if so, whether it was the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the veterinary biological product for administration to a food-producing animal;

(3) Ascertaining whether the patent term restoration application was submitted within 60 days after the product was approved for marketing or use; and

(4) Providing such other information as may be necessary and relevant to