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**APR 30 2007**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Lin Zhen-Man :  
Application No. 10/469,663 : **ON PETITION**  
Filed: August 13, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. :

This is responsive to the communication filed November 3, 2006. The communication will be treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 to withdraw the holding of abandonment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

The record reflects that a non-final Office action was mailed on September 30, 2005, allowing a shortened statutory period for reply of three months from its mailing date. Extensions of the time set for reply were available pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). An amendment was filed on January 10, 2006, but was not accompanied by a request for an extension of time within the first month, which would have been necessary in order for the amendment to be considered timely<sup>1</sup>. The application became abandoned on December 31, 2005. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on September 21, 2006. The instant petition was filed on November 3, 2006. Petitioner should note that the undersigned found the petition to be convoluted. It is believed that petitioner is arguing that the amendment filed January 10, 2006, was timely.

Section 711.03 of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* provides guidance where, as in this case, petitioner is arguing that a timely response to the Office action was mailed and provides, in pertinent part, that:

37 CFR 1.10(c) through 1.10(e) and 1.10(g) set forth procedures for petitioning the Director of the USPTO to accord a filing date to correspondence as of the date of deposit of the correspondence as "Express Mail." A petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment relying upon a timely reply placed in "Express Mail" must include an appropriate petition under 37 CFR 1.10(c), (d), \* (e), or (g) (see MPEP § 513). When a paper is shown to have been mailed to the Office using the "Express Mail" procedures, the paper must be entered in PALM with the "Express Mail" date.

Similarly, applicants may establish that a reply was filed with a postcard receipt that properly identifies the reply and provides *prima facie* evidence that the reply was timely filed. See MPEP § 503. For example, if the

<sup>1</sup> The request for an extension of time within the first month filed March 23, 2006, is noted but is not accepted because the request was made outside the maximum six-month statutory period for reply to the non-final Office action. Additionally, the credit card provided did not sufficient balance to charge the fee for the extension of time.

application has been held abandoned for failure to file a reply to a first Office action, and applicant has a postcard receipt showing that an amendment was timely filed in response to the Office action, then the holding of abandonment should be withdrawn upon the filing of a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment. When the reply is shown to have been timely filed based on a postcard receipt, the reply must be entered into PALM using the date of receipt of the reply as shown on the post card receipt.

Where a certificate of mailing under 37 CFR 1.8, but not a postcard receipt, is relied upon in a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment, see 37 CFR 1.8(b) and MPEP § 512. As stated in 37 CFR 1.8(b)(3) the statement that attests to the previous timely mailing or transmission of the correspondence must be on a personal knowledge basis, or to the satisfaction of the Director of the USPTO. If the statement attesting to the previous timely mailing is not made by the person who signed the Certificate of Mailing (i.e., there is no personal knowledge basis), then the statement attesting to the previous timely mailing should include evidence that supports the conclusion that the correspondence was actually mailed (e.g., copies of a mailing log establishing that correspondence was mailed for that application). When the correspondence is shown to have been timely filed based on a certificate of mailing, the correspondence is entered into PALM with the actual date of receipt (i.e., the date that the duplicate copy of the papers was filed with the statement under 37 CFR 1.8).

37 CFR 1.8(b) also permits applicant to notify the Office of a previous mailing or transmission of correspondence and submit a statement under 37 CFR 1.8(b)(3) accompanied by a duplicate copy of the correspondence when a reasonable amount of time (e.g., more than one month) has elapsed from the time of mailing or transmitting of the correspondence. Applicant does not have to wait until the application becomes abandoned before notifying the Office of the previous mailing or transmission of the correspondence. Applicant should check the private Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system for the status of the correspondence before notifying the Office. See MPEP § 512.

The above-cited section of the MPEP explains that in order for correspondence to receive a filing date as of the date of deposit with the United States Postal Service (USPS), the correspondence must either be mailed via USPS Express Mail, or the correspondence must contain a proper certificate of mailing pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8. Correspondence may also receive the date of the receipt with the USPTO if petitioner provides an itemized Office date-stamped postcard whereby the USPTO acknowledges receipt of the item mailed. There is no evidence that petitioner used the procedures provided in 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10, which, if properly utilized, would allow a filing to be accorded a filing date as of the date mailed or deposited, respectively, rather than the date the filing was received by the Office. The certificate of mailing procedures under 37 CFR 1.8 allow for a filing date to be accorded as of the date the filing was mailed rather than the date the filing was received by the Office provided the procedures set out in 37 CFR 1.8 are followed and the filing is not excepted under 37 CFR 1.8(2)(i). The procedures under 37 CFR 1.10 allow correspondence deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 to be accorded a filing date as of the date-in shown on the Express Mail label rather than the date the filing was received by the Office. Filings made by any other mail service, i.e., first class postage, USPS certified mail, FEDEX, Priority Mail, will not receive the benefit of 37 CFR 1.10.

The holding of abandonment will not be withdrawn because petitioner is not able to provide *prima facie* evidence that a proper response to the non-final Office action of September 30, 2005, was deposited with the USPS Express Mail Service within the period for reply, is not able to provide a certificate of mailing pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8, or an USPTO date-stamped postcard. The petition is dismissed accordingly.

Alternatively, petitioner may revive the application based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b) (enclosed). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required reply, the required petition fee (\$1500.00 for a large entity and \$750.00 for a verified small

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entity), and a statement that the **entire** delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300  
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned (571) 272-3222.



Kenya A. McLaughlin  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

Enclosure : Form PTO/SB/64