

which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have concluded that there are no factors in this case that would limit the use of a categorical exclusion under section 2.B.2 of the Instruction. Therefore, this rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2–1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation. Promulgation of changes to drawbridge regulations have been found to not have significant effect on the human environment. A final “Environmental Analysis Check List” and a final “Categorical Exclusion Determination” are available in the docket where indicated under ADDRESSES.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

■ For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR Part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. Sec. 499; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); Section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

■ 2. In § 117.667, paragraph (a) and paragraph (b), introductory text, are revised and a new paragraph (b)(3) is added to read as follows:

§ 117.667 St. Croix River.

(a) The draws of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Bridge, Mile 0.2, the Prescott Highway Bridge, Mile 0.3, and the Hudson Railroad Bridge, Mile 17.3, shall operate as follows:

(1) From April 1 to October 31:

(i) 8 a.m. to midnight, the draws shall open on signal;

(ii) Midnight to 8 a.m., the draws shall open on signal if notification is made prior to 11 p.m.,

(2) From November 1 through March 31, the draw shall open on signal if at least 24 hours notice is given.

(b) The draw of the Stillwater Highway Bridge, Mile 23.4, shall open on signal as follows:

* * *

(3) From October 16 through May 14, if at least 24 hours notice is given.

* * * * *

Dated: December 12, 2003.

R.F. Duncan,

Commander, 8th CG District.

[FR Doc. 03–31625 Filed 12–23–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[CGD09–03–241]

RIN 1625–AA11

Regulated Navigation Area; Reporting Requirements for Barges Loaded With Certain Dangerous Cargoes, Illinois Waterway System Within the Ninth Coast Guard District

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Interim final rule; notice of approval of revised collection of information.

SUMMARY: On October 3, 2003, the Coast Guard published an interim final rule in the **Federal Register** that established a regulated navigation area (RNA) within all portions of the Illinois Waterway System located in the Ninth Coast Guard District and contained reporting requirements for barges loaded with certain dangerous cargoes. This document provides notice that the Office of Management and Budget has approved the revised collection of information contained in that interim rule.

DATES: OMB approved revised collection of information 1625–1505 on November 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding this document, or if you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, write or call Commander (CDR) Michael Gardiner or Lieutenant (LT) Matthew Colmer, Project Managers for the Ninth Coast Guard District Commander, 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44199–2060, telephone (216) 902–6059.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 6, 2003, the Coast Guard published an interim final rule entitled “Regulated Navigation Area; Reporting Requirements for Barges Loaded with Certain Dangerous Cargoes, Illinois Waterway System Within the Ninth Coast Guard District” in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 57616). In the preamble of that interim rule, we stated that we would publish a separate notice when and if the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the revised collection of information (1625–1505) contained in the rule (68 FR 57621). On November 3, 2003, OMB announced that they had approved this revised collection of information.

Dated: December 15, 2003.

Ronald F. Silva,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 03–31624 Filed 12–23–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 2 and 7

[Docket No. 2003–T–030]

RIN 0651–AB45

Modification to Temporary Postponement of Electronic Filing and Payment Rules for Certain Madrid Protocol-related Rules

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; modification to suspension of applicability dates.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending, until November 2, 2004, a temporary postponement of those provisions of the Trademark Rules of Practice that require electronic transmission to the USPTO of applications for international registration, responses to irregularity notices, and subsequent designations submitted pursuant to the Madrid Protocol. The postponement was announced most recently in a document published in the **Federal Register** on November 7, 2003.

The USPTO is also extending a temporary suspension, announced in the same **Federal Register** document, of those provisions of the Rules of Practice that allow payment of fees charged by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (IB) to be submitted through the USPTO, and those provisions of the Trademark Rules of Practice that require that all fees for international trademark applications and subsequent designations be paid at the time of filing.

The extensions and postponements announced herein are procedural in nature and do not affect any substantive rights.

APPLICABILITY DATES: January 2, 2004, until November 2, 2004. The applicability dates for certain rules in 37 CFR parts 2 and 7, published September 26, 2003, and thereafter suspended until January 4, 2004, are hereby further suspended until November 2, 2004.

DATES: The applicability date for regulations at 37 CFR 2.190(a),

2.198(a)(1), 7.7(a) and (b), 7.11(a) introductory text and (a)(9), 7.14(e), 7.21(b) introductory text and (b)(7) is suspended until November 2, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ari Leifman, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, by telephone at (703) 308-8910, extension 155, or by e-mail to ari.leifman@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As set forth below, the USPTO is extending the postponement of the applicability date of those regulations that require use of electronic forms in connection with certain Madrid Protocol submissions *until November 2, 2004*. Additionally, the USPTO is likewise extending to *November 2, 2004*, the postponement of the applicability date of those regulations that require that international fees be paid concurrently with Madrid filings, and that these fees be paid through the USPTO.

The Madrid Protocol provides a system for obtaining an international trademark registration. The Madrid Protocol Implementation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-273, 116 Stat. 1758, 1913-1921 (MPIA) amends the Trademark Act of 1946 to implement the provisions of the Madrid Protocol in the United States.

On September 26, 2003, the USPTO published new regulations to implement the MPIA. 68 FR 55748, posted on the USPTO Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/68fr55748.pdf>. These regulations took effect on November 2, 2003. The regulations require that certain submissions that are made to the USPTO in connection with the Madrid Protocol be transmitted using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Specifically, 37 CFR 7.11(a) requires that an international application be submitted through TEAS; 37 CFR 7.21(b) requires that a subsequent designation (a request that protection be extended to countries not identified in the original international application) be submitted through TEAS; and 37 CFR 7.14(e) requires that where the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (IB) has issued a notice of irregularity to an international applicant, and the international applicant submits a response to that notice through the USPTO, the response must be transmitted through TEAS.

Madrid Submissions Must Be Prepared Using Paper

On October 24, 2003, the USPTO published a document in which it announced that it would permit international applications, responses to irregularity notices, and subsequent designations to be submitted on paper rather than through TEAS, for a temporary period of time. The document accordingly postponed the applicability of 37 CFR 7.11(a), 7.21(b), and 7.14(e), to the extent that those provisions require transmission through TEAS. The document further provided that this postponement would remain in effect until January 2, 2004.

Thereafter, on November 7, 2003, the USPTO published a second document in which it announced that the postponement remained in effect but was modified. The original postponement had provided that applicants could make their submission either on paper or through TEAS. However, the document of November 7, 2003, provided that all Madrid submissions *must* be made on paper. That modification was necessary, because technical difficulties had prevented the deployment of TEAS.

Some of these difficulties have not yet been resolved, and the TEAS forms cannot yet be posted. Therefore, the postponement of the applicability date of 37 CFR 7.11(a), 7.21(b), and 7.14(e) *is hereby extended to November 2, 2004*.

If the TEAS forms are posted while the extended postponement of the applicability dates of 37 CFR 7.11(a), 7.21(b), and 7.14(e) is still in effect, then applicants will be able to file international applications, responses to irregularity notices, and subsequent designations either on paper or through TEAS. Under any circumstances, there will be a transition period during which the USPTO will accept both electronic and paper submissions. This additional period will give applicants the flexibility and the opportunity to become comfortable with the electronic system when it becomes available.

International Fees Must Be Paid Directly to the IB

In addition to requiring that certain submissions that are made to the USPTO in connection with the Madrid Protocol be transmitted using TEAS, the Rules of Practice that took effect on November 2, 2003, also require that international application fees be paid at the time of submission. However, the document of November 7, 2003, temporarily suspended the applicability of those requirements, until January 4, 2004. Thus, the document suspended 37

CFR 7.11(a)(9), to the extent that it requires that international application fees for all classes and the fees for all designated Contracting Parties identified in an international application be paid at the time of submission. Likewise, the document suspended 37 CFR 7.21(b)(7), to the extent that it requires that all international fees for a subsequent designation be paid at the time of submission.

The document of November 7, 2003, further provided that (1) applicants who file Madrid submissions on paper must pay the USPTO certification fee at the time of submission, but must pay the international fees directly to the IB, and that (2) applicants who submit a subsequent designation on paper must pay the USPTO transmittal fee at the time of submission, but must pay the international fees directly to the IB. Additionally, the notice provided that applicants may pay the international fees to the IB either before or after submission of the international application or subsequent designation.

These provisions of the document of November 7, 2003, are hereby extended to November 2, 2004.

If the TEAS forms are posted while the postponement of the applicability dates of 37 CFR 7.11(a)(9) and 7.21(b)(7) remains in effect, then applicants who elect to use those forms will pay the international fees (1) at the time of submission, and (2) through the USPTO.

Applicants Should Utilize Madrid Forms Provided by the IB

Applicants making Madrid submissions should use forms provided by the IB for that purpose. These forms may be downloaded from the IB Web site <http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>. Please note that the IB will not process paper submissions that are not prepared using IB forms.

Applicants Should Mail Madrid Submissions to a Designated Address

Pursuant to 37 CFR 2.190(a), all trademark-related documents submitted on paper must be mailed to a designated USPTO address. However, the document of November 7, 2003, waived that rule with respect to international applications, subsequent designations, and responses to notices of irregularities that are filed on paper. The document further provided that all Madrid submissions made on paper should be mailed to the following address: Commissioner for Trademarks, P.O. Box 16471, Arlington, Virginia 22215-1471, Attn: MPU.

The Limited Waiver of 37 CFR 2.190(a) Is Hereby Extended to November 2, 2004

Please note that any trademark-related correspondence other than international applications, subsequent designations, and responses to irregularity notices that is sent to the above-identified address will not be accepted, and will be returned to the sender.

If a submission mailed to the above address pursuant to this document and to the document of November 7, 2003, is delivered by the Express Mail service of the United States Postal Service, the USPTO will deem that the date of receipt of the submission in the USPTO is the date the submission was deposited as Express Mail, provided that the submitter complies with the requirements set forth in 37 CFR 2.198.

Please note that the USPTO is not suspending those rules that require electronic filing of extensions of time to oppose and notices of opposition with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, namely 37 CFR 2.101(b)2 and 37 CFR 2.102(a)2.

Dated: December 18, 2003.

Jon W. Dudas,

Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 03-31698 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Office

37 CFR Part 259

[Docket No. 2003-4 CARP]

Filing of Claims for DART Royalty Funds

AGENCY: Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Waiver of regulation.

SUMMARY: Due to continuing delays in the receipt of mail, the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress is announcing alternative methods for the filing of claims to the DART royalty funds for the year 2003. In order to ensure that claims are timely received, claimants are encouraged to file their DART claims online or by fax, utilizing the special procedures described in this document.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Claims may be filed online through the Copyright Office Web site at <http://www.copyright.gov/carp/dart/index.html>. Submissions by facsimile should be sent to (202) 252-3423. Submissions sent by a commercial

courier must be delivered to the Congressional Courier Acceptance Site, located at 2nd and D Streets, NE., between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. If sent by mail, an original and two copies of each claim should be addressed to: Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel (CARP), P.O. Box 70977, Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024. If hand delivered by a party, an original and two copies of each claim should be brought to: Office of the Copyright General Counsel, James Madison Memorial Building, room 403, First and Independence Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20540. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for information about online electronic filing through the Copyright Office Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William J. Roberts, Jr., Senior Attorney, Susan Grimes, CARP Specialist, or Raphael Small, Telephone: (202) 707-8380. Telefax: (202) 252-3423.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Chapter 10 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C., places a statutory obligation on manufacturers and importers of digital audio recording devices and media ("DART") who distribute the products in the United States to submit royalty fees to the Copyright Office. 17 U.S.C. 1003. Distribution of these royalty fees may be made to any interested copyright owner who has filed a claim and (1) whose sound recording was distributed in the form of digital musical recordings or analog musical recordings and (2) whose musical work was distributed in the form of digital musical recordings or analog musical recordings or disseminated to the public in transmissions. 17 U.S.C. 1006.

Section 1007 provides that claims to these royalty fees must be filed "[d]uring the first 2 months of each calendar year" with the Librarian of Congress "in such form and manner as the Librarian of Congress shall prescribe by regulation." 17 U.S.C. 1007. Part 259 of title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations sets forth the procedures for the filing of claims to the DART royalty funds. Section 259.5 states that in order for a claim to be considered timely filed with the Copyright Office, the claims either have to be hand delivered to the Office by the last day in February¹ or if

sent by mail, received by the Office by the last day in February or bear a January or February United States Postal Service postmark. 37 CFR 259.5(a). Claims received after the last day in February will be accepted as timely filed only upon proof that the claim was placed within the United States Postal Service during the months of January or February. 37 CFR 259.5(e). A January or February postmark of the United States Postal Service on the envelope containing the claim or, if sent by certified mail return receipt requested, on the certified mail receipt constitutes sufficient proof that the claim was timely filed.² 37 CFR 259.5(e). The regulations do not provide for the filing of DART claims by alternative methods such as online submission or facsimile transmission.

In the year 2001, due to severe disruptions in the delivery of mail to the Office caused by threat of possible anthrax contamination, the Copyright Office waived the regulations requiring that claims bear "the original signature of the claimant or of a duly authorized representative of the claimant," 37 CFR 259.3(b), and prohibiting the filing by "facsimile transmission," 37 CFR 259.5(d), for the filing of claims to the DART royalty funds for the year 2001. See 67 FR 5213 (February 5, 2002). Due to continued security measures affecting the delivery of mail, the Copyright Office waived regulations for the filing of 2002 DART claims last year as well. Certain incoming mail continues to be irradiated and all mail is diverted to an off-site location for screening, resulting in delays in its delivery to the Office. In light of these continuing delays, the Office once again is waiving §§ 259.3(b) and 259.5(d) and allowing the online and facsimile submission of DART claims to the 2003 royalty funds. Online forms are available and may be submitted via the Office's Web site. Note however, that the alternative methods set forth in this Notice apply only to the filing of DART claims for the 2003 royalties which are due by March 1, 2004, and in no way apply to other filings with the Office. Please note that as a result of the last date in February occurring on a Sunday this year, the DART claims are due on Monday, March 1, 2004, in accordance with 37 CFR 259.5(b).

This Notice covers only the means by which claims may be accepted as timely filed; all other filing requirements, such

¹ In any year in which the last day of February falls on Saturday, Sunday, a holiday or other nonbusiness day within the District of Columbia or the Federal Government, claims received by the Copyright Office by the first business day in March, or properly addressed and deposited with sufficient postage with the United States Postal Service and

postmarked by the first business day in March, shall be considered timely filed. 37 CFR 259.5(b).

² Claims dated only with a business meter that are received after the last day in February will not be accepted as having been timely filed. 37 CFR 259.5(c).