

(32) Filing of Papers During Unscheduled Closings  
of the Patent and Trademark Office

When the Patent and Trademark Office is officially closed by Executive Order of the President or by the Office of Personnel Management for an entire day because of some unscheduled event, such as adverse weather conditions, the Patent and Trademark Office will consider that day as a "federal holiday within the District of Columbia" under 35 U.S.C. 21. Any action or fee due that day will be considered as timely for the purposes of, e.g., 35 U.S.C. 119, 133 and 151, if the action is taken, or fee paid, on the next succeeding business day on which the Patent and Trademark Office is open.

When the Patent and Trademark Office is open for business during any part of a business day between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., papers are due on that day even though the Office may be officially closed for some period of time during the business day because of an unscheduled event. The procedures of 37 CFR 1.8 or 1.10 may be used, as appropriate, for the filing of papers. On any day the Office is open for at least part of the day, papers may also be deposited up to midnight in any boxes which are provided by the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 CFR 1.6(c).

Information regarding whether or not the Office is officially closed on any particular day may be obtained by calling (703)-557-INFO.

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Assistant Secretary and  
Commissioner of Patents  
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