Original Sixth Edition, January 1995 Latest Revision September 1995





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Rev. 1. Sept. 1995



Amendment

An amendment is sometimes filed along with the filing of the application. Such amendment does not enjoy the status as part of the original disclosure in an application filed under 37 CFR 1.53 unless it is referred to in the oath or declaration filed therewith. Once an oath or declaration is submitted in an application filed under 37 CFR 1.53 identifying the papers which the inventor(s) has "reviewed and understands" as required by 37 CFR 1.63, the original disclosure of the application is defined and cannot be altered merely by filing of a subsequent oath or declaration referring to different papers. If the application is filed without an executed oath or declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(b), the original oath or declaration submitted later than the filing date must refer to the preliminary amendment filed along with the application in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.63.

An amendment which adds additional disclosure filed with a request for a continuation—in—part application under 37 CFR 1.62 is automatically considered a part of the original disclosure of the application by virtue of the rule. Therefore, the oath or declaration filed in

608.05 Deposit of Computer Program Listings

37 CFR 1.96. Submission of computer program listings.

Descriptions of the operation and general content of computer program listings should appear in the description portion of the specification. A computer program listing for the purpose of these rules is defined as a prinout that lists in appropriate sequence the instructions, routines, and other contents of a program for a computer. The program listing may be either in machine or machine—independent (object or source) language which will cause a computer to perform a desired procedure or task such as solve a problem, regulate the flow of work in a computer, or control or monitor events. Computer program listings may be submitted in patent applications in the following forms:

- (a) Material which will be printed in the patent. If the computer program listing is contained on 10 printout pages or less, it must be submitted either as drawings or as part of the specification.
- (1) Drawings. The listing may be submitted in the manner and complying with the requirements for drawings as provided in § 1.84. At least one figure numeral is required on each sheet of drawing.
- (2) Specification. (i) The listing may be submitted as part of the specification in accordance with the provisions of § 1.52, at the end of the description but before the claims.
- (ii) The listing may be submitted as part of the specification in the form of computer printout sheets (commonly 14 by 11 inches in size) for use as camera ready copy when a patent is subsequently printed. Such computer printout sheets must be original copies from the computer with dark solid black letters not less than 0.21 cm high, on white, unshaded and unlined paper, the printing on each sheet must be limited

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Archival Records, Silver—Getatin Type, on Polyester Base.

NMA—MSI (1971) Quality Standards for Computer Output

Microfilm.

ANS1/NMA MS2 (1978) Format and Coding Standards for Computer Output Microfilm.

NMA MS5 (ANSI PH 5.9—1975) Microfiche of Documents. ANSI PH 2.19 (1959)—Diffuse Transmission Density. except as modified or clarified below:

- (i) Either Computer-Output-Microfilm (COM) output or copies of photographed paper copy may be submitted. In the former case, NMA standards MS1 and MS2 apply; in the latter case, standard MS5 applies.
- (ii) Film submitted shall be first generation (camera film) negative appearing microfiche (with emulsion on the back side of the film when viewed with the images right reading).
- (iii) Reduction ratio of microfiche submitted should be 24:1 or a similar ratio where variation from said ratio is required in order to fit the documents into the image area of the microfiche format used.
- (iv0 Film submitted shall have a thickness of at least .005 inches (0.13 mm) and not more than .009 inches (0.23 mm) for either cellulose acetate base or polyester base type.
- (v) Both microfiche formats A1 (98 frames, 14 columns x 7 rows) and A3 (63 frames, 9 columns x 7 rows) which are described in NMA standard MS2 (A1 is also described in MS5) are acceptable for use in preparation of microfiche submitted.
- (vi) At least the left-most 1/3 (50 mm x 12 mm) of the header or title area of each microfiche submitted shall be clear or positive appearing so that the Patent and Trademark Office can apply serial

- (viii) Microfiche generated by Computer Output Microfilm (COM).
 - (A) Background density of negative—appearing COM—generated camera master microfiche shall be within the range of 1.5 to 2.0 and line density should be no greater than 0.2. The density shall be visual diffuse density as described in ANSI PH2.19.
 - (B) The first frame of each microfiche submitted should contain a resolution test frame in conformance with NMA standard MS1.
 - (C) The second frame of each microfiche submitted must contain a fully descriptive title and the inventor's name as filed.
 - (D) The pages or lines appearing on the microfiche frames should be consecutively numbered.
 - (E) It is preferred that pagination of the microfiche frames be from left to right and top to bottom but the alternative, i.e., from top to bottom and from left to right, is also acceptable.
 - (F) An index, when included, should appear on the last frame (lower right hand corner when data is right reading) of each microfiche.
 - (G) Amendment of microfiche must be made by way of replacement microfiche.

Special procedures for presentation of computer program listings in the form of microfiche in U.S. national patent applications are set forth in 37 CFR 1.96. Use of microfiche is desirable in view of the number of computer program listings being submitted as part of the dis-

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The provisions of 37 CFR 1.52 and 1.84 for submitting specifications and drawings on paper have been found suitable for most patent applications. However, when lengthy computer program listings must be disclosed in a patent application in order to provide a complete disclosure, use of paper copies can become burdensome.

The cost of printing long computer programs in patent documents is also very expensive to the Patent and Trademark Office.

In the past, all disclosures forming part of a patent application were presented on paper with the exception of microorganisms. Under 37 CFR 1.96, several different methods for submitting computer program listings, including the use of microfiche, are set forth.

Relatively short computer program listings (10 pages or less) must be submitted on paper and will be printed as part of the patent. If the computer program listing is 11 or more pages in length, it may be submitted on either paper or microfiche, although microfiche is preferred.

Copies of publicly available computer program listings are available from the Patent and Trademark Office or less.

The face of the file jacket will bear a label to denote that a Microfiche Appendix is included in the application. A statement must be included in the specification to the effect that a microfiche appendix is included in the application. The specification entry must appear at the beginning of the specification immediately following any cross—reference to related applications, 37 CFR 1.77(c)(2). The patent front page and the Official Gazette entry will both contain information as to the number of microfiche and frames of computer program listings appearing in the microfiche appendix.

When an application containing microfiche is received in the Correspondence and Mail Division, a special pocket will be affixed to the center section of the inside of the file wrapper underneath all papers, and the microfiche inserted therein. The application file will then proceed on its normal course, and when it reaches the Application Branch, a label which sticks up above the file wrapper will be placed at the center section of the face of the wrapper. When the application file reaches the Micrographics Division, the Microfiche Appendix

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ment in compliance with § 1.98 should be filed in accordance with this section

- (b) An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed:
- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.
- (c) An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed after the period specified in paragraph (b) of this section, but before the mailing date of either:
 - (1) A final action under § 1.113 or
- (2) A notice of allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first, provided the statement is accompanied by either a certification as specified in paragraph (e) of this section or the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).
- (d) An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed after the mailing date of either:
 - (1) A final action under § 1.113 or
- (2) A notice of allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee, provided the statement is accompanied by:
 - (i) A certification as specified in paragraph (e) of this section,
- (ii) A petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement, and

- (i) Each U.S. and foreign patent;
- (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed;

and

(iii) All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, except that no copy of a U.S. patent application need be included;

- (3) A concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language. The concise explanation may be either separate from the specification or incorporated therein
- (b) Each U.S. patent listed in an information disclosure statement shall be identified by patentee, patent number and issue date. Each foreign patent or published foreign patent application shall be identified by the country or patent office which issued the patent or published the application, an appropriate document number, and the publication date indicated on the patent or published application. Each publication shall be identified by author (if any), title, relevant pages of the publication, date and place of publication.
- (c) When the disclosures of two or more patents or publications listed in an information disclosure statement are substantively cumulative, a copy of one of the patents or publications may be submitted without copies of the other patents or publications provided that a statement is made that these other patents or publications are cumulative. If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody

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