

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

YITA LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

MACNEIL IP LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2020-01139
Patent 8,382,186 B2

Before MITCHELL G. WEATHERLY, MICHAEL L. WOODS, and
ARTHUR M. PESLAK, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

WEATHERLY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

CASE MANAGEMENT
AND SCHEDULING ORDER
37 C.F.R. § 42.5

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Requests for an Initial Conference Call

The parties are directed to contact the Board within a month of this Order if there is a need to discuss proposed changes to this Scheduling Order or proposed motions that have not been authorized in this Order or other prior Order or Notice. *See Consolidated Trial Practice Guide* (“Consolidated

Practice Guide”)¹ at 9–10, 65 (guidance in preparing for a conference call); *see also* 84 Fed. Reg. 64,280 (Nov. 21, 2019). A request for an initial conference call shall include a list of proposed motions, if any, to be discussed during the call.

2. Protective Order

A protective order does not exist in this proceeding unless the parties file one and the Board approves it. If either party files a motion to seal before entry of a protective order, a jointly proposed protective order should be presented as an exhibit to the motion. We encourage the parties to adopt the Board’s default protective order if they conclude that a protective order is necessary. *See Consolidated Practice Guide* at 107–122 (App. B, Protective Order Guidelines and Default Protective Order). If the parties choose to propose a protective order deviating from the default protective order, they must submit the proposed protective order jointly along with a marked-up comparison of the proposed and default protective orders showing the differences between the two and explain why good cause exists to deviate from the default protective order.

The Board has a strong interest in the public availability of trial proceedings. Redactions to documents filed in this proceeding should be limited to the minimum amount necessary to protect confidential information, and the thrust of the underlying argument or evidence must be clearly discernible from the redacted versions. We also advise the parties that information subject to a protective order may become public if identified in a final written decision in this proceeding, and that a motion to expunge the information will not necessarily prevail over the public interest

¹ Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

in maintaining a complete and understandable file history. *See Consolidated Practice Guide at 21–22.*

3. Dispute Resolution During Trial

The Panel encourages parties to resolve disputes arising during the trial on their own and in accordance with the precepts set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.1(b). To the extent that a dispute arises between the parties, we order the parties to meet and confer to resolve their dispute before contacting the Board. If attempts to resolve the dispute fail, a party may request a conference call with the Board and the other party in order to seek authorization to move for relief.

In any request for a conference call with the Board to resolve a dispute, the requesting party shall: (a) certify that it has conferred with the other party in an effort to resolve the dispute; (b) identify with specificity the issues for which agreement has not been reached; (c) identify the precise relief to be sought; and (d) propose specific dates and times at which both parties are available for the conference call.

4. Testimony

The parties are reminded that the Testimony Guidelines appended to the Consolidated Practice Guide at 127–130 (App. D, Testimony Guidelines) apply to this proceeding. The Board may impose an appropriate sanction for failure to adhere to the Testimony Guidelines. 37 C.F.R. § 42.12. For example, reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by any party may be levied on a person who impedes, delays, or frustrates the fair examination of a witness.

Whenever a party submits a deposition transcript as an exhibit in this proceeding, the submitting party shall file a full-sized version of the entire

transcript of the deposition rather than a condensed version or excerpts of only those portions being cited. After a deposition transcript has been submitted as an exhibit, all parties who subsequently cite to portions of the transcript shall cite to the first-filed version of the transcript rather than submitting another copy of the same transcript.

5. Cross-Examination

Except as the parties might otherwise agree, for each due date:

- (1) cross-examination begins after any supplemental evidence is due and
- (2) cross-examination ordinarily ends no later than a week before the filing date for any paper in which the cross-examination testimony is expected to be used. 37 C.F.R. § 42.53(d)(2).

6. Motion to Amend

Patent Owner may file a motion to amend without prior authorization from the Board. Nevertheless, Patent Owner must confer with the Board before filing such a motion. 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(a). To satisfy this requirement, Patent Owner should request a conference call with the Board no later than two weeks prior to DUE DATE 1. *See* Section B below regarding DUE DATES.

Patent Owner has the option to receive preliminary guidance from the Board on its motion to amend. *See* Notice Regarding a New Pilot Program Concerning Motion to Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings under the America Invents Act before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, 84 Fed. Reg. 9497 (Mar. 15, 2019) (“MTA Pilot Program Notice”); *see also* Consolidated Practice Guide at 67. If Patent Owner elects to request preliminary guidance from the Board on its motion, it must do so in its motion to amend filed on DUE DATE 1.

Any motion to amend and briefing related to such a motion shall generally follow the practices and procedures described in MTA Pilot Program Notice unless otherwise ordered by the Board in this proceeding. The parties are further directed to the Board's Guidance on Motions to Amend in view of *Aqua Products* (<https://go.usa.gov/xU6YV>), and *Lectrosonics, Inc. v. Zaxcom, Inc.*, Case IPR2018-01129 (Paper 15) (PTAB Feb. 25, 2019) (precedential).

As indicated in the MTA Pilot Program Notice, Patent Owner has the option at DUE DATE 3 to file a revised motion to amend (instead of a reply, as noted above) after receiving petitioner's opposition to the original motion to amend and/or after receiving the Board's preliminary guidance (if requested). A revised motion to amend must provide amendments, arguments, and/or evidence in a manner that is responsive to issues raised in the preliminary guidance and/or petitioner's opposition.

If Patent Owner files a revised motion to amend, the Board shall enter a revised scheduling order setting the briefing schedule for that revised motion and adjusting other due dates as needed. *See* MTA Pilot Program Notice, App'x B 1B.

As also discussed in the MTA Pilot Program Notice, if the Board issues preliminary board guidance on the motion to amend and the Patent Owner does not file either a reply to the opposition to the motion to amend or a revised motion to amend at Due Date 3, Petitioner may file a reply to the Board's preliminary guidance, no later than three (3) weeks after Due Date 3. The reply may only respond to the preliminary guidance. Patent Owner may file a sur-reply in response to Petitioner's reply to the Board's preliminary guidance. The sur-reply may only respond to arguments made

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