

To: The Smiley Company (SPRL) (sbaron@mandellmenkes.com)
Subject: U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 79073546 - 9243
Sent: 10/21/2015 5:03:39 PM
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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 79073546

MARK:

79073546

CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:

Steven L. Baron
Mandell Menkes LLC
Suite 3600
One North Franklin St.
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APPLICANT: The Smiley Company (SPRL)

**CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET
NO:**

9243

CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:

sbaron@mandellmenkes.com

OFFICE ACTION

STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW.

ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 10/21/2015

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION NO. 1015069

STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTIFICATION: TO AVOID PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF THE REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROTECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE A COMPLETE RESPONSE

TO THIS PROVISIONAL PARTIAL REFUSAL NOTIFICATION **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE “DATE ON WHICH THE NOTIFICATION WAS SENT TO WIPO (MAILING DATE)” LOCATED ON THE WIPO COVER LETTER ACCOMPANYING THIS NOTIFICATION.

In addition to the Mailing Date appearing on the WIPO cover letter, a holder (hereafter “applicant”) may confirm this Mailing Date using the USPTO’s Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. To do so, enter the U.S. application serial number for this application and then select “Documents.” The Mailing Date used to calculate the response deadline for this provisional partial refusal is the “Create/Mail Date” of the “IB-1rst Refusal Note.”

This is a **PROVISIONAL PARTIAL REFUSAL** of the request for extension of protection of the mark in the above-referenced U.S. application that **applies to only the following class 025 in the application:** See 15 U.S.C. §1141h(c). See below in this notification (hereafter “Office action”) for details regarding the provisional partial refusal.

A. Refusal to Register: Likelihood of Confusion as to class 025 only

Registration of the applied-for mark is refused because of a likelihood of confusion with the mark in U.S. Registration Nos. 4727831, 4261640, 4376671, 3842325, **3700179 and 3700178**. Trademark Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); see TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.* See the enclosed registrations.

For the reasons discussed below, the examining attorney concludes that confusion as to the source of goods and services is likely between the applicant’s mark **DESIGN OF A SMILEY FACE** and the registrant’s marks **all DESIGNS OF A SMILEY FACE** for the goods and/or services listed in the application.

Trademark Act Section 2(d) bars registration of an applied-for mark that so resembles a registered mark that it is likely that a potential consumer would be confused or mistaken or deceived as to the source of the goods and/or services of the applicant and registrant. See 15 U.S.C. §1052(d). The court in *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 177 USPQ 563 (C.C.P.A. 1973) listed the principal factors to be considered when determining whether there is a likelihood of confusion under Section 2(d). See TMEP §1207.01. However, not all of the factors are necessarily relevant or of equal weight, and any one factor may be dominant in a given case, depending upon the evidence of record. *In re Majestic Distilling Co.*, 315 F.3d 1311, 1315, 65 USPQ2d 1201, 1204 (Fed. Cir. 2003); see *In re E. I. du Pont*, 476 F.2d at 1361-62, 177 USPQ at 567.

In this case, the following factors are the most relevant: similarity of the marks, similarity of the goods and/or services, and similarity of trade channels of the goods and/or services. See *In re Opus One, Inc.*, 60 USPQ2d 1812 (TTAB 2001); *In re Dakin’s Miniatures Inc.*, 59 USPQ2d 1593 (TTAB 1999); *In re Azteca Rest. Enters., Inc.*, 50 USPQ2d 1209 (TTAB 1999); TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.* In any likelihood of confusion determination, two key considerations are similarity of the marks and similarity or relatedness of the goods and/or services. *Syndicat Des Proprietaires Viticulteurs De Chateaufort-Du-Pape v. Pasquier DesVignes*, 107 USPQ2d 1930, 1938 (TTAB 2013) (citing *Federated Foods, Inc. v. Fort Howard Paper Co.*, 544 F.2d 1098, 1103, 192 USPQ 24, 29 (C.C.P.A. 1976)); *In re Iolo Techs., LLC*, 95 USPQ2d 1498, 1499 (TTAB 2010); see TMEP §1207.01. That is, the marks are compared in their entireties for similarities in appearance, sound, connotation, and commercial impression. *In re Viterra Inc.*, 671 F.3d 1358, 1362, 101 USPQ2d 1905, 1908 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (quoting *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 1361, 177 USPQ 563, 567 (C.C.P.A. 1973)); TMEP §1207.01(b)-(b)(v). Additionally, the goods and/or services are compared to determine whether they are similar or commercially related or travel in the same trade channels. See *Coach Servs., Inc. v. Triumph Learning LLC*, 668 F.3d 1356, 1369-71, 101 USPQ2d 1713, 1722-23 (Fed. Cir. 2012); *Herbko Int’l, Inc. v. Kappa Books, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1156, 1165, 64 USPQ2d 1375, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2002); TMEP §1207.01, (a)(vi).

Similarity of the Marks

Marks are compared in their entireties for similarities in appearance, sound, connotation, and commercial impression. *Stone Lion Capital Partners, LP v. Lion Capital LLP*, 746 F.3d 1317, 1321, 110 USPQ2d 1157, 1160 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (quoting *Palm Bay Imps., Inc. v. Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Maison Fondee En 1772*, 396 F.3d 1369, 1371, 73 USPQ2d 1689, 1691 (Fed. Cir. 2005)); TMEP §1207.01(b)-(b)(v). “Similarity in any one of these elements may be sufficient to find the marks confusingly similar.” *In re Davia*, 110 USPQ2d 1810, 1812 (TTAB 2014) (citing *In re Ist USA Realty Prof’ls, Inc.*, 84 USPQ2d 1581, 1586 (TTAB 2007)); *In re White Swan Ltd.*, 8 USPQ2d 1534, 1535 (TTAB 1988); TMEP §1207.01(b).

Although marks are compared in their entireties, one feature of a mark may be more significant or dominant in creating a commercial impression. See *In re Viterra Inc.*, 671 F.3d 1358, 1362, 101 USPQ2d 1905, 1908 (Fed. Cir. 2012); *In re Nat’l Data Corp.*, 753 F.2d 1056, 1058, 224 USPQ 749, 751 (Fed. Cir. 1985); TMEP §1207.01(b)(viii), (c)(ii). Greater weight is often given to this dominant feature when

In the present case, the applicant's mark(s) the design of a smiley face and the registered mark(s) as a design of smiley faces are similar in appearance and sound and would create the same general overall commercial impression among potential consumers. The marks are all basically identical and there is no difference in commercial impression.

If the marks of the respective parties are identical or highly similar, the examining attorney must consider the commercial relationship between the goods or services of the respective parties carefully to determine whether there is a likelihood of confusion. *In re Concordia International Forwarding Corp.*, 222 USPQ 355 (TTAB 1983).

Similarity of the Goods/Services

The second part of the legal analysis involves comparing the goods to determine whether they are similar or related, and could cause a mistaken belief among potential purchasers that the goods come from a common source.

The goods and/or services of the parties need not be identical or even competitive to find a likelihood of confusion. *See On-line Careline Inc. v. Am. Online Inc.*, 229 F.3d 1080, 1086, 56 USPQ2d 1471, 1475 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Recot, Inc. v. Becton*, 214 F.3d 1322, 1329, 54 USPQ2d 1894, 1898 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (“[E]ven if the goods in question are different from, and thus not related to, one another in kind, the same goods can be related in the mind of the consuming public as to the origin of the goods.”); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i).

The respective goods and/or services need only be “related in some manner and/or if the circumstances surrounding their marketing [be] such that they could give rise to the mistaken belief that [the goods and/or services] emanate from the same source.” *Coach Servs., Inc. v. Triumph Learning LLC*, 668 F.3d 1356, 1369, 101 USPQ2d 1713, 1722 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (quoting *7-Eleven Inc. v. Wechsler*, 83 USPQ2d 1715, 1724 (TTAB 2007)); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i).

The fact that the goods of the parties differ is not controlling in determining likelihood of confusion. The issue is not likelihood of confusion between particular goods, but likelihood of confusion as to the source or sponsorship of those goods. *In re Majestic Distilling Co.*, 315 F.3d 1311, 1316, 65 USPQ2d 1201, 1205 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *In re Shell Oil Co.*, 992 F.2d 1204, 1208, 26 USPQ2d 1687, 1689 (Fed. Cir. 1993); TMEP §1207.01.

The applicant's goods/services, namely “ Clothing, namely, shirts, t-shirts, pants, dresses, shorts, coats, jackets, jogging suits, bathing suits, bathing trunks; footwear used in connection with beach, ski or sports; slippers; socks; baby cloth bibs; clothing items made of leather or imitation leather, namely, belts; headgear, namely, hats, caps, berets; scarves; gloves as clothing; neckties; hosiery; underwear” are almost identical to registrant's goods/services, namely:

Registration No. 4727831 class 025 as Coats; sweaters; pants; shirts; trousers; skirts; shorts; T-shirts; pyjamas; swimsuits; underwear; socks and stockings; scarves; neckties; gloves; footwear; hats; caps.

Registration No. 4261640, class 025 as Caps; footwear; hats; pants; shirts; shorts; skirts; T-shirts; underwear; visors

Registration No. 4376671 class 025 as Caps; Coats; Footwear; Gloves; Hats; Neckties; Pajamas; Pants; Scarves; Shirts; Shorts; Skirts; Socks and stockings; Sweaters; Swimsuits; T-shirts; Trousers; Underwear

Registration No. 3842325 class 025 as Caps; Coats; Footwear; Gloves; Hats; Neckties; Pajamas; Pants; Scarves; Shirts; Shorts; Skirts; Socks and stockings; Sweaters; Swimsuits; T-shirts; Trousers; Underwear

Registration No. **3700179 class 025 as** Caps; Coats; Footwear; Gloves; Hats; Neckties; Pants; Pyjamas; Scarves; Shirts; Shorts; Skirts; Socks and stockings; Sweaters; Swimsuits; T-shirts; Trousers; Underwear

Registration No. **3700178 class 025 as** Caps; Coats; Footwear; Gloves; Hats; Neckties; Pants; Pyjamas; Scarves; Shirts; Shorts; Skirts; Socks and stockings; Sweaters; Swimsuits; T-shirts; Trousers; Underwear

It is therefore quite likely that both applicant's and registrant's goods/services will travel through the same channels of trade to the same classes of purchasers.

When analyzing an applicant's and registrant's goods and/or services for similarity and relatedness, that determination is based on the description of the goods and/or services stated in the application and registration at issue, not on extrinsic evidence of actual use. *See Octocom Sys. Inc. v. Hous. Computers Servs. Inc.*, 918 F.2d 937, 942, 16 USPQ2d 1783, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *see also Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Packard Press Inc.*, 281 F.3d 1261, 1267, 62 USPQ2d 1001, 1004 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Absent restrictions in an application and/or registration, the identified goods and/or services are presumed to travel in the same channels of trade to the same class of purchasers. *Citigroup Inc. v. Capital City Bank Grp., Inc.*, 637 F.3d 1344, 1356, 98 USPO2d 1253, 1261 (Fed. Cir. 2011);

Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Packard Press Inc., 281 F.3d at 1268, 62 USPQ2d at 1005. Additionally, unrestricted and broad identifications are presumed to encompass all goods and/or services of the type described. See *In re Jump Designs*, 80 USPQ2d 1370, 1374 (TTAB 2006); *In re Linkvest S.A.*, 24 USPQ2d 1716, 1716 (TTAB 1992).

In this case, the identifications set forth in the application and registration(s) are identical and have no restrictions as to nature, type, channels of trade, or classes of purchasers. Therefore, it is presumed that these goods and/or services travel in all normal channels of trade, and are available to the same class of purchasers. See *Midwestern Pet Foods, Inc. v. Societe des Produits Nestle S.A.*, 685 F.3d 1046, 1053, 103 USPQ2d 1435, 1440 (Fed. Cir. 2012). Accordingly, the goods and/or services of applicant and the registrant(s) are considered related for purposes of the likelihood of confusion analysis.

Neither the application nor the registration(s) contains any limitations regarding trade channels for the goods and therefore it is assumed that registrant's and applicant's goods are sold everywhere that is normal for such items, i.e., clothing and department stores. Thus, it can also be assumed that the same classes of purchasers shop for these items and that consumers are accustomed to seeing them sold under the same or similar marks. See *Kangol Ltd. v. KangaROOS U.S.A., Inc.*, 974 F.2d 161, 23 USPQ2d 1945 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Smith & Mehaffey*, 31 USPQ2d 1531 (TTAB 1994); TMEP §1207.01(a)(iii).

The marks are very similar. The goods/services are identical. The similarities among the marks and the goods/services are so great as to create a likelihood of confusion among consumers. The examining attorney must resolve any doubt regarding a likelihood of confusion in favor of the prior registrant. *In re Hyper Shoppes (Ohio), Inc.*, 837 F.2d 463, 6 USPQ2d 1025 (Fed. Cir., 1988). TMEP §§1207.01(d)(i).

Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal(s) by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration.

Applicant must respond within six months of the date of issuance of this final Office action or the following class to which the refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) apply will be **deleted** from the application by Examiner's Amendment: 37 C.F.R. §2.65(a); see 15 U.S.C. §1062(b).

Class 025

The application will then proceed with the following classes 016 and 018.

Applicant may respond by providing one or both of the following:

- (1) A response that fully satisfies all outstanding requirements and/or resolves all outstanding refusals.
- (2) An appeal to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, with the appeal fee of \$100 per class

37 C.F.R. §2.63(b)(1)-(2); TMEP §714.04; see 37 C.F.R. §2.6(a)(18); TBMP ch. 1200.

In certain rare circumstances, an applicant may respond by filing a petition to the Director pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §2.63(b)(2) to review procedural issues. TMEP §714.04; see 37 C.F.R. §2.146(b); TBMP §1201.05; TMEP §1704 (explaining petitionable matters). The petition fee is \$100. 37 C.F.R. §2.6(a)(15).

WHO IS PERMITTED TO RESPOND TO THIS PROVISIONAL PARTIAL REFUSAL: Any response to this provisional refusal must be personally signed by an individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with legal authority to bind a juristic applicant (e.g., a corporate officer or general partner). 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(b), 2.193(e)(2)(ii); TMEP §712.01. If applicant hires a qualified U.S. attorney to respond on his or her behalf, then the attorney must sign the response. 37 C.F.R. §§2.193(e)(2)(i), 11.18(a); TMEP §§611.03(b), 712.01. Qualified U.S. attorneys include those in good standing with a bar of the highest court of any U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other federal territories and possessions of the United States. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.17(a), 2.62(b), 11.1, 11.14(a); TMEP §§602, 712.01. Additionally, for all responses, the proper signatory must personally sign the document or personally enter his or her electronic signature on the electronic filing. See 37 C.F.R. §2.193(a); TMEP §§611.01(b), 611.02. The name of the signatory must also be printed or typed immediately below or adjacent to the signature, or identified elsewhere in the filing. 37 C.F.R. §2.193(d); TMEP §611.01(b).

In general, foreign attorneys are not permitted to represent applicants before the USPTO (e.g., file written communications, authorize an amendment to an application, or submit legal arguments in response to a requirement or refusal). See 37 C.F.R. §11.14(c), (e); TMEP §§602.03-.03(b), 608.01.

DESIGNATION OF DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE: The USPTO encourages applicants who do not reside in the United States to designate a domestic representative upon whom any notice or process may be served. TMEP §610; see 15 U.S.C. §§1051(e), 1141h(d); 37 C.F.R. §2.24(a)(1)-(2). Such designations may be filed online at <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/correspondence.jsp>.

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All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.

WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE: It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION: To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

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