

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION

U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 79197238

MARK: TNI KING COFFEE

79197238

CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:

VISION & ASSOCIATES
Unit 308-310, Third Floor,
Hanoi Towers,
HANOI
VIETNAM

CLICK HERE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:

http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp

APPLICANT: LE HOANG DIEP THAO

CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET NO:

N/A

CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:

OFFICE ACTION

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION NO. 1321319

STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTIFICATION: TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF THE REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROTECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS PROVISIONAL FULL 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 full refusal is the "Create/Mail Date" of the "IB-1st Refusal Note."

This is a **PROVISIONAL FULL REFUSAL** of the request for extension of protection of the mark in the above-referenced U.S. application. See 15 U.S.C. §1141h(c). See below in this notification (hereafter "Office action") for details regarding the provisional full refusal.

The referenced application has been reviewed by the assigned trademark examining attorney. Applicant must respond timely and completely to the issue(s) below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

SEARCH RESULTS

The trademark examining attorney has searched the Office's database of registered and pending marks and has found no conflicting marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). TMEP §704.02; see 15 U.S.C. §1052(d).

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- LEGAL NATURE
- MEANING OR SIGNIFICANCE INQUIRY OF TERM
- DESCRIPTION OF MARK REQUIRES AMENDING
- IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS -INDEFINITE TERMS

LEGAL NATURE

Applicant must specify its form of business or type of legal entity and its national citizenship or foreign country of organization or incorporation. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(3)(i)-(ii), 7.25(a)-(b); TMEP §§803.03, 803.04, 1904.02(a). This information is required in all U.S. trademark applications, including those filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a) (also known as "requests for extension of protection of international registrations to the United States"). See 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(3)(i)-(ii), 7.25(a)-(b); TMEP §§803.03, 803.04, 1904.02(a).

Acceptable entity types include an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a joint venture, or the foreign equivalent. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(3)(i)-(ii); TMEP §§803.03 *et seq.*

If applicant's entity type is an individual, applicant must indicate his or her national citizenship for the record. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(3)(i); TMEP §803.04. If applicant's entity type is a corporation, association, partnership, joint venture, or the foreign equivalent, applicant must set forth the foreign country under whose laws applicant is organized or incorporated. 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(3)(ii); TMEP §§803.03(b)-(c), 803.04. For an association, applicant must also

specify whether the association is incorporated or unincorporated, unless the foreign country and the designation or description “association/associazione” appear in Appendix D of the *Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure* (TMEP). TMEP §803.03(c).

If applicant is organized under the laws of a foreign province or geographical region, applicant should specify both the foreign province or geographical region and the foreign country in which the province or region is located. See TMEP §803.04. To provide this information online via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) response form, applicant must (1) locate the “Entity Type” heading and select “Other;” (2) locate the “Specify Entity Type” heading and select “Other” under the Foreign Entity option, and enter in the free-text field below both applicant’s entity type and the foreign province or geographical region of its organization (e.g., partnership of Victoria); and (3) locate the “State or Country Where Legally Organized” heading and select the appropriate foreign country (e.g., Australia) under the Non-U.S. Entity option. See *id.*

MEANING OR SIGNIFICANCE

Applicant must explain whether “TNI” has any meaning or significance in the industry in which the goods and/or services are manufactured/provided, or if such wording is a “term of art” within applicant’s industry. See 37 C.F.R. §2.61(b); TMEP §814. Applicant must also explain whether this wording identifies a geographic place. See 37 C.F.R. §2.61(b); TMEP §814.

Failure to respond to a request for information is an additional ground for refusing registration. See *In re Cheezwhse.com, Inc.*, 85 USPQ2d 1917, 1919 (TTAB 2008); *In re DTI P’ship LLP*, 67 USPQ2d 1699, 1701 (TTAB 2003); TMEP §814.

-

DESCRIPTION NEEDS AMENDING

The description of the mark is accurate but incomplete because it does not describe all the significant aspects of the applied-for mark. Applications for marks not in standard characters must include an accurate and concise description of the entire mark that identifies literal elements as well as any design elements. See 37 C.F.R. §2.37; TMEP §§808 *et seq.*

Therefore, applicant must provide a more complete description of the applied-for mark. The following is suggested:

The mark consists of gold and red ornate shield with flourishes and a black internal background; inside the shield is the gold wording TNI above the gold wording KING COFFEE; a smaller basic shield with red and gold outline and black interior sits atop the larger shield and contains a gold crown.

IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS -INDEFINITE TERMS

The wording underlined and referenced below in the identification of goods and/or services is indefinite and must be clarified in order to ensure proper classification and protection. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §§1402.01, 1402.03.

In an application filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a), an applicant may not change the classification of goods and/or services from that assigned by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (International Bureau) in the corresponding international registration. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §§1401.03(d), 1904.02(b). Therefore, any modification to this wording must identify goods and/or services in International Class 30, the classification assigned by the International Bureau for these goods and/or services. Any wording below in all CAPITALS has been added by the examiner to fix an issue. Underlined language is problematic for the reasons set out in parentheses. Any language that should be removed has been crossed through.

“Coffee; instant coffee; coffee essences; coffee extracts; coffee mixtures (clarify by main ingredients) and COFFEE substitutes” in International Class 30.

WHO IS PERMITTED TO RESPOND TO THIS PROVISIONAL FULL 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 U.S. commonwealths or U.S. territories. 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>.

/lindamickleburgh/
Linda Mickleburgh
Examining Attorney
Law Office 106
linda.mickleburgh@uspto.gov
571-272-9198

TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER: Go to http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp. Please wait 48-72 hours from the issue/ mailing date before using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail TEAS@uspto.gov. For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

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/>.

TO UPDATE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL ADDRESS: Use the TEAS form at <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/correspondence.jsp>.