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

U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 79226425

MARK: LUX

79226425

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OFFICE ACTION

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION NO. 1387991

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-1rst 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 issues below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:
- Section 2(d) Refusal—Likelihood of Confusion
- Amendment to Identification of Goods Required
- Description of Mark Required

SECTION 2(d) REFUSAL—LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION

Registration of the applied-for mark is refused because of a likelihood of confusion with the mark in U.S. Registration No. 4893672. Trademark Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); *see* TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.* See the attached registration.

Trademark Act Section 2(d) bars registration of an applied-for mark that so resembles a registered mark that it is likely a consumer would be confused, mistaken, or deceived as to the source of the goods of the applicant and registrant. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d). Determining likelihood of confusion is made on a case-by-case basis by applying the factors set forth in *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 1361, 177 USPQ 563, 567 (C.C.P.A. 1973). *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d 1315, 1322, 123 USPQ2d 1744, 1747 (Fed. Cir. 2017). However, "[n]ot all of the [*du Pont*] factors are relevant to every case, and only factors of significance to the particular mark need be considered." *Coach Servs., Inc. v. Triumph Learning LLC*, 668 F.3d 1356, 1366, 101 USPQ2d 1713, 1719 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (quoting *In re Mighty Leaf Tea*, 601. F.3d 1342, 1346, 94 USPQ2d 1257, 1259 (Fed. Cir 2010)). The USPTO may focus its analysis "on dispositive factors, such as similarity of the marks and relatedness of the goods [and/or services]." *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d at 1322, 123 USPQ2d at 1747 (quoting *Herbko Int'l, Inc. v. Kappa Books, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1156, 1164-65, 64 USPQ2d 1375, 1380 (Fed. Cir. 2002)); *see* TMEP §1207.01.

Comparison of Marks

In a likelihood of confusion determination, the marks in their entireties are compared for similarities in appearance, sound, connotation, and commercial impression. *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d 1315, 1323, 123 USPQ2d 1744, 1748 (Fed. Cir. 2017).

In the present case, applicant has applied for the mark LUX in stylized form. Registrant's mark is LUX.

Marks may be confusingly similar in appearance where similar terms or phrases or similar parts of terms or phrases appear in the compared marks and create a similar overall commercial impression. *See Crocker Nat'l Bank v. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce*, 228 USPQ 689, 690-91 (TTAB 1986), *aff'd sub nom. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce v. Wells Fargo Bank, Nat'l Ass'n*, 811 F.2d 1490, 1495, 1 USPQ2d 1813, 1817 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (finding COMMCASH and COMMUNICASH confusingly similar); *In re Corning Glass Works*, 229 USPQ 65, 66 (TTAB 1985) (finding CONFIRM and CONFIRMCELLS confusingly similar); *In re Pellerin Milnor Corp.*, 221 USPQ 558, 560 (TTAB 1983) (finding MILTRON and MILLTRONICS confusingly similar); TMEP §1207.01(b)(ii)-(iii).

Applicant and registrant's marks have identical wording—"lux." They are the same in sound and highly similar in appearance. They also give off the same commercial impression that suggests luxury.

The fact that applicant's mark is slightly stylized does not prevent confusion. When evaluating a composite mark containing both words and designs, the word portion is more likely to indicate the origin of the goods because it is that portion of the mark that consumers use when referring to or requesting the goods. *Bond v. Taylor*, 119 USPQ2d 1049, 1055 (TTAB 2016) (citing *In re Viterra Inc.*, 671 F.3d 1358, 1362, 101 USPQ2d 1905, 1908, 1911 (Fed. Cir. 2012)); TMEP §1207.01(c)(ii). Thus, although marks must be compared in their entireties, the word portion is often considered the dominant feature and is accorded greater weight in determining whether marks are confusingly similar, even where the word portion has been disclaimed. *In re Viterra Inc.*, 671 F.3d at 1366-67, 101 USPQ2d at 1911 (citing *Giant Food, Inc. v. Nation's Foodservice, Inc.*, 710 F.2d 1565, 1570-71, 218 USPQ2d 390, 395 (Fed. Cir. 1983)).

Accordingly, the marks are similar for likelihood of confusion purposes.

Comparison of Goods

The goods are compared to determine whether they are similar, 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, 1207.01(a)(vi).

The compared goods 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); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i). They need only be "related in some manner and/or if the circumstances surrounding their marketing are such that they could give rise to the mistaken belief that [the goods] 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).

In the present case, applicant has applied for the mark for use in connection with:

> Class 25: Tee-shirts; smocks; clothing; sports jerseys; knitwear clothing; shoes; hats; hosiery; scarves; leather belts clothing

Registrant has registered the cited mark for use in connection with:

> Class 25: Short-sleeved or long-sleeved t-shirts

Decisions regarding likelihood of confusion in the clothing field have found many different types of apparel to be related goods. *Cambridge Rubber Co. v. Cluett, Peabody & Co.*, 286 F.2d 623, 624, 128 USPQ 549, 550 (C.C.P.A. 1961) (women's boots related to men's and boys' underwear); *Jockey Int'l, Inc. v. Mallory & Church Corp.*, 25 USPQ2d 1233, 1236 (TTAB 1992) (underwear related to neckties); *In re Melville Corp.*, 18 USPQ2d 1386, 1388 (TTAB 1991) (women's pants, blouses, shorts and jackets related to women's shoes); *In re Pix of Am., Inc.*, 225 USPQ 691, 691-92 (TTAB 1985) (women's shoes related to outer shirts); *In re Mercedes Slacks, Ltd.*, 213 USPQ 397, 398-99 (TTAB 1982) (hosiery related to trousers); *In re Cook United, Inc.*, 185 USPQ 444, 445 (TTAB 1975) (men's suits, coats, and trousers related to ladies' pantyhose and hosiery); *Esquire Sportswear Mfg. Co. v. Genesco Inc.*, 141 USPQ 400, 404 (TTAB 1964) (brassieres and girdles related to slacks for men and young men).

Here, applicant's "clothing" and "tee-shirts" are broadly defined and encompass the goods identified by registrant, so these goods are essentially identical for likelihood of confusion purposed. Further, the attached internet evidence from Rush Order Tees, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Anthropologie shows that the same source that offers t-shirts like the goods identified by registrant commonly also offers hats, scarves, jerseys, and other goods like the goods listed by applicant under the same mark. https://www.rushordertees.com/custom/custom-softball-t-shirts/; https://www.abercrombie.com/shop/us/mens-tops--1; https://www.abercrombie.com/shop/us/mens-accessories; https://www.anthropologie.com/hats-scarves; https://www.anthropologie.com/tops-tees.

Applicant and registrant's goods are commonly offered by the same source and under the same mark, so they are considered related for likelihood of confusion purposes.

Conclusion

Because applicant and registrant's goods are related and the marks are similar, it is likely a potential consumer would be confused as to the source of the goods of the applicant and registrant. Accordingly, the proposed mark creates a likelihood of confusion with a registered mark, and registration is properly refused on the Principal Register under Section 2(d).

Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration. However, if applicant responds to the refusal, applicant must also respond to the requirements set forth below.

AMENDMENT TO IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS REQUIRED

The wording "clothing" and "knitwear clothing" in the identification of goods is indefinite and must be clarified because it does not identify the specific articles of clothing offered. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01.

Applicant may substitute the following wording, if accurate (changes indicated in bold and strikethrough):

Class 25: Tee-shirts; smocks; clothing**, namely, pants**; sports jerseys; knitwear clothing**, namely, sweaters**; shoes; hats; hosiery; scarves; leather belts ~~clothing~~

-

Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods may not later be reinserted. *See* TMEP §1402.07(e). Additionally, for applications filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a), the scope of the identification for purposes of permissible amendments is limited by the international class assigned by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (International Bureau); and the classification of goods may not be changed from that assigned by the International Bureau. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §§1401.03(d), 1904.02(b). Further, in a multiple-class Section 66(a) application, classes may not be added or goods transferred from one existing class to another. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §1401.03(d).

For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable *U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual*. *See* TMEP §1402.04.

DESCRIPTION OF MARK REQUIRED

Applicant must submit an accurate and concise description of the literal and design elements in the mark. 37 C.F.R. §2.37; *see* TMEP §§808.01, 808.02. The following is suggested, if accurate:

The mark consists of "LUX" in stylized form.

ASSISTANCE

If applicant has questions regarding this Office action, please telephone or e-mail the assigned trademark examining attorney. All relevant e-mail communications will be placed in the official application record; however, an e-mail communication will not be accepted as a response to this Office action and will not extend the deadline for filing a proper response. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(c), 2.191; TMEP §§304.01-.02, 709.04-.05. Further, although the trademark examining attorney may provide additional explanation pertaining to the refusals and requirements in this Office action, the trademark examining attorney may not provide legal advice or statements about applicant's rights. *See* TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

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.

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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.

DESIGN MARK

Serial Number
86524980

Status
REGISTERED

Word Mark
LUX

Standard Character Mark
Yes

Registration Number
4893672

Date Registered
2016/01/26

Type of Mark
TRADEMARK

Register
PRINCIPAL

Mark Drawing Code
(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Owner
Lux Clothing & Apparel, LLC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY CALIFORNIA 1970 E. 16th Street, Suite N206 Newport Beach CALIFORNIA 92663

Goods/Services
Class Status -- ACTIVE. IC 025. US 022 039. G & S: Short-sleeved or long-sleeved t-shirts. First Use: 2015/01/01. First Use In Commerce: 2015/11/05.

Filing Date
2015/02/05

Examining Attorney
VERHOSEK, WILLIAM

LUX

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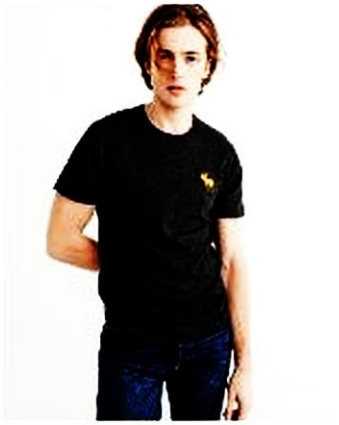

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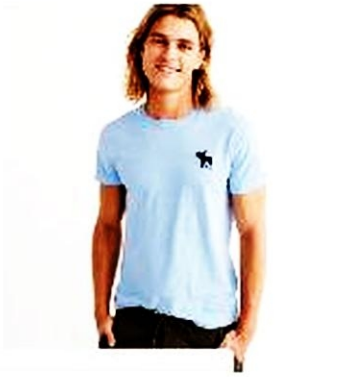

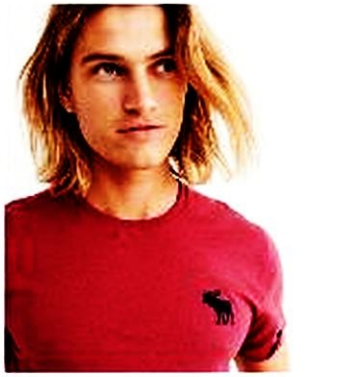

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