

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application

U.S. Application Serial No. 79282556

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Applicant: Splendid Drinks AG

Reference/Docket No. N/A

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NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

International Registration No. 1033667

Notice of Provisional Full Refusal

Deadline for responding. The USPTO must receive applicant's response **within six months of the "date on which the notification was sent to WIPO (mailing date)"** located on the WIPO coverletter, or the U.S. application will be abandoned. To confirm the mailing date, go to the USPTO's Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) database; select "US Serial, Registration, or Reference No.," enter the U.S. application serial number in the blank text box, and click on "Documents." The mailing date used to calculate the response deadline is the "Create/Mail Date" of the "1st Refusal Note."

Respond to this Office action using the USPTO's Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). A link to the appropriate TEAS response form appears at the end of this Office action.

Discussion of provisional full refusal. This is a provisional full refusal of the request for extension of protection to the United States of the international registration, known in the United States as a U.S. application based on Trademark Act Section 66(a). See 15 U.S.C. §§1141(f), 1141h(c).

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.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Requirement to Amend the Identification of Goods – Classes 25, 32 and 33 Only
- Requirement for U.S. Counsel

SEARCH OF USPTO DATABASE OF MARKS

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

IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS – CLASSES 25, 32 & 33 ONLY

Please note: Class 3 is accepted as written by the applicant.

The word "clothing" in the identification of goods in International Class 25 is indefinite and too broad and must be clarified because the word does not make clear the nature of the goods and could identify goods in more than one international class. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §§1402.01, 1402.03, 1904.02(c), (c)(ii).

The international classification of goods in applications filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a) cannot be changed from the classification the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization assigned to the goods in the corresponding international registration. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §1401.03(d). Therefore, although clothing can be classified in international classes other than International Class 25 (e.g., International Classes 9, 10, and 18), any modification to the identification must identify goods in International Class 25 only, the class specified in the application for such goods. See TMEP §1904.02(c)(ii).

Examples of acceptable identifications for clothing and/or apparel in International Class 25 include the following: “shirts,” “shorts,” “pants,” “coats,” “dresses,” “skirts,” and “socks.” Applicant may also amend the identification by inserting the word “namely,” after “clothing” and then listing the specific types of clothing items.

Also, the wording “suspenders, also made of leather” in the identification of goods is unnecessary. “Suspenders” are classified in Class 25 regardless of the material composition, and the term includes suspenders of all materials, leather, textile or otherwise. Thus, the wording “also made of leather” is unnecessary and may be removed.

The identification of goods for Classes 32 and 33 contains parentheses. Generally, applicants should *not* use parentheses and brackets in identifications in their applications so as to avoid confusion with the USPTO’s practice of using parentheses and brackets in registrations to indicate goods that have been deleted from registrations or in an affidavit of incontestability to indicate goods not claimed. See TMEP §1402.12. The only exception is that parenthetical information is permitted in identifications in an application if it serves to explain or translate the matter immediately preceding the parenthetical phrase in such a way that it does not affect the clarity or scope of the identification, e.g., “fried tofu pieces (abura-age).” *Id.*

Therefore, applicant must remove the parentheses from the identification and incorporate any parenthetical or bracketed information into the description of the goods.

In Class 32, the wording “beverages,” “for energy supply,” and “preparations” in the identification of goods is indefinite and must be clarified because the nature of the goods is unclear. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01. Applicant must amend this wording to specify the common commercial or generic name of the goods. See TMEP §1402.01. If the goods have no common commercial or generic name, applicant must describe the product, its main purpose, and its intended uses. See *id.*

Applicant may substitute the following wording, showing the suggested amendments in bold type, if accurate:

Class 25

Clothing, namely, sports and leisure clothing, **in particular, {specify articles of clothing, e.g. pants, shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops, etc.};** shoes, footwear and boots, namely, sports and leisure shoes and boots; stockings, pants, socks; suspenders, ~~also made of leather~~, ties, namely, bow ties; gloves; headgear, namely, headbands and sweatbands; belts

Class 32

Mineral waters and aerated waters; beverages, **namely, {specify type of Class 32 beverage, e.g. fruit juice}** containing vitamins (not for medical purposes) and isotonic beverages; refreshing beverages containing caffeine, **namely, {specify type of Class 32 beverage, e.g. soda pop};** taurine beverages, **namely, {specify type of Class 32 beverage, e.g. energy drinks}** containing caffeine; soft drinks for energy supply, **namely, energy drinks;** fruit drinks and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations, **namely, {specify form of preparations, e.g. concentrates or powders}** for making beverages

Class 33

Alcoholic beverages ~~(except beers)~~

Applicant’s goods and/or services may be clarified or limited, but may not be expanded beyond those originally itemized in the application or as acceptably narrowed. See 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §§1402.06, 1904.02(c)(iv). Applicant may clarify or limit the identification by inserting qualifying language or deleting items to result in a more specific identification; however, applicant may not substitute different goods and/or services or add goods and/or services not found or encompassed by those in the original application or as acceptably narrowed. See TMEP §1402.06(a)-(b). The scope of the goods and/or services sets the outer limit for any changes to the identification and is generally determined by the ordinary meaning of the wording in the identification. TMEP §§1402.06(b), 1402.07(a)-(b). Any acceptable changes to the goods and/or services will further limit scope, and once goods and/or services are deleted, they are not permitted to be reinserted. 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 and/or services 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 and/or services 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.

U.S. COUNSEL REQUIRED

Applicant must be represented by a U.S.-licensed attorney at the USPTO to respond to or appeal the provisional refusal. An applicant whose domicile is located outside of the United States or its territories is foreign-domiciled and must be represented at the USPTO by an attorney who is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state or territory. 37 C.F.R. §§2.11(a), 11.14; *Requirement of U.S.-Licensed Attorney for Foreign-Domiciled Trademark Applicants & Registrants*, Examination Guide 4-19, at I.A. (Rev. Sept. 2019). An individual applicant’s domicile is the place a person resides and intends to be the person’s principal home. 37 C.F.R. §2.2(o); Examination Guide 4-19, at I.A. A juristic entity’s domicile is the principal place of business; i.e., headquarters, where a juristic entity applicant’s senior executives or officers ordinarily direct and control the entity’s activities. 37 C.F.R. §2.2(o); Examination Guide 4-19, at I.A. Because applicant is foreign-domiciled, applicant must

appoint such a U.S.-licensed attorney qualified to practice under 37 C.F.R. §11.14 as its representative before the application may proceed to registration. 37 C.F.R. §2.11(a). See [Hiring a U.S.-licensed trademark attorney](#) for more information.

Only a U.S.-licensed attorney can take action on an application on behalf of a foreign-domiciled applicant. 37 C.F.R. §2.11(a). Accordingly, the USPTO will not communicate further with applicant about the application beyond this Office action or permit applicant to make future submissions in this application. And applicant is not authorized to make amendments to the application.

To appoint or designate a U.S.-licensed attorney. To appoint an attorney, applicant should submit a completed Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) [Change Address or Representation](#) form. The newly-appointed attorney must submit a TEAS [Response to Examining Attorney Office Action](#) form indicating that an appointment of attorney has been made and address all other refusals or requirements in this action, if any. Alternatively, if applicant retains an attorney before filing the response, the attorney can respond to this Office action by using the appropriate TEAS response form and provide his or her attorney information in the form and sign it as applicant's attorney. See 37 C.F.R. §2.17(b)(1)(ii).

RESPONSE GUIDELINES

For this application to proceed, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement in this Office action. For a refusal, applicant may provide written arguments and evidence against the refusal, and may have other response options if specified above. For a requirement, applicant should set forth the changes or statements. Please see ["Responding to Office Actions"](#) and the informational video ["Response to Office Action"](#) for more information and tips on responding.

How to respond. [Click to file a response to this nonfinal Office action.](#)

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RESPONSE GUIDANCE

- **Missing the response deadline to this letter will cause the application to abandon.** A response or notice of appeal must be received by the USPTO before midnight **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response period. TEAS and ESTTAmaintenance or [unforeseen circumstances](#) could affect an applicant's ability to timely respond.
- **Responses signed by an unauthorized party** are not accepted and can **cause the application to abandon**. If applicant does not have an attorney, the response must be signed by the individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with [legal authority to bind a juristic applicant](#). If applicant has an attorney, the response must be signed by the attorney.
- If needed, **find contact information for the supervisor** of the office or unit listed in the signature block.