

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

U.S. Application Serial No. 79284197

Mark: VANTAGE POOLS DISCOVER THE NEW

Correspondence Address:

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Applicant: Compass Europe s. r. o.

Reference/Docket No. N/A

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NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

International Registration No. 1509077

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 cover letter, 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(a), 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.

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.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- Identification of Goods Requires Amendment
- Disclaimer Required
- U.S. Counsel Required

IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS REQUIRES AMENDMENT

The identification of goods 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 and/or services that have been deleted from registrations or in an affidavit of incontestability to indicate goods and/or services 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.

Additionally, the wording "building materials, not of metal" in the identification of goods is indefinite and must be clarified because the nature of the goods are 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, if accurate:

International Class 6: Metal swimming pools

International Class 19: Non-metal swimming pools; Non-metal building materials, namely, *{indicate specific Class 19 materials and/or specific use or purpose, e.g., fiberglass panels, floor boards, fascia, etc.}*

- Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, 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 and/or services 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 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.

DISCLAIMER REQUIRED

- Applicant must disclaim the wording "POOLS" in the mark because it is merely descriptive of an ingredient, quality, characteristic, function, feature, purpose, or use of applicant's goods and/or services. See 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(1); *DuoProSS Meditech Corp. v. Inviro Med. Devices, Ltd.*, 695 F.3d 1247, 1251, 103 USPQ2d 1753, 1755 (Fed. Cir. 2012); TMEP §§1213, 1213.03(a).

This wording appears in applicant's identification of goods and/or services. Thus, the wording merely describes applicant's goods because the applicant provides pools.

Applicant may respond to this issue by submitting a disclaimer in the following format:

No claim is made to the exclusive right to use "POOLS" apart from the mark as shown.

For an overview of disclaimers and instructions on how to provide one using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), see the [Disclaimer webpage](#).

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).

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

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- **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.