

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

**U.S. Application Serial No.** 79334538

**Mark:** OCEAN SEA

**Correspondence Address:**

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FED REP GERMANY

**Applicant:** Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG

**Reference/Docket No.** N/A

**Correspondence Email Address:**

## NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

**International Registration No.** 0639025

### 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 (see <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/abandoned-applications> for information on abandonment). To confirm the mailing date, go to the USPTO's Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) database at <https://tsdr.uspto.gov/>, 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. §§1141f(a), 1141h(c).

### Introduction

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:

- Search Results – No Conflicting Marks Found
- Identification of Goods Indefinite – Amendment Required
- Mark Description Required
- Email Address Required
- U.S. Attorney Required

### Search Results – No Conflicting Marks Found

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 Indefinite – Amendment Required

The identification of goods contains parentheses. Generally, an applicant should *not* use parentheses and brackets, including curly brackets, in identifications in order to avoid confusion with the USPTO's practice of using parentheses and brackets in registrations to indicate (1) goods and/or services that have been deleted from registrations, (2) goods and/or services not claimed in an affidavit of incontestability, or (3) guidance to users of the USPTO's *U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual* to draft an acceptable identification. See TMEP §§1402.04, 1402.12. The only exception for including parenthetical information in identifications is 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)." See TMEP §1402.12.

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

In addition, the wording “processed molluscs and crustaceans” should indicate that the goods are “not live” to ensure proper classification.

Applicant may amend the identification to the following, if accurate:

- International Class 029: Processed fish and fish products, **namely**, tinned fish; fish jelly; processed molluscs and crustaceans, **not live**; edible shellfish, **not live**.
- International Class 031: Living molluscs, crustaceans and shellfish.

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.

### **Mark Description Required**

Applicant must submit a description of the mark because the mark in the drawing appears in stylized lettering, not standard characters. See 37 C.F.R. §2.37; TMEP §§808.01, 808.02. Applications for marks not in standard characters must include a description of all literal elements in the mark. See 37 C.F.R. §2.37.

The following description is suggested, if accurate: **The mark consists of the wording “OCEAN SEA” in stylized font.**

### **Email Address Required**

Applicant must provide applicant’s email address, which is a requirement for a complete application. See 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(2); TMEP §803.05(b). This email address cannot be identical to the primary correspondence email address of a U.S.-licensed attorney retained to represent applicant in this application. See TMEP §803.05(b).

### **U.S. Attorney Required**

Applicant is required to be represented by a U.S.-licensed attorney to respond to or appeal the provisional refusal because applicant’s domicile is located outside of the United States and applicant does not appear to be represented by a qualified U.S. attorney. 37 C.F.R. §2.11(a); TMEP §601.01(a). An applicant whose domicile is located outside of the United States or its territories must be represented 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); TMEP §§601, 601.01(a). In this case, applicant’s domicile is identified in the application as Germany. For more information, see the U.S. Counsel webpage at <https://www.uspto.gov/trademark/laws-regulations/trademark-rule-requires-foreign-applicants-and-registrants-have-us> and Hiring a U.S.-licensed trademark attorney webpage at <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-getting-started/why-hire-private-trademark-attorney>.

To appoint a U.S.-licensed attorney in this application, applicant should submit a completed Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) Change Address or Representation form at <https://teas.uspto.gov/ccr/car>. The newly-appointed attorney must submit a TEAS Response to Examining Attorney Office Action form at <https://teas.uspto.gov/office/roa/> indicating that an appointment of attorney has been made and address all other refusals or requirements in this action. 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); TMEP §604.01.

**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.