



3510-16-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **Patent and Trademark Office**

**[Docket No.: PTO-P-2020-0030]**

### **Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Ninth Edition, Revision of June 2020**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) issued a revision of the ninth edition of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), published in June 2020, to provide updated information on patent examination policy and procedure (June 2020 revision). The MPEP provides patent examiners and the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications and other proceedings before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material on the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings.

**ADDRESSES:** The USPTO prefers that suggestions for improving the form and content of the MPEP be submitted via email to [mpepfeedback@uspto.gov](mailto:mpepfeedback@uspto.gov) or via the IdeaScale<sup>®</sup> tool available at <https://uspto-mpep.ideascale.com/a/index>. Written comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Editor, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert A. Clarke, Editor of the MPEP, by email at [Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov), or by telephone at 571-272-7735; or James Lisehora, Patent Examination Policy Advisor, by email at [James.Lisehora@uspto.gov](mailto:James.Lisehora@uspto.gov), or by telephone at 571-272-8180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USPTO issued a revision to the ninth edition of the MPEP, published in June 2020, which provides USPTO patent examiners, applicants, attorneys, agents, representatives of applicants, and other members of the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material on the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings. Although the MPEP does not have the force of law or the force of the rules in 37 CFR, it “is well known to those registered to practice in the [US]PTO and reflects the presumptions under

which the [US]PTO operates.” *Critikon, Inc. v. Becton Dickinson Vascular Access, Inc.*, 120 F.3d 1253, 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In the June 2020 publication of the MPEP revision, sections of chapters 100-1000, 1200-1500, and 1700-2800 have been updated. The updated sections have a revision indicator of [R-10.2019], meaning these sections have been updated to reflect USPTO patent practice and relevant case law as of October 31, 2019. In addition, Chapter FPC - Form Paragraphs Consolidated, the Foreword, Introduction, Subject Matter Index, and all appendices except Appendix I and Appendix P have been updated. The changes in the June 2020 publication are discussed in the Change Summary for the Ninth Edition, Revision 10.2019. The Change Summary is available in three renditions at <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html>. Citation to a section in the current revision of the MPEP should be to “e9 r10.2019,” e.g., MPEP 2163 (e9 r10.2019).

The June 2020 publication of the revision of the ninth edition of the MPEP may be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the USPTO website at <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/> and is available to search online at <https://mpep.uspto.gov>. Archived copies of each of the prior revisions and editions of the

MPEP continue to be available for reference on the USPTO website at  
<https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/old/index.htm>.

Dated: July 2, 2020.

**Andrei Iancu,**  
*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States  
Patent and Trademark Office.*

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