



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Help the USPTO improve the MPEP using an Online  
Collaboration Tool**

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# New IT for the MPEP

What is happening:

The text is now represented in XML

Advantages:

Much faster to make and publish changes

» Timing limited only by legal review, not by IT

Easy to keep track of changes and make comparisons

Very easy to present with many different views

» pdf, html, other formats too if needed

» Will allow for sophisticated linking between sections

Makes major re-writes doable.



# New Online Discussion Tool

Allows stakeholders to:

Comment on proposed new sections/chapters

Suggest materials for existing sections, such as

- » Examples of cases showing both sides of a rule
- » Examples of reasons to combine that are sufficient to support obviousness
- » Examples with case citations including active links to decisions
- » Guidelines for when requirements are satisfied
- » Definitions



# New Online Discussion Tool

Participants can:

- Submit ideas about sections

- Comment on other people's ideas

- Indicate agreement or disagreement with comments and ideas

Try it out!

<http://uspto-mpep.ideascale.com>



Welcome, Marti Hearst [Sign Out](#)

# Discuss the MPEP

 

Welcome, Marti Hearst. You have successfully logged in.

## Chapters/Sections

- ▣ All Ideas
  - ✦ [Discuss Chapter 500: Receipt and Handling of Mail and Papers](#)
  - ✦ [Discuss Chapter 600: Parts, Form, and Content of Application](#)
  - ✦ [Discuss this Discussion Tool](#)
  - ✦ [Discuss the format of the new MPEP](#)

## Usage statistics

**56** ideas posted

129 comments 245 votes 95 users

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## Popular Tags

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## Discuss the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)

Welcome to the MPEP discussion tool! This Web site allows you to share your thoughts with other stakeholders as well as with the USPTO MPEP editors, to tell us how to improve this important document. The ultimate objective is to create a new MPEP that will enable practitioners and examiners to find information quickly, get accurate and complete guidance, and ensure that all patent applications comply with the laws and regulations governing the patent system.

Our editorial staff will periodically be posting proposed new material for you to respond to, and will in some cases will post responses to some of the submitted ideas and comments.

We really appreciate your thinking and recommendations!

[Submit New Idea](#)

## Getting Started:

MPEP sections can be viewed by clicking on the boxed plus sign next to each chapter name on the left. You must register on the site to contribute ideas, comments, and votes.

**View and Comment on Other Peoples' Ideas** See all of the ideas below, or select a Chapter to see the ideas associated with it.

- ✦ **Add Your Idea** Click on the "Submit New Idea" button.
- ✦ **Vote, Vote, Vote!** Your votes are critical to ensuring that the best ideas "bubble up" to the top.
- ✦ **Spread the Word!** E-mail, tweet, or post this URL ( [uspto-mpep.ideascale.com](http://uspto-mpep.ideascale.com) ) to your networks, and invite them to get involved.
- ✦ **Review our** [Terms of Participation and Privacy Policy](#) .

Recent (56)

Popular (56)

I agree

0 votes

[502.05 CORRESPONDENCE TRANSMITTED BY EFS-WEB](#) »

## Confused between MPEP 502.05 VIII and 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2)

I am confused between MPEP 502.05 VIII and 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2). The 37 CFR 1.84



Recent (56) Popular (56)

**I agree** [HOW ELSE SHOULD THE WEB SITE PRESENTATION CHANGE? »](#)  
**10** votes  
**MPEP should follow the BlueBook**  
Recent Office Actions continue to provide improper caselaw citations, such as incomplete citations that are ineffective to locate the case, citations ... [more](#) »  
**I disagree** [4 comments](#) Submitted by [Mike Haynes](#) 23 days ago

**I agree** [609.01 EXAMINER CHECKLIST FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS. »](#)  
**9** votes  
**citing "other material" on IDS form**  
37 CFR 1.98 (a) lists "other information" which may be cited in an IDS form. The PTO/SB/08A form is limited to US and foreign patents and their ... [more](#) »  
**I disagree** [3 comments](#) Submitted by [Julie Burke](#) 29 days ago

**I agree** [DISCUSS THIS DISCUSSION TOOL »](#)  
**8** votes  
**Excellent opportunity to provide feedback to MPEP writers**  
I think this forum will provide the patent community with an excellent opportunity to present ideas to the MPEP writers and others within the ... [more](#) »  
**I disagree** [2 comments](#) Submitted by [Gene Quinn](#) 1 month ago

**I agree** [608.01\(C\) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION »](#)  
**8** votes  
**Non-mandatory nature of Background**  
Section should be revised to help novice Examiners recognize and appreciate that no Background section is statutorily required, and thus absence ... [more](#) »  
**I disagree** [3 comments](#) Submitted by [Mike Haynes](#) 28 days ago

**I agree** [605.04\(G\) CORRECTION OF INVENTORSHIP »](#)  
**7** votes  
**guidance for electronic file wrapper papers**  
Today, the vast majority of our applications are handled via electronic file wrapper. However, MPEP 605.04(g), for example, contains detailed ... [more](#) »

March 2, 2011



## Submit New Idea

### Chapters/Sections

#### All Ideas

Discuss [Chapter 500: Receipt and Handling of Mail and Papers](#)

Discuss [Chapter 600: Parts, Form, and Content of Application](#)

**601 Content of Provisional and Nonprovisional Applications**

[602 Original Oath or Declaration](#)

[603 Supplemental Oath or Declaration](#)

[604 Administration or Execution of Oath](#)

[605 Applicant](#)

[606 Title of Invention](#)

[607 Filing Fee](#)

[608 Disclosure](#)

[609 Information Disclosure Statement](#)

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## 601 Content of Provisional and Nonprovisional Applications :

Start a discussion about this section by clicking the Submit New Idea button on the left. You can [read this section](#) on the USPTO website.

Recent (3)

Popular (3)

I agree

0  
votes

I disagree

[601.01\(C\) CONVERSION TO OR FROM A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION](#) »

### Clarify the Requirements for Conversion of Applications

601.01(c) II, provides the requirements for converting a provisional application to a nonprovisional application as: "the filing of a request ... [more](#) »

1 comment

Submitted by [Janice Tippett](#) 21 days ago

I agree

1  
vote

I disagree

[601.04 NATIONAL STAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AS A DESIGNATED OFFICE](#)

### Redundant section?

If Julie's suggestion is implemented (revise MPEP 601(III) to cross reference the filing requirements for US national stage app's), section 601.04 ... [more](#) »

[Add your comment](#)

Submitted by [Mike Haynes](#) 28 days ago

I agree

5  
votes

I disagree

[601.01 COMPLETE APPLICATION](#) »

### Cross reference suggested for MPEP 601 (III)

It would be helpful if the "Note" section of MPEP 601(III), which lists cross references for the filing requirements of various types of applications ... [more](#) »

2 comments

Submitted by [Julie Burke](#) 29 days ago

Displaying all 3 Ideas



I agree

[609.05 EXAMINER HANDLING OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS](#) »

**1**  
vote

e-mail Follow

## IDS/892 NPL website printouts

I disagree

Please offer some examples on proper ways to site NPL printed from websites. Crossing out the website link leaves very little information in the IDS/892 NPL listing.

Rank **30**

Tags: [npl](#) [892](#) [ids](#)

Idea# **97**

[Add tags](#)

[Comment](#)

Submitted by [Amy Johnson](#) 20 days ago

### Vote Activity



[An Examiner](#)

**Agreed**

4 days ago



[Suresh George Jayasingh](#)

**Disagreed**

8 days ago



[Joe Yaksich](#)

**Agreed**

16 days ago

### Comments (3)



[Michael D Berger](#) said:

You may site the web link as www.website.com, the USPTO does not allow active web links, http:\\www.website.com. Therefore removing the "HTTP:\\\" or "HTTPS:\\\" from any web address with or without the www. makes it a legitimate citation.

16 days ago



[Rob Clarke](#) said:

This suggestion will be taken up by the editorial staff.

**MODERATOR MESSAGE**

16 days ago

March 2, 2011





## Please Participate!

We have taken action on some of the ideas posted already.  
We will be posting more chapters to discuss in the coming months.



# Thank you!

For more information or questions, call  
571-272-7701 or write to  
[robert.clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:robert.clarke@uspto.gov)