

**TTAB**

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board  
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General Contact Number: 571-272-8500  
General Email: [TTABInfo@uspto.gov](mailto:TTABInfo@uspto.gov)

August 6, 2019

Opposition No. 91167196

*Spirits International, N.V.*

*v.*

*Russian Federal Treasury Enterprise  
Sojuzplodoimport*

**Veronica P. White, Paralegal Specialist:**

On July 29, 2019, Opposer's attorneys filed a request to withdraw as counsel of record in this proceeding. The request to withdraw as counsel is in compliance with the requirements of Trademark Rules 2.19(b) and Patent and Trademark Rule 11.116, and is accordingly **GRANTED**. The law firm of Covington & Burling LLP no longer represents Opposer in this proceeding.

In view of the withdrawal of Opposer's counsel, and in accordance with standard Board practice, proceedings are suspended, and Opposer is allowed until **THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the date of this order to appoint new counsel, or to file a paper stating that Opposer chooses to represent itself. If Opposer files no response, the Board may issue an order to show cause why default judgment should not be entered against Opposer based on Opposer's apparent loss of interest in the proceeding.

Proceedings otherwise remain **SUSPENDED** pending response to this order.



**8-20-2019**

U.S. Patent & TMO/TM Mail Rpt :Dt #02

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The parties will be notified by the Board when proceedings are resumed, and dates will be reset, as appropriate.

A copy of this order has been sent to all persons listed below.

cc:

Marie A. Lavalleye  
Covington & Burling LLP  
One City Center  
850 Tenth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Spirits International N.V.  
3 Rue du Fort Rheinsheim  
Luxembourg, Luxembourg L-2419

David W Quinto  
Quinn Emanuel Urguhart & Sullivan LLP  
865 South Figueroa Street  
10th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

### **Information for Opposer Regarding Legal Representation**

While Patent and Trademark Rule 11.14 permits any person to represent itself, it is strongly advisable for a person who is not acquainted with the technicalities of the procedural and substantive law involved in *inter partes* proceedings before the Board to secure the services of an attorney who is familiar with such matters. The Patent and Trademark Office cannot aid in the selection of an attorney. *See* TBMP § 114.02.

Trademark Rules 2.119(a) and (b) require that every submission filed in a proceeding before the Board **must** be served upon the other party or parties, and proper proof of such service must be made before the submission will be considered

by the Board. Accordingly, all submissions filed in this proceeding **must** be accompanied by a statement, signed by the attorney or other authorized representative, attached to or appearing on the original submission when filed, clearly stating the date and manner in which service was made, the name of each party or person upon whom service was made, and the email address or address. See TBMP § 113.03. Service must be made by email unless otherwise stipulated, or unless the filing party has satisfied the requirements for another method of service as set forth in Trademark Rule 2.119(b). The statement will be accepted as prima facie proof of service, must be signed and dated, and should take the form of a Certificate of Service as follows:

I hereby certify that a true and complete copy of the foregoing (insert title of submission) has been served on (insert name of opposing counsel or party) by forwarding said copy on (insert date of mailing), via email (or insert other appropriate method of delivery) to: (set out name, address, and email address of opposing counsel or party).

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Submissions in Board proceedings must be made via ESTTA, the Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals, and must be in compliance with Trademark Rules 2.126(a) and (b). See TBMP § 110.01. The ESTTA user manual, ESTTA forms, and instructions for their use are at <http://estta.uspto.gov/>.

It is recommended that any pro se party be familiar with the latest edition of Chapter 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes the Trademark Rules of Practice. Parties should also be familiar with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP), available at <http://www.uspto.gov/ttab>, the

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TTABVUE system for viewing the record for all Board proceedings, available at <http://ttabvue.uspto.gov/ttabvue/>, and the Standard Protective Order, available at <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/appealing-trademark-decisions/standard-documents-and-guidelines-0>.

Strict compliance with the Trademark Rules of Practice, and where applicable the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is required of all parties, whether or not they are represented by counsel. *McDermott v. San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent*, 81 USPQ2d 1212, n.2 (TTAB 2006), *aff'd unpub'd*, 240 Fed. Appx.865 (Fed. Cir. 2007), *cert. denied*, 552 U.S. 1109 (2008).

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DAVID W QUINTO  
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN LLP  
865 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET  
10TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

9001715003 0011

