

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
General Contact Number: 571-272-8500

Mailed: March 11, 2017

Opposition No. 91218264 - 85647325

Fishman Transducers, Inc.

v.

Music Group IP Ltd.

Tyrone Craven, Lead Paralegal Specialist:

The parties' consented motion, filed March 2, 2017, to continue suspension of this proceeding for an additional 120-days is granted.

Because the parties are negotiating for a possible settlement of this case, proceedings are suspended, subject to the right of either party to request resumption at any time.¹ See Trademark Rule 2.117(c), and 2.127(a); and TBMP § 605.02).

If, during the suspension period, either of the parties or their attorneys have a change of address or email address, the Board should be so informed. See Trademark Rule 2.18(b)(1).

¹ The parties should note that if proceedings are suspended for a lengthy period of time pursuant to the filing of several motions to suspend for settlement, the Board retains discretion to condition the approval of any future consented or stipulated motion to suspend on a party or the parties providing necessary information about the status of settlement talks, discovery activities, or trial activities, as may be appropriate. See Trademark Rule 2.117(c).



03-24-2017

In the event that there is no word from either party concerning the progress of their negotiations, upon conclusion of the suspension period, proceedings shall resume without further notice or order from the Board, upon the schedule set forth in the parties' motion.

The parties are reminded that there is a continuing obligation to provide a report on the progress of the parties' settlement efforts to establish good cause for any further extension or suspension. Such report must include: a recitation of issues that have been resolved and issues that remain to be resolved, and a firm timetable for resolution. Absent such a report, any future motion to extend or suspend may not be approved, even though agreed to by the parties.

Generally, the Federal Rules of Evidence apply to Board trials. Trial testimony is taken and introduced out of the presence of the Board during the assigned testimony periods. The parties may stipulate to a wide variety of matters, and many requirements relevant to the trial phase of Board proceedings are set forth in Trademark Rules 2.121 through 2.125. These include pretrial disclosures, the manner and timing of taking testimony, matters in evidence, and the procedures for submitting and serving testimony and other evidence, including affidavits, declarations, deposition transcripts and stipulated evidence. Trial briefs shall be submitted in accordance with Trademark Rules 2.128(a) and (b). Oral argument at final hearing will be scheduled only upon the timely submission of a separate notice as allowed by Trademark Rule 2.129(a).

**NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD ("BOARD")
RULES OF PRACTICE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 14, 2017**

The USPTO published a Notice of Final Rulemaking in the Federal Register on October 7 2016, at 81 Fed. Reg. 69950. It sets forth **several** amendments to the rules that govern *inter partes* (oppositions, cancellations, concurrent use) and ex parte appeal proceedings. A correction to the final rule was published on December 12, 2016, at 81 Fed. Reg. 89382.

For complete information, the parties are referred to:

- The Board's home page on the uspto.gov website: <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/trademark-trial-and-appeal-board-ttab>
- The final rule: <http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/81%20FR%2069950.pdf>
- The correction to the final rule: <http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/81%20FR%2089382.pdf>
- A chart summarizing the affected rules and changes: http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/RulesChart_12_9_16.pdf

For all proceedings, including those **already in progress on January 14, 2017**, some of the changes are:

- All pleadings and submissions must be filed through ESTTA. Trademark Rules 2.101, 2.102, 2.106, 2.111, 2.114, 2.121, 2.123, 2.126, 2.190 and 2.191.
- Service of all papers must be made by email, unless otherwise stipulated. Trademark Rule 2.119.
- Response periods are no longer extended by five days for service by first-class mail, Priority Mail Express®, or overnight courier. Trademark Rule 2.119.
- Deadlines for submissions to the Board that are initiated by a date of service are 20 days. Trademark Rule 2.119. Responses to motions for summary judgment remain 30 days. Similarly, deadlines for responses to discovery requests remain 30 days.
- All discovery requests must be served early enough to allow for responses prior to the close of discovery. Trademark Rule 2.120. Duty to supplement discovery responses will continue after the close of discovery.
- Motions to compel initial disclosures must be filed within 30 days after the deadline for serving initial disclosures. Trademark Rule 2.120.
- Motions to compel discovery, motions to test the sufficiency of responses or objections, and motions for summary judgment must be filed prior to the first pretrial disclosure deadline. Trademark Rules 2.120 and 2.127.
- Requests for production and requests for admission, as well as interrogatories, are each limited to 75. Trademark Rule 2.120.
- Testimony may be submitted in the form of an affidavit or declaration. Trademark Rules 2.121, 2.123 and 2.125.
- New requirements for the submission of trial evidence and deposition transcripts. Trademark Rules 2.122, 2.123, and 2.125.
- For proceedings filed on or after January 14, 2017, in addition to the changes set forth above, the Board's notice of institution constitutes service of complaints. Trademark Rules 2.105(a) and 2.113(a).

This is only a summary of the significant content of the Final Rule. All parties involved in or contemplating filing a Board proceeding, regardless of the date of commencement of the proceeding, should read the entire Final Rule.

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Commissioner for Trademarks

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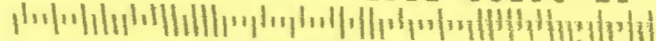
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