

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

CME/vv

Mailed: March 14, 2017

Opposition No. 91231833

Birds Eye Foods, LLC

v.

Hawaiian Chip Company LLC

Christen M. English, Interlocutory Attorney:

The Board notes Opposer/Counterclaim-Defendant's motion, filed March 6, 2017, for partial dismissal of Applicant/Counterclaim-Plaintiff's counterclaim for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.¹

When a party timely files a potentially dispositive motion, the proceeding is suspended with respect to all matters not germane to the motion, and no party should file any paper which is not germane to the motion except as otherwise may be

¹ To avoid confusion, the parties should refer to themselves in submissions by their proper names or by identifying Birds Eye Foods, LLC as Opposer/Counterclaim-Defendant and Hawaiian Chip Company, LLC as Applicant/Counterclaim-Plaintiff, as the Board has done in this order.

On January 31, 2017, Applicant/Counterclaim-Plaintiff filed a paper duplicate copy of its answer and counterclaims. 6 TTABVUE. Applicant/Counterclaim-Plaintiff is reminded not to file duplicate copies of submissions. Applicant/Counterclaim-Plaintiff also is reminded that the Trademark Rules were amended effective January 14, 2017 to require that all submissions in Board proceedings be filed electronically (Eastern Time controls the filing date of electronic submissions) and served via email. A brief summary of the changes to the Trademark Rules is provided at the end of this order.

specified in a Board order. Trademark Rule 2.127(d). Accordingly, as of the filing date of the motion to dismiss, proceedings are suspended pending disposition of the motion. Any paper filed during the pendency of this motion which is not germane thereto will be given no consideration. *See* Trademark Rule 2.127(d).

The parties should note that the schedule for the discovery conference, initial disclosures and discovery is also suspended by this order and will be reset in the event that the Board resumes proceedings. TBMP § 401.01 (Jan. 2017).

The motion to dismiss will be decided in due course.

NOTICE: 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/Chart%20Summarizing%20Rule%20Changes%2012-9-16.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.
