

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: July 12, 2017

Opposition No. 91235516  
Serial No. 87223228

Jinling Li

1838 Majestic Falls Ln  
Richmond, TX 77469

*Caterpillar Inc.*

*v.*

*Xiamen Veewo Games Co.,Ltd*

Stephanie H. Bald  
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## ESTTA832719

### 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/2017Rulechangehighlights.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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#### **NOTICE OF INSTITUTION**

The opposer (plaintiff) identified above has filed a notice of opposition to the registration sought by applicant (defendant) in the above-identified application. This notice of institution is forwarded pursuant to Trademark Rules 2.105(b) and (c), and constitutes service of the notice of opposition on applicant. An electronic version of the notice of opposition is viewable on TTABVue at

<http://ttabvue.uspto.gov/ttabvue/>. See Trademark Rule 2.105(a). The parties should diligently monitor this proceeding via TTABVUE.

### **APPLICANT MUST FILE ANSWER THROUGH ESTTA**

As required in the schedule below, **applicant must file an answer within forty (40) days from the mailing date of this order**. Failure to file a timely answer may result in the entry of default judgment and abandonment of the application. Regarding when a deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday, see Trademark Rule 2.196. Applicant must file the answer through ESTTA - Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals, unless ESTTA is unavailable due to technical problems or extraordinary circumstances are present. An answer filed on paper under these limited circumstances must be accompanied by a Petition to the Director (and the required fee under Trademark Rule 2.6). See Trademark Rule 2.106(b)(1). In substance, applicant's answer must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(b); it must admit or deny the allegations in the notice of opposition, and may include available defenses and counterclaims. Regarding the form and content of an answer, see Trademark Rule 2.106(b)(2) and TBMP § 311.

### **DUTY TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION**

Throughout this proceeding, the parties, and their attorneys or representatives, must notify the Board of any correction or update of physical address and email address, and should use the ESTTA change of address form. See Trademark Rule 2.18(b); TBMP § 117.

### **SERVICE OF ANSWER AND OF ALL SUBMISSIONS**

The service of the answer, and all other submissions in this proceeding, and of all matters that are required to be served but not required to be filed in the proceeding record, **must** be by **email** unless the parties stipulate otherwise. Trademark Rule 2.119(b). In the absence of a stipulation, service may be by other means **only** under the **limited** circumstances and in a manner specified in Trademark Rule 2.119(b). Regarding the signing and service of all submissions, see TBMP §§ 113-113.04.

The answer, and all other submissions, **must** include proof of service. As noted in TBMP § 113.03, proof of service may be in the following certificate of service form:

*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, and address or email address of opposing counsel or party).*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMIT ALL FILINGS ONLINE VIA ESTTA

Submissions **must** be filed via ESTTA, the Board's online filing system, unless ESTTA is unavailable due to technical problems or extraordinary circumstances are present. Trademark Rule 2.126(a). Submissions may be filed in paper form **only** under the **limited** circumstances specified in Trademark Rule 2.126(b), with a required written explanation. ESTTA is accessible at the Board's web page: <http://estta.uspto.gov/>. The page has instructions and tips. ESTTA offers various forms, some of which may require attachments and/or a fee. For technical questions, a party may call 571-272-8500 (Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5:00 ET) or email [ESTTA@uspto.gov](mailto:ESTTA@uspto.gov). This proceeding involves several deadlines, and due to potential technical issues, parties should not wait until the deadline to submit filings. The Board may **decline to consider** an untimely submission. Moreover, Trademark Rule 2.126 sets forth the required form and format for all submissions (e.g., page limitations), and the Board may **decline to consider** any submission that does not comply with this rule, including, but not limited to motions, briefs, exhibits, and deposition transcripts.

## CONFERENCE, DISCOVERY, DISCLOSURE AND TRIAL SCHEDULE

Time to Answer	8/21/2017
Deadline for Discovery Conference	9/20/2017
Discovery Opens	9/20/2017
Initial Disclosures Due	10/20/2017
Expert Disclosures Due	2/17/2018
Discovery Closes	3/19/2018
Plaintiff's Pretrial Disclosures Due	5/3/2018
Plaintiff's 30-day Trial Period Ends	6/17/2018
Defendant's Pretrial Disclosures Due	7/2/2018
Defendant's 30-day Trial Period Ends	8/16/2018
Plaintiff's Rebuttal Disclosures Due	8/31/2018
Plaintiff's 15-day Rebuttal Period Ends	9/30/2018
Plaintiff's Opening Brief Due	11/29/2018
Defendant's Brief Due	12/29/2018
Plaintiff's Reply Brief Due	1/13/2019
Request for Oral Hearing (option) Due	1/23/2019

## PARTIES ARE REQUIRED TO HOLD DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

The parties are required to schedule and hold a discovery conference by the deadline in the schedule in this order, or as reset by the Board. In the conference, the parties are required to discuss, at a minimum, 1) the nature and basis of their claims and defenses, 2) the possibility of promptly settling, or at least narrowing the

scope of claims or defenses, and 3) arrangements for disclosures, discovery, preserving discoverable information and introduction of evidence at trial. For guidance, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), Trademark Rule 2.120(a)(2)(i) and TBMP §§ 401.01 and 408.01(a).

The parties must hold the conference in person, by telephone or by a means on which they agree. A Board interlocutory attorney or administrative trademark judge will participate in the conference either upon request of any party made no later than ten (10) days prior to the conference deadline, or when the Board deems it useful to have Board involvement. *See* Trademark Rule 2.120(a)(2)(i). A request for Board participation must be made either through ESTTA, or by telephone call to the assigned interlocutory attorney named on the TTABVUE record for this proceeding. A party requesting Board participation should first determine possible dates and times when all parties are available. A conference with a Board attorney's participation will be by telephone in accordance with the Board's instructions.

For efficiency, the parties may stipulate to various procedural and substantive disclosure, discovery and trial matters (*e.g.*, modification of deadlines and obligations) upon written stipulation and approval by the Board. Trademark Rule 2.120(a)(2)(iv) provides a non-exhaustive list of matters to which parties may stipulate. The best practice is to reduce all stipulations to writing. If email service is not practical, such as for voluminous document production in discovery, the parties should discuss in the conference how production will be made. The parties, and their attorneys or representatives, have **a duty to cooperate** in the discovery process. TBMP § 408.01.

### **PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

The Board's Standard Protective Order is automatically imposed in all *inter partes* proceedings, and is available at: <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/appealing-trademark-decisions/standard-documents-and-guidelines-0>. During their conference, the parties should discuss whether they will use an alternative or modified protective order, subject to approval by the Board. *See* Trademark Rule 2.116(g) and TBMP § 412. The standard order does not automatically protect confidential information; its provisions for designating confidential information must be utilized as needed by the parties. Trademark Rule 2.126(c) sets forth the procedure for filing confidential submissions.

### **ACCELERATED CASE RESOLUTION (ACR)**

During their conference, the parties are to discuss whether they wish to seek mediation or arbitration, and whether they can stipulate to the Board's Accelerated Case Resolution (ACR) process for a more efficient and cost-effective means of obtaining the Board's determination of the proceeding. For details, and examples of ACR proceedings, *see* TBMP § 528, and the Board's webpage:

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