

**To:** Dive Guardians, Inc. ([attorneys@brandxperts.com](mailto:attorneys@brandxperts.com))  
**Subject:** U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 88368475 - HELPING THOSE WHO SERVE US - DG-HTWSU-1w  
**Sent:** 6/17/2019 3:24:48 PM  
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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)**  
**OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

**U.S. APPLICATION**  
**SERIAL NO.** 88368475

**MARK:** HELPING  
THOSE WHO SERVE US

**\*88368475\***

**CORRESPONDENT**  
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**APPLICANT:** Dive  
Guardians, Inc.

**CORRESPONDENT'S**  
**REFERENCE/DOCKET**  
**NO:**

DG-HTWSU-1w

**CORRESPONDENT E-**  
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## OFFICE ACTION

### STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW. A RESPONSE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE TRADEMARK ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SYSTEM (TEAS) MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MIDNIGHT **EASTERN TIME** OF THE LAST DAY OF THE RESPONSE PERIOD.

**ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 6/17/2019**

The referenced application has been reviewed by the assigned trademark examining attorney. Applicant must respond timely and completely to the issue(s) below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

#### SEARCH OF OFFICE'S DATABASE OF MARKS

The trademark examining attorney has searched the USPTO's database of registered and pending marks and has found no similar registered marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). TMEP §704.02; *see* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d). However, a mark in a prior-filed pending application may present a bar to registration of applicant's mark.

#### SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- Prior-Filed Pending Application
- Sections 1 and 45 Refusal – Mark Not Shown With Identified Services
- Section 2(b) Refusal – Use of the Flag of the United States
- Amended Mark Description Required

#### PRIOR-FILED PENDING APPLICATION

The filing date of pending U.S. Application Serial No. 88031976 precedes applicant's filing date. See attached referenced application. If the mark in the referenced application registers, applicant's mark may be refused registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d) because of a likelihood of confusion between the two marks. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); 37 C.F.R. §2.83; TMEP §§1208 *et seq.* Therefore, upon receipt of applicant's response to this Office action, action on this application may be suspended pending final disposition of the earlier-filed referenced application.

In response to this Office action, applicant may present arguments in support of registration by addressing the issue of the potential conflict between applicant's mark and the mark in the referenced application. Applicant's election not to submit arguments at this time in no way limits applicant's right to address this issue later if a refusal under Section 2(d) issues.

Applicant should note the following additional ground for refusal.

#### SECTIONS 1 AND 45 REFUSAL – SPECIMEN DOES NOT SHOW USE WITH CLASS 36

Registration is refused because the specimen does not show the applied for mark in use in commerce in connection with any of the services

specified in International Class 36 in the application or amendment to allege use. Trademark Act Sections 1 and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051, 1127; 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); *In re Keep A Breast Found.*, 123 USPQ2d 1869, 1876-79 (TTAB 2017); *In re Graystone Consulting Assocs., Inc.*, 115 USPQ2d 2035, 2037-38 (TTAB 2015); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a), 1301.04(d), (g)(i).

Specifically, the attached specimen contains six individual items, none of which makes an association between the various charitable services for first responders provided for in the applicant's identification. The first page of the specimen is an excerpt from a Facebook page, which outlines a birthday fundraiser. Applicant's applied-for mark appears in the chat screen, which only establishes that the owner of the account carries the drawing of the mark as his or her Facebook picture. The second through fifth images are the mark used as a ornamentation on T-shirts. Again, these images do not make a direct connection between the applied-for mark and any charitable services.

An application based on Trademark Act Section 1(a) must include a specimen showing the applied-for mark in use in commerce for each international class of services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. 15 U.S.C. §1051(a)(1); 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a).

Examples of specimens for services include advertising and marketing materials, brochures, photographs of business signage and billboards, and webpages that show the mark used in the actual sale, rendering, or advertising of the services. *See* TMEP §1301.04(a), (h)(iv)(C). Specimens comprising advertising and promotional materials must show a direct association between the mark and the services. TMEP §1301.04(f)(ii).

Applicant may respond to this refusal by satisfying one of the following for each applicable international class:

- (1) Submit a different specimen (a verified "[substitute](#)" [specimen](#)) that (a) was in actual use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of an amendment to allege use and (b) shows the mark in actual use in commerce for the goods and/or services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. A "verified substitute specimen" is a specimen that is accompanied by the following statement made in a signed affidavit or supported by a declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20: "The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of the amendment to allege use." The substitute specimen cannot be accepted without this statement.
- (2) Amend the filing basis to [intent to use under Section 1\(b\)](#), for which no specimen is required. This option will later necessitate additional fee(s) and filing requirements such as providing a specimen.

For an overview of *both* response options referenced above and instructions on how to satisfy either option online using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form, please go to <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/law/specimen.jsp>.

Applicant should note the following additional ground for refusal.

### **SECTION 2(b) REFUSAL – USE OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

Registration is refused because the applied-for mark includes an image of the flag of the United States of America. Trademark Act Section 2(b), 15 U.S.C. §1052(b); *see* TMEP §1204. Trademark Act Section 2(b) bars registration of marks that include the flag, coat of arms, or other insignia of the United States, any state or municipality of the United States, or any foreign nation. TMEP §1204.

The attached evidence from Britannica.com shows the flag from the United States. The applied-for mark includes this particular designation. Thus, the applied-for mark includes the actual flag of the United States, in violation of Section 2(b).

Trademark Act Section 2(b) is an absolute bar to registration on the Principal and Supplemental Registers. Trademark Act Sections 2(b) and 23(a), (c), 15 U.S.C. §§1052(b), 1091(a), (c); *see* TMEP §§1204, 1204.04(a).

Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal(s) by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration. However, if applicant responds to the refusal(s), applicant must also respond to the requirement(s) set forth below.

## **AMENDED MARK DESCRIPTION REQUIRED**

Although applicant submitted a drawing showing the mark in color with a color claim, applicant did not provide the required description that specifies where each color appears in the literal and design elements in the mark. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.37, 2.52(b)(1); TMEP §807.07(a)-(a)(ii). Therefore, applicant must provide this description. *See* TMEP §807.07(a)(ii).

Generic color names must be used to describe the colors in the mark, e.g., red, yellow, blue. TMEP §807.07(a)(i)-(ii). If black, white, and/or gray represent background, outlining, shading, and/or transparent areas and are not part of the mark, applicant must so specify in the description. *See* TMEP §807.07(d).

The following description is suggested, if accurate (amendments in ***bold italics***): “The mark consists of the phrase “HELPING THOSE WHO SERVE US” located above an American Flag with alternating black and white stripes with the top and bottom stripes being black, the eighth stripe being blue, the ninth stripe being red, the upper left having white stars on a black background, and stylized ***white*** outlines of a police officer with a black badge to the left of a firefighter holding an axe and pickaxe superimposed over the flag.”

**Response guidelines.** For this application to proceed, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement in this Office action. For a refusal, applicant may provide written arguments and evidence against the refusal, and may have other response options if specified above. For a requirement, applicant should set forth the changes or statements. Please see “[Responding to Office Actions](#)” and the informational [video “Response to Office Action”](#) for more information and tips on responding.

Please call or email the assigned trademark examining attorney with questions about this Office action. Although the trademark examining attorney cannot provide legal advice or statements about applicant’s rights, the trademark examining attorney can provide applicant with additional explanation about the refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) in this Office action. *See* TMEP §§705.02, 709.06. Although the USPTO does not accept emails as responses to Office actions, emails can be used for informal communications and will be included in the application record. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(c), 2.191; TMEP §§304.01-.02, 709.04-.05.

**TEAS PLUS OR TEAS REDUCED FEE (TEAS RF) APPLICANTS – TO MAINTAIN LOWER FEE, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET, INCLUDING SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS ONLINE:** Applicants who filed their application online using the lower-fee TEAS Plus or TEAS RF application form must (1) file certain documents online using TEAS, including responses to Office actions (see TMEP §§819.02(b), 820.02(b) for a complete list of these documents); (2) maintain a valid e-mail correspondence address; and (3) agree to receive correspondence from the USPTO by e-mail throughout the prosecution of the application. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.22(b), 2.23(b); TMEP §§819, 820. TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants who do not meet these requirements must submit an additional processing fee of \$125 per class of goods and/or services. 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(v), 2.22(c), 2.23(c); TMEP §§819.04, 820.04. However, in certain situations, TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants may respond to an Office action by authorizing an examiner’s amendment by telephone or e-mail without incurring this additional fee.

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**TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:** Go to [http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response\\_forms.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp). Please wait 48-72 hours from the issue/mailling date before using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail [TEAS@uspto.gov](mailto:TEAS@uspto.gov). For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

**All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.**

**WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE:** It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

**PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION:** To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at [TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov](mailto:TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov) or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

**TO UPDATE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Use the TEAS form at <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/correspondence.jsp>.

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