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*Patent  
Prosecution  
Developments*

July 2003

Revised Amendment  
Practice Mandatory for  
Amendments Filed on or  
After July 30, 2003

**Final Rule on Revised Amendment  
Practice -- Changes To Implement  
Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent  
Application Records**

All amendments filed on or after July 30, 2003 **must comply** with the revised 37 CFR 1.121 (except for reissue and reexamination proceedings). The Final Rule requires a single, complete listing of all claims, with each claim having a status identifier showing the current status of the claim. A clean version is no longer required. Amendments are made using underlining to show added material and strikethrough to show deleted material. Also, where strikethrough is unclear, double brackets [[...]] may be used to delete 5 or fewer characters.

The Final Rule provides for 7 permissible status identifiers and eliminates 6 status identifiers permitted under the Proposed Rule. The 7 permissible status identifiers under the Final Rule are:

**(Original)** - Claim remains as filed in original specification.

**(Currently Amended)** - Claim being amended and includes markings to show amendments.

**(Canceled)** - Claim currently or previously canceled. The text of the claims should not be included.

**(Withdrawn)** - The claim was not elected and is withdrawn from consideration. The text of the claim should be included to permit rejoinder. The claim may also be amended and, if so, should include markings.

**(Previously Presented)** - The claims was previously added or previously amended.

**(New)** - The claim is being added in the current amendment.

**(Not Entered)** - The claim was presented in a previously unentered amendment. The text of the claim should not be included.

For more information, see:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/moreinfoamdtprac.htm>