



**Robinson Intellectual
Property Law Office**

PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165

Voice: 571-434-6789
Fax: 571-434-9499
G4 Fax: 571-434-2916
Email: info@riplo.com
www.riplo.com

*Patent
Prosecution
Developments*

August 2003

Copies of U.S. References
not required with IDS in
applications filed after
June 30, 2003

**Information Disclosure Statements May Be
Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and
Published Applications in Patent
Applications filed after June 30, 2003**

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regulations concerning Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) currently require that copies of cited references be submitted with the IDS. See 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). This requirement was partially waived with respect to U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when an applicant submitted an IDS using the Office's electronic filing system.

All U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003 are stored in electronic form in the Office's Image File Wrapper (IFW) system. IDSs submitted for these electronic applications are processed by the Office to create an electronic link which permits cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications to be conveniently viewed by examiners through the Office's patent search system. This feature enables the Office to avoid scanning these documents into IFW, obviating the need for their submission.

Therefore, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003.

Applicants are still required to submit copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).