The cover sheet referenced in 37 CFR 7.1(c) must be in a format approved by the Office. The Office of Public Records will maintain a list of approved formats that will meet this requirement. Contact the Office of Public Records at (703) 308–9743 regarding specific questions relating to this requirement and to seek approval of additional formats.

Background

Statutory Provisions

Patent fees are authorized by 35 U.S.C. 41 and 35 U.S.C. 376. A fifty percent reduction in the fees paid under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) by independent inventors, small business concerns, and nonprofit organizations who meet prescribed definitions is required by 35 U.S.C. 41(h).

Subsection 41(f) of title 35, United States Code, provides that fees established under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) may be adjusted on October 1, 1992, and every year thereafter, to reflect fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the previous 12 months.

Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (amended by section 8001 of Pub. L. 103–66) provides that there shall be a surcharge on all fees established under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) to collect \$111 million in fiscal year 1996.

Subsection 41(d) of title 35, United States Code, authorizes the Commissioner to establish fees for all other processing, services, or materials related to patents to recover the average cost of providing these services or materials, except for the fees for recording a document affecting title, for each photocopy, and for each black and white copy of a patent.

Section 376 of title 35, United States Code, authorizes the Commissioner to set fees for patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Subsection 41(g) of title 35, United States Code, provides that new fee amounts established by the Commissioner under section 41 may take effect thirty days after notice in the **Federal Register** and the *Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark Office.*

Section 31 of the Trademark (Lanham) Act of 1946, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1113), authorizes the Commissioner to establish fees for the filing and processing of an application for the registration of a trademark or other mark, and for all other services and materials relating to trademarks and other marks.

Section 31(a) of the Trademark (Lanham) Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C.

1113(a)), as amended, allows trademark fees to be adjusted once each year to reflect, in the aggregate, any fluctuations during the preceding 12 months in the CPI.

Section 31 also allows new trademark fee amounts to take effect thirty days after notice in the **Federal Register** and the Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Recovery Level Determinations

This rule adjusts patent and trademark fees for a planned recovery of \$643,014,000 in fiscal year 1996, as proposed in the Administration's budget request to the Congress.

The patent statutory fees established by 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) are being adjusted on October 1, 1995, to reflect any fluctuations occurring during the previous 12 months in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). In calculating these fluctuations, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that the PTO should use CPI-U data as determined by the Secretary of Labor. However, the Department of Labor does not make public the CPI-U until approximately 21 days after the end of the month being calculated. Therefore, the latest CPI-U information available is for the month of May 1995. In accordance with previous rulemaking methodology, the PTO uses the Administration's projected CPI-U for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1995, which is 3.2 percent. Based on this projection, patent statutory fees will be adjusted by 3.2 percent. Before the final fee schedule is published, the fees may be slightly adjusted based on actual data available from the Department of Labor.

Certain non-statutory patent processing fees established under 35 U.S.C. 41(d) and PCT processing fees established under 35 U.S.C. 376 are being adjusted to recover their estimated average costs in fiscal year 1996. Three patent service fees that are set by statute will not be adjusted. The three fees that are not being adjusted are assignment recording fees, printed patent copy fees and photocopy charge fees.

Certain trademark service fees established under 15 U.S.C. 1113 are being adjusted to recover their estimated average costs in fiscal year 1996.

The fee amounts were rounded by applying standard arithmetic rules so that the amounts rounded would be convenient to the user. Fees of \$100 or more were rounded to the nearest \$10. Fees between \$2 and \$99 were rounded to an even number so that the comparable small entity fee would be a whole number.

Workload Projections

Determination of workloads varies by fee. Principal workload projection techniques are as follows:

Patent application workloads are projected from statistical regression models using recent application filing trends. Patent issues are projected from an in-house patent production model and reflect examiner production achievements and goals. Patent maintenance fee workloads utilize patents issued 3.5, 7.5 and 11.5 years prior to payment and assume payment rates of 79 percent, 55 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Service fee workloads follow linear trends from prior years' activities.

General Procedures

Any fee amount that is paid on or after the effective date of the fee increase would be subject to the new fees then in effect. For purposes of determining the amount of the fee to be paid, the date of mailing indicated on a proper Certificate of Mailing or Transmission, where authorized under 37 CFR 1.8, will be considered to be the date of receipt in the PTO. A Certificate of Mailing or Transmission under Section 1.8 is not "proper" for items which are specifically excluded from the provisions of Section 1.8. Section 1.8 should be consulted for those items for which a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission is not "proper." Such items include, inter alia, the filing of national and international applications for patents and the filing of trademark applications. However, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.10 relating to filing papers and fees with an "Express Mail" certificate do apply to any paper or fee (including patent and trademark applications) to be filed in the PTO. If an application or fee is filed by "Express Mail" with a proper certificate dated on or after the effective date of the rules, as amended, the amount of the fee to be paid would be fee established by the amended rules.

A notice of final rulemaking was published at 60 FR 20195 (April 25, 1995) wherein several new fee provisions were made to implement the 20-year patent term and provisional applications. Language changes were made in 37 CFR 1.16 (a), (b), (d), (f), and (g) which are reproduced in this final rule package. In addition, fees involving 37 CFR 1.17 (r) and (s) are being adjusted by changes in the CPI to remain equal to the basic filing fee for a utility patent application.

PTO Information Dissemination Products

The PTO provides information to the public in the Patent Search Room and