



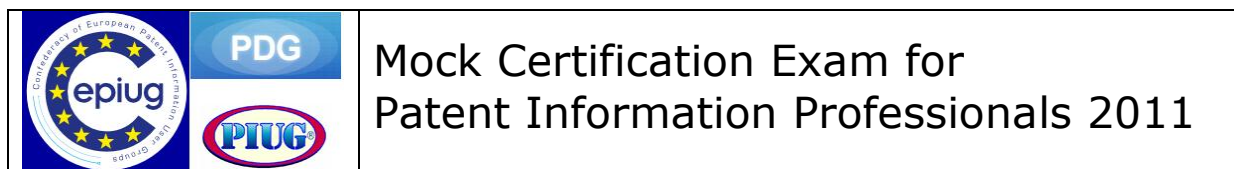
Mock Certification Exam for
Patent Information Professionals 2011

PATENT INFORMATION ANALYSIS MOCK CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Paper A

Chemistry

Version 2



The general advice for all candidates:

This paper is a test of the candidates search skills so most marks will be awarded for the planning of and actual carrying out of the search with only limited emphasis on the final selection of relevant documents.

In order to demonstrate detailed knowledge of search processes candidates are expected to:

- Discuss their understanding of the actual request (including any points that in a real situation might have needed further clarification);
- Plan out suitable search strategies - explaining which concepts should be searched on in which sources and any additional tools that might be useful;
- Conduct a (number of) suitable "online" searching - discussing in detail the reason for selecting specific "terms" and search logic;
- Knowledge of unused search techniques can also be demonstrated by discussing why these are not appropriate for a specific search request;
- Select potentially interesting documents from a list of results
- Demonstrate knowledge of structure of patents and coding systems.

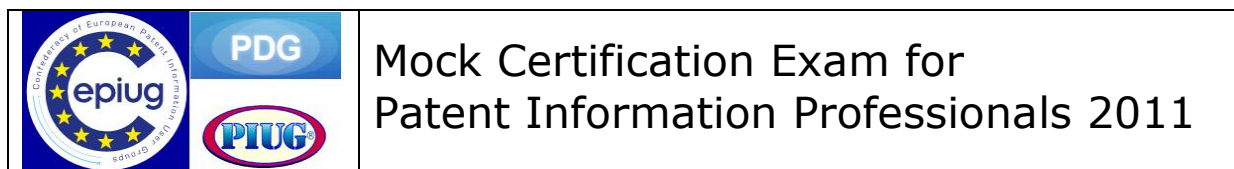
Instructions

Please **choose one of the two questions**.

Please note that each question is in three parts dealing with three main aspects of patent searching (Freedom-to-operate, Opposition, and Patentability). Start with the primary request (a) and then follow on to (b).

If you have limited time it is probably better use of time to consider any opposition or freedom to operate search before the patentability request.

In all instances, online searching will help illustrate your understanding and skill - however, if time is pressing some credit will be given for a written strategy with explanation.



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Question 1

a) Your company is proposing to relaunch its wood preservative coating product with a reformulated composition. It is intended to roll-out this change across all its existing markets - Germany, France, Austria, Japan and China. The first relaunch date is due in 6 weeks time.

The current product is an acrylic composition comprising, an acrylic component selected from acrylic resins and precursors thereof. It is proposed to improve the protection of wood against colour changes caused by sunlight damage by the incorporation of a nano particulate metal oxide UV absorber (particle size less than 100 nm), being either Zinc and/or Titanium oxide. The Titanium oxide and zinc oxide can be present as any of their common crystal forms - depending on local raw material supplies. It is believed that competitors have used metal oxides in wood preservative products for some time but this is a new area for your company. However, your company has previously used acrylic resins wood preservatives containing organic sunscreens in these markets.

b) Your attorney is already aware of an earlier granted competitor patent (priority date 19th March 1999) with the following broad first claim:

A wood preservative composition comprising a) an acrylic resin or precursor thereof, and b) small particles of Zinc and/or Titanium oxide as a UV absorber; wherein these components are present as an intimate mixture.*

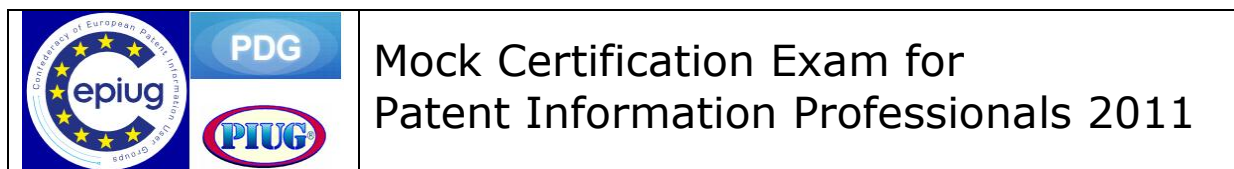
Although the patent contains specific examples the document includes no text that clearly defines the meaning of "small particles". The disclosure also indicates that there is no synergistic interaction between the 2 components and that the resin is just acting as a carrier for the oxides. You have been asked to find suitable prior art to invalidate this claim - construct an appropriate strategy for this request.

* Note to the candidates this document is not real it has just been made up as an exercise for this exam.

c) If you were asked to conduct a patentability search for the following claim:

Acrylic (co)polymer resins containing nano particulate metal oxide UV absorber, preferably selected from Zinc, Titanium or a mixture of these oxides, suitable for use as a wood preservative.

Show how you would alter your search from the initial freedom to operate request?



Question 2

a) Consider that EP 1278810 B1 has just been granted. This document was being watched by your company and an attorney has asked for your help to identify suitable prior art to prepare an opposition statement against the broadest claim of this patent.

b) You receive a request for a freedom to operate search for a wallpaper paste as described in the Example in EP 1278810 B1. The base composition is well known so your attorney has asked you to limit your searching to the carrier/perfume component. The actual Beta-CD carrier used in the product is CAVASOL W6 HP TL. Your company wishes to start manufacturing this paste for sale across Western Europe in 2 months time. How might this search differ from the original request for the opposition search against EP 1278810 B1?

c) How would you modify your strategy if you had been asked to conduct a patentability search for an

"Adhesive composition, in particular intended for use in or as wallpaper paste, which comprises a) an adhesive and b) an odour-substance-releasing constituent that contains at least one odour substance and at least one carrier constituent, **characterised in that** the adhesive composition is in a dry form, such as the form of a powder or granules, which is suitable for mixing with water by an end user and the odour substance is associated with the carrier constituent, that is selected from cyclodextrins and cyclodextrin derivatives, in such a way that the odour substance is essentially released from the odour-substance-releasing constituent only when the latter comes into contact with water."

assuming that neither you nor your client was aware of the existence of EP 1278810?