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# External Quality Survey (EQS) Questions

## General Questions

1. What is your patent attorney/agent registration number?

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2. What is your affiliation?

- Law Firm or Sole Practitioner
- Corporation
- Independent Inventor
- Other (University, Federal Government, etc.)

3. Considering all of the office actions you received during the past 3 months, which one technology field listed below best describes the majority of those applications and actions?

- Pharmaceuticals
- Other (e.g., biotechnology, chemical engineering, environmental technology, or materials/metallurgy)
- Audio-visual technology
- Computer technology
- Digital communication
- Electrical machinery, apparatus, or energy
- IT methods for management
- Semiconductors
- Other (e.g., basic communication processes or telecommunications)
- Medical technology
- Optics
- Other (e.g., measurement, control, or analysis of biological materials)
- Engines, pumps, or turbines
- Transport
- Other(e.g., machine tools, mechanical elements, textile or paper machines)
- Civil engineering
- Design
- Other (e.g., furniture, games, or other consumer goods)

Did not file a patent application in the past 3 months

4. Approximately how many Office Actions have you received during the past 3 months?

1 to 10

11 to 20

21 to 30

31 to 50

51 or more

Have not received an Office Action in the past 3 months

**Patent Examiners' Decisions**

5. Consider your experiences over the past 3 months. Please think about the rules and procedures Patent Examiners must adhere to in their decisions. To what extent did the Patent Examiners you worked with adhere to the following rules and procedures with respect to:

	Not at all	Small Extent	Moderate Extent	Large Extent	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Citing appropriate prior art	0	0	0	0	0
Treating all claims	0	0	0	0	0
Providing enough information to advance prosecution	0	0	0	0	0
Substantively addressing your responses to Office Actions	0	0	0	0	0
Following appropriate restriction practice	0	0	0	0	0

This section is about Title 35 U.S.C. rejections. The questions ask about correctness, clarity, and consistency of rejections using the following definitions: Correctness: Compliance with all requirements of Title 35 U.S.C. as well as the relevant case law at the time of issuance. Decisions to reject were proper and contained sufficient evidence to support a conclusion of unpatentability. Clarity: Sufficiently allows anyone reviewing a rejection to readily understand the position taken. Consistency: A similar manner of treatment and examination standards between applications and examiners.

**Title 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejections**

6. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 101** reasonable in terms of...

	Rarely	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Correctness	0	0	0	0	0
Clarity	0	0	0	0	0
Consistency	0	0	0	0	0

**Title 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections**

7. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 102** reasonable in terms of...

	Rarely	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Correctness	0	0	0	0	0
Clarity	0	0	0	0	0
Consistency	0	0	0	0	0

**Title 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections**

8. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 103** reasonable in terms of...

	Rarely	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Correctness	0	0	0	0	0
Clarity	0	0	0	0	0
Consistency	0	0	0	0	0

**Title 35 U.S.C. 112(a) Rejections**

9. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 112(a)** reasonable in terms of...

	Rarely	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Correctness	0	0	0	0	0
Clarity	0	0	0	0	0
Consistency	0	0	0	0	0

### Title 35 U.S.C. 112(b) Rejections

10. Over the past 3 months, how often were the rejections you received under **35 U.S.C. 112(b)** reasonable in terms of...

	Rarely	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Correctness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clarity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consistency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Overall Examination Quality

11. For examinations in the past 3 months, would you rate the overall quality of the prior art found by patent examiners as...

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

12. In the past 3 months, would you rate the overall examination quality as...

Very Poor

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

13. In the past 3 months, overall examination quality has...

Significantly Declined

Slightly Declined

Stayed the Same

Slightly Improved

Significantly Improved

**Timeliness**

14. Over the past 3 months, how would you rate the following in terms of timeliness?

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not Applicable
Written actions in response to Non-final amendments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written actions in response to After-final amendments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written actions in response to RCEs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Responses to telephone inquires	0	0	0	0	0	0
Responses to email inquiries	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Comments: Any Quality Issues or Concerns**

15. What, if any, other quality issues or concerns would you like to bring to our attention?

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**Most Recent Office Action**

16. Considering only your most recent office action, how would you rate the following?

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
The examiner's understanding of the technology claimed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The legal position taken by the examiner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. Considering only your most recent office action, was the amount of information....

- Not enough
- Just right
- Too much

18. Considering only your most recent office action, to what extent did the examiner meet your expectations with regard to how well each of the following were addressed?

	Not At All	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Don't Know/Not Applicable
35 U.S.C. 102 Anticipation	0	0	0	0	0
35 U.S.C. 103 Obviousness	0	0	0	0	0
35 U.S.C. 112(a) Enablement	0	0	0	0	0
35 U.S.C. 112(b) Indefiniteness	0	0	0	0	0
35 U.S.C. 101 Subject Matter Eligibility	0	0	0	0	0
Restriction Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Non-statutory Double Patenting	0	0	0	0	0

19. Considering only your most recent office action, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The office action increased my confidence in the USPTO	0	0	0	0	0
The examiner I interacted with was helpful	0	0	0	0	0
I was treated fairly	0	0	0	0	0

20. Considering only your most recent office action, if there is anything you would like to bring to our attention please comment below. To maintain your anonymity and protect the confidentiality of your responses, do not include application numbers or names in your comments below. For issues requiring immediate attention please use the instructions and contact information provided in the office action itself.

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Thank you for completing the USPTO External Quality Survey. When you are satisfied with your responses, submit your answers by going to the next page.

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