



TESS Quick Reference Guide

(Trademark Electronic Search System)

Access

To access the Trademark database go to the www.uspto.gov homepage. Select the **Trademarks** dropdown menu and then select the **Trademark Search** option. Select one of the database search options from the **Select a Search Option** box. See example at right.

Content

TESS contains more than 5 million active (live) and inactive (dead) federal trademark registrations and applications. The TESS database does not contain any information on state, foreign, or common law trademarks. Information on applications and registrations that were inactive prior to 1984 are generally not available on TESS. TESS is updated daily Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Select A Search Option

▶ Basic Word Mark Search (New User)
This option cannot be used to search design marks.

▶ Word and/or Design Mark Search (Structured)
This option is used to search word and/or design marks.
NOTE: You must first use the [Design Search Code Manual](#) to look up the relevant Design Codes.

▶ Word and/or Design Mark Search (Free Form)
This option allows you to construct word and/or design searches using Boolean logic and multiple search fields.
NOTE: You must first use the [Design Search Code Manual](#) to look up the relevant Design Codes.

Search Operators

Records Returned: Plurals: [Quick Tips](#)

Search Term: Field: Operator

Search Term: Field:

The operators are listed below in order of precedence for search execution:

- **ADJ#, NEAR#:** (highest precedence) The search terms occur adjacent to each other (ADJ) or in the same sentence (NEAR) within the specified number of words (#).
- **WITH:** The search terms occur in the same sentence.
- **SAME:** The search terms occur in the same paragraph.
- **AND:** Records retrieved will contain each of the search terms specified.
- **NOT:** Records retrieved will not include the search term following the NOT operator.
- **OR:** (lowest precedence) Records retrieved will contain at least one of the search terms specified.

Truncation

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Asterisk (*) | Recommended for the Basic Index [BI] and Translation Index [TI] search fields. The * symbol matches zero or more continuous characters. Use the \$ or ? truncation operators for internal truncation searches. |
| Dollar Sign (\$) | The \$ matches zero or more continuous characters. It is recommend that \$ not be used to designate left and/or right truncation when searching the Basic Index [BI]. |
| Question Mark (?) | Matches a single non-blank character. |

Field Codes

This is an alphabetical list of the most commonly searched fields in TESS. For a complete list of fields or for additional help please click the TESS Help button: [HELP](#)

Basic Index [BI]

The Basic Index field contains the word mark and pseudo mark information indexed for optimal searching efficiency. This field (along with the [TI] field) uses a special * truncation operator for more efficient left and/or right truncation searches.

Coordinated Class [CC]

Search the Coordinated Class field to retrieve marks from International Classes related to a specific International Class. The Coordinated Class Table was designed to automatically include related International Classes in the search results when the primary International Class is searched.

Design Search Code [DC]

This field contains a six-digit code used to identify design elements that comprise a mark that contain a design (drawing). A mark may have more than one design code associated with it. Design search codes are defined in the Design Search Code Manual:

<http://tess2.uspto.gov/tmdb/dscm/index.htm>

Filing Date [FD]

This field contains the date when a complete application was received by the USPTO in the format YYYYMMDD. The \$ (unlimited) and ? (single character) truncation can be used.

Goods and Services [GS]

This field contains a written description identifying the nature of the goods and/or services as set forth in the application or registration. See Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual:

<http://tess2.uspto.gov/netahtml/tidm.html>

International Class [IC]

This field identifies the class(es) assigned to a mark under the International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Agreement) based upon the goods or services on which the mark is used. TIP: Enter a numeric international class in quotes with leading zeros, if necessary. See Chapter 1400 of the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure for additional trademark classification information:

<http://tess2.uspto.gov/tmdb/tmep/>

Owner Name [ON]

This field contains the name of the individual or organization having controlling interest in the use of the mark.

Registration Date [RD]

This field contains the date on which a mark was registered by the USPTO. This field applies only to registered marks; pending marks will have a registration date of 0. Dates are stored in the format YYYYMMDD. The \$ (unlimited) and ? (single character) truncation operators can be used in date searches.

Registration Number [RN]

This field contains the unique number assigned to applications that have received approval for registration. To search this field, use the seven-digit registration number (with leading zeros if not seven digits).

Serial Number [SN]

This field contains the unique identification number assigned by the USPTO to trademark applications that have received a filing date. Search for a specific record by entering its full 8-digit serial number.

