

months of the date of the post-discovery settlement conference or 15 days before the expiration of the existing rates or terms in a proceeding to determine successors to rates or terms that will expire on a specific date, whichever date first occurs. The date the determination is “issued” refers to the date of the order.

[70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 352.3 Final determinations.

Unless a motion for a rehearing is timely filed within 15 days, the determination by the Copyright Royalty Judges pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 803(c) in a proceeding is final when it is issued.

[71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

PART 353—REHEARING

Sec.

353.1 When granted.

353.2 Form and content of rehearing motions.

353.3 Procedure on rehearing.

353.4 Filing deadline.

353.5 Participation not required.

AUTHORITY: 17 U.S.C. 803.

SOURCE: 70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

§ 353.1 When granted.

A motion for rehearing may be filed by any participant in the relevant proceeding. The Copyright Royalty Judges may grant rehearing upon a showing that any aspect of the determination may be erroneous.

[71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 353.2 Form and content of rehearing motions.

A motion for rehearing shall not exceed 10 pages in length and must set forth, in the beginning of its text, a brief summary statement of the aspects of the determination believed by the moving participant to be without evidentiary support in the record or contrary to legal requirements.

§ 353.3 Procedure on rehearing.

Upon receipt of a motion for rehearing, the Copyright Royalty Judges will issue an appropriate order. No participant shall file a response to a rehearing

motion, unless such response is allowed by order of the Copyright Royalty Judges.

[70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 353.4 Filing deadline.

A motion for rehearing must be filed within 15 days after the date on which the Copyright Royalty Judges issue an initial determination.

[71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 353.5 Participation not required.

In any case in which a response to a rehearing motion is allowed, or rehearing is granted, an opposing party shall not be required to participate in the rehearing. The Copyright Royalty Judges will not draw any negative inference from a lack of participation in a rehearing. Nonparticipation in rehearing proceedings may limit the scope of their participation in judicial review proceedings as set forth in 17 U.S.C. 803(d)(1).

[70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

PART 354—SUBMISSIONS TO THE REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS

Sec.

354.1 Material questions of copyright law.

354.2 Novel questions.

354.3 Register of Copyrights' authority to redesignate referrals.

AUTHORITY: 17 U.S.C. 802.

SOURCE: 70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

§ 354.1 Material questions of copyright law.

(a) *Discretionary referrals.* The Copyright Royalty Judges may seek guidance from the Register of Copyrights with respect to a material question of substantive law, concerning an interpretation or construction of those provisions of the Copyright Act, that arises in the course of their proceedings.

(b) *How presented.* A question of substantive law may be referred to the Register of Copyrights at the request of one or more of the Copyright Royalty Judges. A question of substantive

law may also be referred to the Register of Copyrights as a request submitted by motion of a participant, provided that one or more of the Copyright Royalty Judges agrees with the participant's request.

(1) *Referral by Judges.* One or more of the Copyright Royalty Judges may refer what he or she believes to be a material question of substantive law to the Register of Copyrights at any time during a proceeding by issuing a written referral that is made part of the record of that proceeding. The referral will state the issue(s) to be referred and the schedule for the filing of briefs by the parties of the issue(s). After the briefs and other relevant materials are received, they will be transmitted to the Register of Copyrights.

(2) *Motion by participant.* Any participant may submit a motion to the Copyright Royalty Judges (but not to the Register of Copyrights) requesting their referral to the Register of Copyrights a question that the participant believes would be suitable for referral under paragraph (a) of this section.

(i) *Content.* The motion should be captioned "Motion of [Participant(s)] Requesting Referral of Material Question of Substantive Law." The motion should set forth, at the outset, the precise legal question for which the moving party is seeking interlocutory referral to the Register of Copyrights. The motion should then proceed to explain, with brevity, why the issue meets the criteria for potential referral under paragraph (a) of this section and why the interests of fair and efficient adjudication would be best served by obtaining interlocutory guidance from the Register of Copyrights. The motion should not include argument on the merits of the issue, but may include a suggested schedule of briefing that would make reasonable provision for comments and legal arguments, in such a way as to avoid delay and duplication.

(ii) *Time of motion.* A motion for referral of a material question of substantive law to the Register of Copyrights should be filed as soon as possible in the relevant proceeding, but no later than any deadline set by the Copyright Royalty Judges.

(iii) *Action on motion—(A) Referral granted.* Upon consideration of a Motion Requesting Referral of Material Question of Substantive Law, if one or more of the Copyright Royalty Judges agrees with the request, the Chief Judge shall issue an appropriate referral. The referral will state the issue(s) to be referred and the schedule for the filing of briefs by the parties of the issue(s). After the briefs and other relevant materials are received, they will be transmitted to the Register of Copyrights.

(B) *Referral denied.* If none of the Copyright Royalty Judges agrees with the request, the Board will issue an order denying the request which will provide the basis for the decision. A copy of any order denying a Motion Requesting Referral of Material Question of Substantive Law will be transmitted to the Register of Copyrights.

(c) *No effect on proceedings.* The issuance of a request to the Register of Copyrights for an interpretive ruling under this part does not delay or otherwise affect the schedule of the participants' obligations in the relevant ongoing proceeding, unless that schedule or those obligations are expressly changed by order of the Copyright Royalty Judges.

(d) *Binding effect; time limit.* The Copyright Royalty Judges will not issue a final determination in a proceeding where the discretionary referral of a question to the Register of Copyrights under this part is pending, unless the Register has not delivered the decision to the Copyright Royalty Judges within 14 days after the Register receives all of the briefs of the participants. If the decision of the Register of Copyrights is timely delivered to the Copyright Royalty Judges, the decision will be included in the record of the proceeding. The legal interpretation embodied in the timely delivered response of the Register of Copyrights in resolving material questions of substantive law is binding upon the Copyright Royalty Judges and will be applied by them in their final determination in the relevant proceeding.

[71 FR 53330, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 354.2 Novel questions.

(a) *Mandatory referrals.* If the material question of substantive law described in § 354.1(a) is a novel question of law, referral to the Register of Copyrights by the Copyright Royalty Judges is mandatory. A “novel question of law” is a question of law that has not been determined in the prior decisions, determinations, or rulings under the Copyright Act of the Copyright Royalty Judges, the Librarian of Congress, the Register of Copyrights, the Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panels (to the extent they are consistent with the current decisions, determinations, or rulings of the Register of Copyrights or the Librarian of Congress), or the former Copyright Royalty Tribunal.

(b) *Procedures.* The procedures set forth for the discretionary referral of material questions of copyright law to the Register of Copyrights by the Copyright Royalty Judges, set forth in § 354.1, shall also govern the mandatory referral of novel questions, except that the Register of Copyrights’ decision will be timely if it is delivered to the Copyright Royalty Judges within 30 days after the Register of Copyrights has received all of the briefs or comments of the participants. The Copyright Royalty Judges will not issue a

final determination in a proceeding where the referral of a novel question to the Register of Copyrights under this part is pending, unless this 30-day period has expired. The legal interpretation embodied in the timely delivered response of the Register of Copyrights in resolving material questions of substantive law is binding upon the Copyright Royalty Judges and will be applied by them in their final determination in the relevant proceeding.

[70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 53331, Sept. 11, 2006]

§ 354.3 Register of Copyrights’ authority to redesignate referrals.

If, during the 14-day period of a discretionary referral of a material question of law under § 354.1, the Register of Copyrights determines that the question is a “novel” one within the meaning of § 354.2(a), the Register may notify the Copyright Royalty Judges of that determination. The Copyright Royalty Judges will be bound by such a determination by the Register of Copyrights and will regard the Register’s decision as timely delivered if it is received within the 30-day period applicable to novel question referrals.

[70 FR 30905, May 31, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 53331, Sept. 11, 2006]