

Woodcraft, David Charles
 BROCKES & MARTIN
 High Holborn House
 52/54 High Holborn
 London, WC1V 6SE
 GRANDE BRETAGNE

16 OCT 1989

Datum/Date

12. 10. 89

Zeichen/Ref/Ref

DCW/CH-137C

Anmeldung Nr. /Application No. /Demande n° /Patent Nr. /Patent No. /Brevet n°

87303682.6-2112/

Anmelder/Applicant /Demandeur//Patentinhaber /Proprietor /Titulaire

E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC

The /further/ examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of four months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(3) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

Amendments to the description, claims and drawings are to be filed where appropriate within the said period in three copies on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).

J-F Felber
 Primary examiner
 for the Examining Division

Telephone numbers:

Primary examiner
 (substantive examination)

(0 89) 23 99- 7356

Formalities officer
 (Formalities including extension of time limits)

(0 89) 23 99- 7424

Examiners' clerk
 (other matters)

(0 89) 23 99- 7412

Enclosures: 1 page/s reasons (Form 2044/2906)

Registered letter



159-89 87303682.6

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

The application documents as originally filed

- 1). The document C.A. 8602k refers to the coating of TiO_2 pigments with various substances selected among SiO_2 , B_2O_3 , Al_2O_3 , Sb_2O_3 ; however no combination of SiO_2 plus B_2O_3 is disclosed.

Thus the nearest prior art corresponds to the documents already cited in the application.

The use of a mixture of SiO_2 and B_2O_3 has not been suggested and the technical effect of this combination is surprising.

Claimed subject-matter is thus novel and involves an inventive step.

- 2). However a patent cannot be granted in the present state of the file, because the claims are not clear as far as there is a gap in all percentage proportions, which is wider than normal impurities would amount.
Eventual amendments should comply with the requirements of Art.123(2) EPC.