

February 9, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the C.8708 letter of November 27, 2017 regarding proposal aspects of Graphical Use Interface (GUI), icon and typeface/type font design.

Please find below some of the ideas which have been considered by our association.

1. At the SCT 38th session, the hope that the scope of protection with respect to designs projecting outward from products such as laser keyboards would be expanded was discussed and opinions were solicited; however, we had hoped that the SCT would address issues related to designs which are not specifically 'user interfaces' but nonetheless respond to the surrounding circumstances without interacting with users specifically. For example, graphics which have been projected onto a road from an automobile for pedestrians who are not the user of the automobile.
2. A new age in which the term 'GUI' will not appropriately describe the design desired to be protected is likely to occur in the not so distant future. In anticipation of this, we hope that a commonly recognized definition of GUI amongst all countries can be agreed upon.. Moreover, we hope to discuss these new types of designs which would not fit into the definition of GUI.
3. We are also interested in GUI designs which could be arranged by the users themselves. For example, in the case in which there are a large number of arrangements that could be set by the user, to what degree should a design owner consider protecting the design, or what is the extent of responsibility for the design owner in connection with any infringement of any other GUIs. This question is particularly relevant in this type of case because it seems that it is so difficult to

predict all use modes arranged by users, and how to protect these user modes as a single design. Also we have been concerned that these variously arranged user modes would possibly be considered contributory infringement.

Sincerely yours,

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of the Japan Trademark Association

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