

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

TOUGHBUILT INDUSTRIES, INC.,
Petitioner,
v.
MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2025-01462
Patent 11,192,689

**PATENT OWNER'S OBJECTION TO EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN
SUPPORT OF PETITION**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 14.64(b)(1), Patent Owner Meridian International Co., Ltd. ("Meridian") hereby submits its notice of objections under the Federal Rules of Evidence ("FRE") and 27 C.F.R. §§ 42.62 and 42.64(b)(1) to Exhibits 1015, 1017-1029, and 1033-1034 filed by the Petitioner. Patent Owner's Objections are timely filed under 37 C.F.R. § 42.64(b)(1), within ten business days of the February 10, 2026 Institution Decision. The bases for the objections are as follows:

I. MERIDIAN EP AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE IN EP20170368.3 (Oct. 30, 2020) (Exhibit 1015)

Patent Owner objects to the Meridian EP Amendment and Response in EP20170368.3 (October 30, 2020) (Exhibit 1015) as irrelevant, confusing, and of minimal probative value under FRE 401, 402, and 403.

Exhibit 1015 comprises an amendment made in a *foreign* patent prosecution, in a *foreign* jurisdiction, where a *foreign* tribunal interpreted the effect of a patent under the applicable *foreign* laws. The arguments made before this foreign tribunal and in this foreign prosecution history are thus irrelevant, confusing, and of minimal probative value under FRE 401, 402, and 403. To the extent that Exhibit 1015 is of any value, that value is outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, undue delay, or wasting time.

II. UNCITED PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS (Exhibits 1017-1029)

Patent Owner objects to the following publications and patents, which were included as exhibits to the Petition, but not cited in the Petition, as irrelevant, confusing, and of minimal probative value under FRE 401, 402, and 403:

Exhibit 1017	U.S. Publication No, 5,461,731 to Shida (“Shida”)
Exhibit 1018	U.S. Publication No. 2020/0298392 to Baruch et al. (“Baruch”)
Exhibit 1019	U.S. Publication No. 2003/0094392 to Meier et al. (“Meier”)
Exhibit 1020	Chinese Utility Model No. 206841966 U to Wang (“Wang”)
Exhibit 1021	U.S. Publication No. 2008/0000899 to Baker et al. (“Baker”)
Exhibit 1022	U.S. Patent No. 5,934,466 to Loeffler (“Loeffler”)
Exhibit 1023	U.S. Publication No. 2019/0291922 to Gonitiner et al., (“Gonitiner922”)
Exhibit 1024	U.S. Patent No. 9,725,209 B1 to Ben-Gigi (“Ben-Gigi”)
Exhibit 1025	U.S. Publication No. 2019/0315515 to Gonitiner et al. (“Gonitiner515”)
Exhibit 1026	U.S. Patent No. 9,962,826 to Surridge (“Surridge”)
Exhibit 1027	U.S. Publication No. 2008/0121547 to Dur et al. (“Dur”)
Exhibit 1028	U.S. Patent No. 6,592,000 to Owens et al. (“Owens”)

Exhibit 1029	Non-Infringement and Invalidity Report of J. Michael McCarthy, Ph.D., <i>Meridian Int'l Co., Ltd. v. ToughBuilt Industries, Inc.</i> , Civil Action No. 8:24-cv-01840 (C.D. Cal.)
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Were these exhibits relevant to the Petition, they would have been referenced in the Petition. As they were not cited, they are plainly not relevant and their probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, undue delay, or wasting time.

III. NON-INFRINGEMENT AND INVALIDITY REPORT OF J. MICHAEL McCARTHY, PH.D. (Exhibit 1029)

In addition to not being cited a single time in the Petition, as discussed above, the Non-Infringement and Invalidity Report of Dr. McCarthy is also objectionable because it is irrelevant under FRE 401, 402, and 403; it includes information that is irrelevant or whose probative value to any ground upon which trial is instituted is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, undue delay, or wasting time.

IV. MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION (Exhibit 1033)

The Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction, which was not cited in the Petition, is objectionable because it is irrelevant under FRE 401, 402, and 403; it includes information that is

irrelevant or whose probative value to any ground upon which trial is instituted is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, undue delay, or wasting time.

V. COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT (Exhibit 1034)

The Complaint for Patent Infringement, which was not cited in the Petition, is objectionable because it is irrelevant under FRE 401, 402, and 403; it includes information that is irrelevant or whose probative value to any ground upon which trial is instituted is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, undue delay, or wasting time.

VI. CONCLUSION

Therefore, Patent Owner preserves its right to file motions to exclude these exhibits under 37 C.F.R. § 42.64(c) to the extent that Petitioner fails to correct the aforementioned defects with these exhibits.

Dated: February 25, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing ***Patent Owner's Objection to Evidence Presented in Support of Petition*** was served via electronic mail, per agreement of the parties, in its entirety, on Petitioner's attorneys of record in IPR2025-01462 on the date indicated below.

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Dated: February 25, 2026

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