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**From:** Herrick, William [mailto:William.Herrick@NeenahPaper.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2006 11:50 AM

**To:** AB93Comments

**Subject:** Proposed Rule Changes Regarding Continuation Practice

I believe the number of multiple continuations would be greatly reduced if the examiners would include an indication of allowable subject matter in the initial action. While this is and should be a requirement of the examiner's job, there is no incentive for the examiner to take the time to evaluate the claims to determine allowable subject matter, and they consistently fail to do so. Time taken at this early stage would sharply define the issues and reduce the total prosecution effort for both the examiner and the applicant. The current system does not, however, encourage the examiner to reduce either prosecution time or number of continuations.