

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Godox Photo Equipment Co. Ltd. v. Profoto Aktiebolag

Godox · No. C25-0502-KKE · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington granted Godox Photo Equipment Co. Ltd.’s motion to stay patent litigation pending ex parte reexamination of Profoto Aktiebolag’s U.S. Patent No. 11,630,375. The court concluded that the reexamination was likely to simplify the issues, the case was at an early stage, and the stay would not unduly prejudice Profoto. The court vacated most scheduling deadlines pending completion of the reexamination and directed the parties to file a joint status report afterward.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kymberly K. Evanson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	C25-0502-KKE
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Godox moved to stay its patent and related tortious-interference action pending the PTO's ex parte reexamination of Profoto's patent. The court granted the motion and separately granted leave to supplement the record, while denying as moot Godox's request for a protective order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse-of-discretion framework; the decision whether to stay litigation pending patent reexamination rests in the sound discretion of the district court.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district-court order
PARTIES	Godox Photo Equipment Co. Ltd. v. Profoto Aktiebolag

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- patent law
- patent infringement
- patent prosecution
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

patent law

patent infringement

patent prosecution

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should stay the patent litigation pending the PTO's ex parte reexamination of the patent.
2. Whether the factors of issue simplification, stage of litigation, and prejudice to the nonmoving party favored a stay.
3. Whether Godox should be permitted to supplement the record with the PTO's Final Office Action.
4. Whether Godox's request for a protective order should be denied as moot.

HOLDINGS

1. The court may stay the litigation pending the PTO's reexamination, and all three applicable factors favored granting a stay.
2. Good cause supported permitting Godox to supplement the record with the PTO's Final Office Action issued after the motion to stay was filed.
3. All deadlines in the scheduling order, except the deadline for Godox's response to Profoto's answer and counterclaims, were vacated pending completion of the PTO reexamination.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Courts often grant stays pending reexamination of a patent if the lawsuit is at an early stage, the PTO's decision would simplify the issues to be tried, and a stay would not unduly prejudice the non-moving party." (at 2)

"The decision to grant or deny a stay "rests with the sound discretion of the court."" (at 2)

"Thus, staying the case avoids expending resources litigating the validity and scope of patent claims that may be amended or cancelled while also providing the court and the parties "with the benefit of the USPTO's expert analysis[.]'" (at 3)

"Because all three factors favor a stay, the Court will grant Godox's motion." (at 8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Godox, a Chinese photography and video-equipment company, sued Profoto, a Swedish company and owner of U.S. Patent No. 11,630,375, seeking a declaration that certain Godox products do not infringe the patent. Profoto had sent infringement notices to Godox distributors, and some Godox product listings were removed from Amazon through the APEX process. The PTO granted an ex parte reexamination request concerning the patent, rejected all claims in a non-final decision, and later issued a Final Office Action rejecting all claims after Profoto proposed amendments. The litigation remained at an early stage, with no depositions, claim-construction briefing, Markman hearing, or trial scheduled.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Godox filed the action in March 2025 seeking a declaration of noninfringement and related relief. After the court denied Godox's requests for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, the parties filed pleadings and counterclaims concerning infringement, invalidity, unenforceability, and inequitable conduct. Godox then moved to stay after the PTO rejected the patent claims in a non-final decision and Profoto proposed amendments; while the motion was pending, the PTO issued a Final Office Action rejecting all claims.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand. The case is stayed pending the PTO's reexamination of the '375 Patent. The parties must file a joint status report within 14 days after the reexamination concludes, informing the court of the outcome and proposing an amended case schedule.

CASES CITED

- Procter & Gamble Co. v. Kraft Foods Glob., Inc., 549 F.3d 842, 849 (Fed. Cir. 2008)
- Viskase Corp. v. Am. Nat'l Can Co., 261 F.3d 1316, 1328 (Fed. Cir. 2001)
- ASCII Corp. v. STD Ent. USA, Inc., 844 F. Supp. 1378, 1380 (N.D. Cal. 1994)
- Nat'l Prods., Inc. v. Gamber-Johnson LLC, No. 2:12-CV-00840, 2012 WL 3527938, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 14, 2012)
- Polaris PowerLED Techs., LLC v. Nintendo Co., No. C22-0386JLR, 2023 WL 12134477, at *2-4 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 31, 2023)
- Implicit Networks, Inc. v. Adv. Micro Devices, Inc., No. C08-184J, 2009 WL 357902, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 9, 2009)
- Fresenius USA, Inc. v. Baxter Int'l, Inc., 721 F.3d 1330, 1340 (Fed. Cir. 2013)
- SenoRx, Inc. v. Hologic, Inc., No. CIV.A. 12-173-LPS, 2013 WL 144255, at *4 (D. Del. Jan. 11, 2013)
- Gould v. Control Laser Corp., 705 F.2d 1340, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 1983)
- Nat'l Prods. v. Innovative Intelligent Prods., LLC, No. 2:20-CV-00428-RAJ, 2021 WL 2636101, at *2 (W.D. Wash. June 25, 2021)
- IMAX Corp. v. In-Three, Inc., 385 F. Supp. 2d 1030, 1033 (C.D. Cal. 2005)
- Globetrotter Software, Inc. v. Elan Comput. Grp., Inc., 362 F.3d 1367, 1375, 1377 (Fed. Cir. 2004)
- Therasense Inc. v. Becton, Dickinson & Co., 649 F.3d 1276, 1285, 1290-91 (Fed. Cir. 2011) (en banc)
- Bloom Eng'g Co. v. N. Am. Mfg. Co., 129 F.3d 1247, 1250 (Fed. Cir. 1997)
- R+L Carriers, Inc. v. Qualcomm, Inc., 801 F.3d 1346, 1350 (Fed. Cir. 2015)
- Versata Software, Inc. v. Callidus Software, Inc., 771 F.3d 1368, 1373-74 (Fed. Cir. 2014), vacated on other grounds, 780 F.3d 1134 (Fed. Cir. 2015)

- WAG Acquisition, LLC v. Flying Crocodile, Inc., No. 2:19-CV-1278-BJR, 2021 WL 6693829, at *3 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 28, 2021)
- Ceiva Logic Inc. v. Frame Media Inc., No. SACV-08-00636-JVS, 2009 WL 7844245, at *2-3 (C.D. Cal. June 9, 2009), *aff'd*, 374 F. App'x 959 (Fed. Cir. 2010)
- Medicis Pharm. Corp. v. Upsher-Smith Lab'ys, Inc., 486 F. Supp. 2d 990, 994 (D. Ariz. 2007)
- Tesco Corp. v. Weatherford Int'l, Inc., 2009 WL 529212, at *3 (S.D. Tex. 2009)
- Polymer Techs., Inc. v. Bridwell, 103 F.3d 970, 975-76 (Fed. Cir. 1996)

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