Issuing Agency: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Bureau of Commercial Services

Statement of Terms or Substance of Adopted Guideline:

The requirement that a name be such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the administrator from other names has the following meaning:

1. A name is distinguishable from other names on the records of the administrator if it contains one or more different letters, numerals, or it has a different sequence of letters or numerals, from the other corporate and limited partnership names.

   -Differences between singular and plural forms of words are significant and distinguishing.
   -Differences between a numeral, roman numeral, and a word representing a numeral, are significant and distinguishing.

2. Items which are not distinguishing are:

   (a) The presence or absence, or difference between the following words and abbreviations: "corporation", "company", "incorporated", "limited", "corp", "co.", "inc.", or "ltd." when the word or abbreviation is the last word in the name.

   -These words and abbreviations are not distinguishing only when they are the last word in the name. At other locations within the name they are distinguishing.

   (b) The presence or absence of the words "limited partnership" in any limited partnership name when these words occur at the end of the name.

   -This phrase is not distinguishing only when it is the last two words in the name.

   (c) The presence or absence of the words "professional corporation" or the abbreviation "P.C." in any professional service corporation name when these words, or the abbreviation, occur at the end of the name.

   -This phrase, or the abbreviation "P.C., is not distinguishing only when it occurs at the end of the name.

   (d) The presence or absence of the word "the".

   -This word is not distinguishing only when it is the first word in the name.

   (e) Differences in punctuation and special characters.

   -Punctuation characters are the following:

   Apostrophe
   Left bracket
   Right Bracket

Colon
Comma
Dash or Hyphen
Exclamation Point
Left Parenthesis
Right Parenthesis
Period
Question Mark
Single Quote Mark
Double Quote Mark
Semicolon
Slash

-Special characters are the following:

Asterisk
At sign
Backslash
Left Brace
Right Brace
Caret
Cents Sign
Dollar Sign
Equal to Sign
Greater Than
Less Than
Number sign
Percentage Sign
Plus Sign
Tilde
Underline

(f) Differences in capitalization.

(g) Differences between an ampersand and the word “and”.

-The ampersand character will be treated as the equivalent of the word “and”.

(h) The letter “a” before a required word when the word or abbreviation is at the end of the name.

3. For the purposes of name availability determinations, the records in the office of the administrator do no include:

(a) True and assumed names of dissolved corporations.

(b) True and assumed names of limited partnerships for which a certificate of cancellation or order of dissolution has been filed.

(c) Expired or terminated assumed names.

(d) Expired name reservations.

(e) Expired or terminated name registrations.

Effective date of adopted guideline: April 18, 1988