



IDEA SUBMISSION FORM

Submitting Ideas and Suggestions to ERICO, Inc.

At ERICO, we have dedicated research and engineering departments that are devoted to product innovation and design. Every year, many of our customers propose ideas for new products or product enhancements. While we appreciate this input, many of these ideas and suggestions are not new to us or we cannot make use of them in our industry.

However, there are certain ideas that we will consider as long as they relate to new or improved products, manufacturing methods or machinery. These are ideas that, if appropriate, could be patented.

Good Idea

If a proposal is of interest to ERICO, we will attempt to make an agreement with the submitter for any rights ERICO thinks might be required to use the invention.

This type of agreement, which obligates ERICO in regard to any proposal, can only be made by a formal written contract signed by an authorized officer of ERICO. This agreement must be in writing to avoid any future misunderstandings. It is essential for the orderly conduct of our business that only a few of our executives have the authority to enter into such agreements.

If, for any reason, the submitter is not interested in receiving any payment for their idea, they should make that clear in their initial proposal.

Idea Submission Form

To assure prompt and thorough review of a proposal, the submitter should sign and date an "ERICO Idea Submission Form". This can be done by using the form provided in this brochure or by visiting www.erico.com and downloading a form. The form explains how the materials describing the idea should be furnished.

Protect Yourself!

ERICO would prefer if you protect your idea before you submit it to us. We suggest that you contact the United States Patent and Trademark Office or the patent office in your country. However, it is up to the submitter to pursue this route.

The American Bar Association publishes an informative brochure titled, "Submitting An Idea To A Manufacturer". It is available for a nominal fee from the Order Department, American Bar Association, 750 N. Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611. Or visit <http://www.abanet.org>

Ideas ERICO Will Not Consider . . .

We will not consider ideas and suggestions that cannot be patented. Nor will we consider ideas and suggestions that relate, but are not limited, to such issues as product styling, sales methodology, advertising programs, product names, slogans, or ways of conducting business.

Also, we will not consider any ideas or suggestions that are submitted to us under an agreement of confidentiality.

Here's why:

Sometimes, a person wants to propose an idea to ERICO, but is concerned that another person or company may learn about it and try to steal it or use it. So, the submitter wants ERICO to keep the idea secret or confidential.

At ERICO, we have new product teams (including many people) who research and pursue a variety of new product ideas. It is quite possible that the proposal has been seen and considered previously by us or has been independently conceived by someone else. We cannot restrict our own activities by entering into a confidential relationship with the submitter. Therefore, no ERICO employee has the authority to accept any proposal in confidence or agree that any idea will be treated confidentially or in secret.

ERICO Is Not A Consultant

ERICO employees do not have the authority to furnish any advice as to whether a proposed idea could be patented or is worth patenting or would be likely to be useful to companies other than ERICO. Therefore, each submitter will only be informed if ERICO is interested in obtaining any rights the submitter may have in the proposal. Any legal or other information a submitter may need regarding the submission must be obtained from the submitter's lawyer or consultant.

How To Make A Proposal

A written description should be furnished that will fully explain to an engineer what the idea or suggestion is, how it works, and why it is believed to be new and better about it (as an invention). A sketch or drawing must also be furnished. All proposals must be made in English. A copy of the patent if one has been granted, or a copy of the application for the patent, will usually provide the best description and drawing.

Models are usually not needed if the description and drawing are clear. A full-size working sample is sometimes helpful, but the expense of making and transporting it is seldom worthwhile. Also, ERICO cannot be liable for loss or damage to any models or samples.

ERICO will not return any material that is submitted. Therefore, a person making a submission to ERICO should not furnish anything that they require to be returned.

Rejection

ERICO receives countless idea submissions every year. Therefore, it is impractical for ERICO to provide explanations to the submitter in the event we choose to reject your submission.

Send Submissions To:

ERICO, Inc.
Engineering, Idea Submissions
34600 Solon Rd.
Solon, OH 44139



ERICO® Inc.
34600 Solon Road
Solon, Ohio 44139
United States

Phone (440) 248-0100
Fax (440) 248-0723

Engineering, Idea Submissions

Dear

Thank you for your recent interest in ERICO, Inc. and your offer to disclose a suggestion of possible interest to ERICO.

We cannot enter into a “confidential relationship” with you that would obligate us to maintain your suggestion in secrecy. Rather, you must rely, for the protection of your rights, solely upon patent rights, which you now have or may obtain in the future.

Since our own people in various laboratories and other facilities may be working along similar lines to which your suggestion may relate and may well have considered similar ideas, we might find ourselves unable to use some of the ideas that have been produced by our own people if we were to agree to keep secret something you may suggest to us.

If you understand:

1. that we cannot obligate ourselves to a relationship of confidence or secrecy,
2. that hereafter we cannot agree to return to you any descriptive material, drawings, sketches or pictures, which you may submit for our consideration,
3. that by this agreement you are waiving any claims or remedies that you may have relative to ERICO or its people in connection with such suggestion except those rights you have or may have under the Patent Laws, and
4. that ERICO may make any use whatever of your suggestion or idea free and without obligation to you in any way except as may result from an agreement in writing, which grants ERICO an assignment or exclusive license under any patent right, or rights to patent, that you may own covering this suggestion or idea and which assignment or license has been executed by an authorized officer of ERICO,

then will you please indicate your agreement to these conditions by signing a copy of this agreement in the lower left-hand corner and returning it to us together with a complete description, including sketches, drawings and patent application, if these exist. If you wish, you may use the reverse side of this agreement, after it is been signed, for sketches or a written description of a suggestion.

Very truly yours,
ERICO, INC.

Agreed to this ____ (day) of _____(month), ____ (year). Address: _____

Signed: _____ Phone: _____

Printed Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

RETURN TO:

ERICO Engineering, Product Idea Submissions, 34600 Solon Road, Solon, OHIO 44139, USA