

which were to fix the prices and allocate sales of tampico fiber imported into and sold in the United States.

4. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged combination and conspiracy, the defendants and co-conspirators did the following:

(a) discussed and agreed on prices at which tampico fiber was imported into the United States;

(b) discussed and agreed on the resale prices at which United States distributors were to sell tampico fiber; and

(c) discussed and agreed to allocate the volume of sales between United States tampico fiber distributors.

II

DEFENDANTS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

5. Ixtlera is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Mexico with offices in Santa Catarina and Monterrey, Mexico. It processes tampico fiber for sale in the United States.

6. MFC is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas with offices in Laredo, Texas. It is Ixtlera's exclusive distributor for tampico fiber sold in North America.

7. Various individuals and corporations, not made defendants herein, participated as co-conspirators in the offense charged and performed acts and made statements in furtherance thereof.

8. Whenever in this information reference is made to any act, deed or transaction of a corporation, the allegation means that the corporation engaged in the act, deed or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees or other representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control or transaction of its business or affairs.

III

TRADE AND COMMERCE

9. Tampico fiber is a natural vegetable fiber produced by the lechuguilla plant and grown in the deserts of northern Mexico. It is harvested, processed, finished and exported worldwide, including into the United States. It is used as filling material in the production of consumer and industrial brushes.

10. During the period covered by this information, the defendants and co-conspirators shipped or caused to be shipped a substantial quantity of the tampico fiber which is the subject of this information from Mexico to United States distributors for resale to customers throughout the United States. The defendants and co-conspirators also sent or caused to be sent across state lines and into foreign countries payments for the aforesaid tampico fiber.

11. During the period covered by this information, the activities of the defendants and co-conspirators that are the subject of this information were within the flow of, and

substantially affected, interstate and foreign trade and commerce.

IV

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12. The combination and conspiracy charged in this information was carried out, in part, within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, within the five years preceding the filing of this information.

ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.

Dated:

_____/s/_____
JOEL I. KLEIN
Acting Assistant Attorney General

_____/s/_____
EDWARD S. PANEK

_____/s/_____
GARY R. SPRATLING
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

_____/s/_____
MICHELLE A. PIONKOWSKI

_____/s/_____
ROBERT E. CONNOLLY
Chief, Middle Atlantic Office

_____/s/_____
ROGER L. CURRIER

_____/s/_____
MICHAEL R. STILES
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

_____/s/_____
JOSEPH MUOIO
Attorneys, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Middle Atlantic Office
The Curtis Center, Suite 650 West
7th & Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Tel.: (215) 597-7401