



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today challenging the acquisition of the Pyle-National Company of Chicago by Harvey Hubbell, Incorporated, of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the suit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Bridgeport.

The suit charged that the acquisition by Hubbell of all of the outstanding capital stock of Pyle-National on November 10, 1970, and the subsequent merger of Pyle-National into Hubbell, violated Section 7 of the Clayton Act.

The acquisition eliminated actual and potential competition between the two companies in the manufacture and sale of specification grade electrical wiring devices and pin and sleeve power plugs, connectors and receptacles, the suit said.

The suit also charged that the effect of the acquisition and merger may be to entrench Hubbell and Pyle-National in their respective dominant positions in the manufacture and sale of specification grade devices and pin and sleeve devices, and that it may trigger similar acquisitions and mergers.

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The complaint asked that the acquisition and merger be declared unlawful and that Hubbell be required to divest itself of all interest in and control over Pyle-National.

Assistant Attorney General Richard W. McLaren, head of the Antitrust Division, said that Hubbell is the nation's leading manufacturer of specification grade devices, with sales of such devices in 1970 of about \$30 million, representing approximately 30 percent of total industry sales.

Specification grade devices are a group of products used to control electrical current and enable it to function effectively and efficiently. They consist primarily of blade plugs, connectors and receptacles, switches, sockets, wall outlets and similar apparatus.

Mr. McLaren also said that Pyle-National was the largest domestic manufacturer of pin and sleeve devices, with 1970 sales of such devices of about \$8.3 million, representing almost 31 percent of total industry sales.

Pin and sleeve devices are engineered items designed to speed and simplify the physical connection and disconnection of two segments of an electrical system. They are used in areas requiring heavy voltage loads where equipment is subject to severe physical use and in corrosive, wet or otherwise unfavorable environments.

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Mr. McLaren further stated that Hubbell manufacturers and sells some pin and sleeve devices and Pyle-National also manufactures and sells some specification grade devices.

Both specification grade devices and pin and sleeve devices are sold to electrical contractors and to commercial and industrial end users for installation in buildings and other structures.