



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1972

The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging Safety First Products Corp., of Elmsford, New York, with combining and conspiring with its distributors to allocate territories and customers for the sale of the company's dry powder fire extinguishers.

Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan. Safety First is a wholly owned subsidiary of INA Corporation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The suit charged that each distributor was allocated a certain market territory and was required to confine his sales of Safety First equipment to purchasers in that territory, which violates Sections 1 and 3 of the Sherman Act.

The suit also alleged that certain customers and classes of customers were allocated by Safety First to its distributors, and that those distributors were restrained from selling Safety First equipment to certain large national accounts reserved to Safety First.

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As a result of these practices, the suit said, competition in the sale and distribution of Safety First equipment has been eliminated and the purchasers of Safety First equipment have been deprived of the opportunity of purchasing such equipment from suppliers of their own choice.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Walker B. Comegys, head of the Antitrust Division, said that Safety First's dry powder extinguishers are designed for use in automatic fire protection systems.

Safety First products are sold to over 260 distributors throughout the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada. Net sales of Safety First equipment amounted to more than \$3.8 million in 1970.