



# Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit against Hercules, Incorporated, of Wilmington, Delaware.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the suit was filed in U.S. District Court in New Jersey.

The complaint alleges that, beginning as early as 1977, Hercules has monopolized and attempted to monopolize the sale of industrial nitrocellulose in the United States in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

Hercules is the only domestic producer of industrial nitrocellulose with its sole manufacturing plant located in Parlin, New Jersey.

Industrial nitrocellulose is a synthetic resin extensively used in lacquers, wood finishes, paints, primers, textile and paper coatings, book bindings, printing inks, cellophane film coatings, and fingernail polishes. Annual United States sales of industrial nitrocellulose are approximately \$64 million--the price is about a dollar a pound.

The complaint alleges that, among other things, Hercules has exchanged price information with foreign industrial nitrocellulose producers to influence and control the price at which industrial nitrocellulose would be sold in the United States. It seeks an injunction to prohibit Hercules from continuing or resuming its alleged monopolistic acts.

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