



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

SATORU HORISAKI,

Defendant.

Case:2:14-cr-20372  
Judge: Edmunds, Nancy G.  
MJ: Majzoub, Mona K.  
Filed: 06-27-2014 At 11:58 AM  
INFO USA V SATORU HORISAKI (EB)

Violation: 15 U.S.C. § 1

**INFORMATION**

**CONSPIRACY TO RESTRAIN TRADE  
(15 U.S.C. § 1)**

THE UNITED STATES, ACTING THROUGH ITS ATTORNEYS, CHARGES:

**Defendant and Co-Conspirators**

1. During the period covered by this Information, Satoru Horisaki ("Defendant") was employed by Denso Corporation ("Denso"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, with its principal place of business in Kariya, Japan. During the period covered by this Information, Defendant was employed by Denso as a Group Leader in the Utsunomiya Branch Office.

2. Various corporations and individuals, not made defendants in this Information, participated as co-conspirators in the offense charged in this Information and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of it.

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

### **Background of the Offense**

4. During the period covered by this Information, Defendant and his co-conspirators agreed to sell instrument panel clusters to Honda of America Manufacturing Company Incorporated (“Honda of America”) for installation in vehicles manufactured and/or sold in the United States and elsewhere.

5. During the period covered by this Information, Denso and its co-conspirators manufactured instrument panel clusters (a) in the United States and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, (b) in Japan and elsewhere for export to the United States and installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, and (c) in Japan and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured in Japan for export to and sale in the United States.

6. Instrument panel clusters, also known as meters, are the mounted array of instruments and gauges housed in front of the driver of an automobile. When purchasing instrument panel clusters, automobile manufacturers issue Requests for Quotation (“RFQs”) to automotive parts suppliers, often on an engine or model basis. Automotive parts suppliers submit quotations, or bids, to the automobile manufacturers in response to RFQs, and the automobile manufacturers award the business to the selected automotive parts supplier for the lifespan of the engine or model, which is usually four to six years. Typically, the bidding process for a particular engine or model begins approximately three years prior to the start of production. Automobile manufacturers procure parts for U.S.-manufactured vehicles both in Japan and the United States.

### **Conspiracy to Restrain Trade**

7. From in or about 2009 to in or about February 2010, the exact dates being unknown to the United States, Defendant and his co-conspirators participated in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to allocate the supply of, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, instrument panel clusters to be sold to Honda of America in the United States and elsewhere. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by Defendant and his co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

8. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among Defendant and his co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to allocate the supply of, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, instrument panel clusters to be sold to Honda of America in the United States and elsewhere.

### **Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

9. For purposes of forming and carrying out the charged combination and conspiracy, Defendant and his co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including, among other things:

- a. participating in meetings, conversations, and communications to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to Honda of America in the United States and elsewhere;

b. agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to Honda of America in the United States and elsewhere; and

c. submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to Honda of America in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached.

### **Trade and Commerce**

10. During the period covered by this Information, Denso and its co-conspirators sold to Honda of America, located in various states in the United States, substantial quantities of instrument panel clusters shipped from outside the United States and from other states in a continuous and uninterrupted flow of interstate and foreign trade and commerce. In addition, substantial quantities of equipment and supplies necessary to the production and distribution of instrument panel clusters sold by Denso and its co-conspirators, as well as payments for instrument panel clusters sold by Denso and its co-conspirators, traveled in interstate and foreign trade and commerce. The business activities of Defendant and his co-conspirators in connection with the production and sale of instrument panel clusters that were the subject of the charged conspiracy were within the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate and foreign trade and commerce.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

11. The combination and conspiracy charged in this Information was carried out, at least in part, in the Eastern District of Michigan within the five years preceding the filing of this Information.

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

Dated: April 30, 2014

/s/ Brent Snyder

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Brent Snyder  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice

/s/ Lisa M. Phelan

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