

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	Criminal No.:
v.)	
)	Violation: 15 U.S.C. § 1
)	
TETSUYA KUNIDA)	Filed:
)	
Defendant.)	

INFORMATION

The United States of America charges that:

I.

DEFENDANT AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

1. TETSUYA KUNIDA is hereby made a Defendant on the charge contained in this Information.
2. During the period covered by this Information, Company A was a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan with its principal place of business in Osaka, Japan, and did business in the United States through subsidiaries in Franklin, Kentucky; White, Georgia; and elsewhere. During the period covered by this Information, Company A was a supplier of automotive anti-vibration rubber products to Toyota Motor Corporation, certain of its subsidiaries, and other automobile manufacturers and automobile component manufacturers (collectively, "automobile and component manufacturers") in the United States and elsewhere.
3. During the period covered by this Information, TETSUYA KUNIDA was an employee of Company A whose job responsibilities at times included the sale of automotive anti-vibration rubber products to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere.

4. 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.

5. 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, agents, employees, or other representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control or transaction of its business or affairs.

II.

BACKGROUND

6. Automotive anti-vibration rubber products are comprised primarily of rubber and metal, and are installed in automobiles to reduce engine and road vibration. Automotive anti-vibration rubber products are installed in suspension systems and engine mounts, as well as other parts of an automobile.

7. Automotive anti-vibration rubber products are typically custom-designed to fit specific automobiles, and are developed over a year in advance of an automobile model entering the market. Before ordering automobile anti-vibration rubber products for a new automobile model, automobile manufacturers typically request pricing from suppliers, through requests for quotation ("RFQs"). In response to the RFQs, the suppliers submit price quotes, or bids, to the automobile manufacturer. When a supplier receives part orders for a particular automobile model, it typically supplies the parts for the duration of that model, which is usually four to six years.

III.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFENSE

8. Beginning at least as early as November 2001 and continuing until as late as May 2012, the exact dates being unknown to the United States, the Defendant and co-conspirators participated in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, raise, and maintain the prices of, automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by the Defendant and co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

9. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among the Defendant and co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to rig bids for, and to fix, raise, and maintain the prices of, automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere.

IV.

MEANS AND METHODS OF THE CONSPIRACY

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

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and other communications to discuss the bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to be submitted to

automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate among the companies the supply of certain automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to be submitted to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (d) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (e) selling automotive anti-vibration rubber products to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices; and
- (g) accepting payment for automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold to automobile and component manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices.

V.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

11. During the period covered by this Information, Company A and co-conspirators shipped substantial quantities of automotive anti-vibration rubber products in a continuous and uninterrupted flow of interstate and foreign trade and commerce to automobile and component manufacturers located in the United States and elsewhere. In addition, substantial quantities of

equipment and supplies necessary to produce and distribute such automotive anti-vibration rubber products, as well as substantial payments for such products, traveled in interstate and foreign trade and commerce.

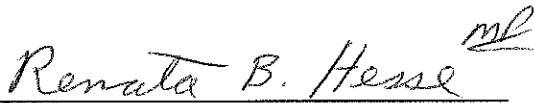
12. During the period covered by this Information, the business activities of the Defendant and co-conspirators in connection with the sale of automotive anti-vibration rubber products that are the subject of this Information were within the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate and foreign trade and commerce.

VI.

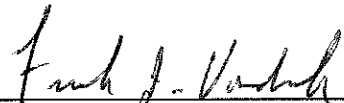
JURISDICTION AND VENUE

13. The combination and conspiracy charged in this Information was carried out in the Northern District of Ohio and elsewhere within the five years preceding the date of this Information.

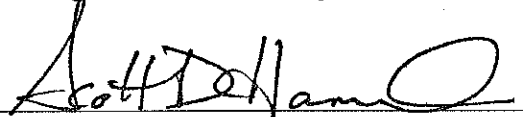
ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.




RENATA B. HESSE
Acting Assistant Attorney General




FRANK J. VONDRAK
Chief, Chicago Office



SCOTT D. HAMMOND
Deputy Assistant Attorney General



L. HEIDI MANSCHRECK
ANDRE M. GEVEROLA
ROBERT M. JACOBS
CHRISTINE M. O'NEILL
Trial Attorneys
U.S. Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Chicago Office
209 S. LaSalle St., Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel.: (312) 353-7530



MARVIN N. PRICE, JR.
Director of Criminal Enforcement
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice