



Department of Justice

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FORMER AUTOMOTIVE PARTS MANUFACTURER EXECUTIVE INDICTED FOR ROLE IN CONSPIRACY TO FIX PRICES

WASHINGTON – A Detroit federal grand jury returned a one-count indictment against the former Executive Managing Director of a Japanese automotive parts manufacturer for his participation in a conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids of automotive parts, the Department of Justice announced today.

The indictment, filed today in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan, charges Michitaka Sakuma, a former director and member of the board of directors of T.RAD Co. Ltd., with conspiring to fix the prices of radiators sold to Honda Motor Co. Ltd., Toyota Motor Corp., and certain of their subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere.

“Today’s charge demonstrates that the Antitrust Division will continue to hold senior executives accountable for directing and authorizing subordinate employees to engage in criminal conduct,” said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brent Snyder of the Antitrust Division’s Criminal Enforcement Program. “Senior executives should expect that they will be pursued and prosecuted when they knowingly permit and direct collusive conduct to occur under their management.”

Sakuma participated in the conspiracy first as a general manager in charge of Toyota sales and then as the executive managing director in charge of all sales at T.RAD. Sakuma was also a member of the board of directors at T.RAD.

The indictment alleges, among other things, that beginning at least as early as October 2003 and continuing until at least February 2010, Sakuma and his co-conspirators participated in meetings with co-conspirators and reached collusive agreements to rig bids, allocate supply and fix the price of radiators sold to Honda and Toyota.

T.RAD is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan with its principal place of business in Tokyo, Japan. On Nov. 12, 2013, T.RAD pleaded guilty and agreed to pay a \$13.75 million criminal fine for its role in the conspiracy. On Dec. 9, 2014, Kosei Tamura, the general manager in charge of Honda sales at T.RAD, pleaded guilty of participating in the same conspiracy and was sentenced to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison.

Including Sakuma, 53 individuals have been charged in the government's ongoing investigation into market allocation, price fixing and bid rigging in the automotive parts industry. Additionally, 35 companies have pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty and have agreed to pay a total of more than \$2.5 billion in criminal fines.

Sakuma is charged with price fixing and bid rigging in violation of the Sherman Act, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million criminal fine for individuals. The maximum fine for an individual may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine.

Today's indictment is the result of an ongoing federal antitrust investigation into price fixing, bid rigging and other anticompetitive conduct in the automotive parts industry, which is being conducted by the Antitrust Division's criminal enforcement sections and the FBI. Today's charge was brought by the Antitrust Division's Washington Criminal I Section and the FBI's Detroit Field Office, with the assistance of the FBI headquarters' International Corruption Unit. Anyone with information on price fixing, bid rigging and other anticompetitive conduct related to other products in the automotive parts industry should contact the Antitrust Division's Citizen Complaint Center at 888-647-3258, visit www.justice.gov/atr/contact/newcase.html or call the FBI's Detroit Field Office at 313-965-2323.

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