INTER NATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. No. 337–TA–698]

In the Matter of Certain DC—DC Controllers and Products; Notice of Investigation


ACTION: Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1337.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on December 2, 2009, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1337, on behalf of Richtek Technology Corp. of Taiwan and Richtek USA, Inc. of San Jose, California. Supplements to the complaint were filed on December 3 and 23, 2009. The complaint alleges violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain DC—DC controllers and products containing same by reason of infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 7,315,190; 6,414,470; and 7,132,717; and by reason of trade secret misappropriation. The complaint further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by subsections (a)(1)(A) and (a)(2) of section 337.

The complainants request that the complaint be served on Sharp Corporation, 22–22 Nagaike-cho, Abeno-ku, Osaka 545–8522, Japan; Sharp Electronics Corporation, Sharp Plaza, Mahwah, NJ 07430–2135; Sharp Electronics Manufacturing, Company of America, Inc., 9295 Siempre Viva Road, Suite J2, San Diego, CA 92154.

(c) The Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server at http://edis.usitc.gov.


Scope of Investigation: Having considered the complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on December 29, 2009, ordered that—

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine:

(a) Whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain DC—DC controllers or products containing the same that infringe one or more of claims 1–7, 26, and 27 of U.S. Patent No. 7,315,190; claims 29 and 34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,470, and claims 1–3 and 6–9 of U.S. Patent No. 7,132,717, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337; and

(b) Whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain DC—DC controllers or products containing the same by reason of misappropriation of trade secrets, the threat or effect of which is to destroy or substantially injure an industry in the United States;

(2) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainants are: Richtek Technology Corp., 5F, No. 20, Tai Yuen Street, Chupei City, Hsinchu, Taiwan 30288. Richtek USA, Inc., 1210 South Bascom Avenue, Suite 227, San Jose, CA 95128(b).

The respondents are the following entities alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served: uPI Semicondutor Corp., 7F, No. 2, Gongye East 3rd Rd., Hsinchu Science Park, Hsinchu 300, Taiwan. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., One AMD Place, P.O. Box 3453, Sunnyvale, CA 94088–3453. Sapphire Technology Limited, Unit 1908—1919, 19/F., Tower 2, Grand
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337–TA–630]

In the Matter of Certain Semiconductor Chips With Minimized Chip Package Size and Products Containing Same (III); Notice of the Commission’s Final Determination of No Violation of Section 337; Termination of the Investigation


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined that there has been no violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1337, in this investigation, and has terminated the investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Panyin A. Hughes, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–3042. Copies of non-confidential information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server at http://edis.usitc.gov. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by calling the Commission’s TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This investigation was instituted on January 14, 2008, based on a complaint filed by Tessera, Inc. of San Jose, California (“Tessera”) on December 21, 2007, and supplemented on December 28, 2007. 73 FR 2276 (Jan. 14, 2008). The complaint alleged violations of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337) in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain semiconductor chips with minimized chip package size or products containing the same by reason of infringement of various claims of United States Patent Nos. 5,663,106 (“the ‘106 patent’”); 5,629,977 (“the ‘977 patent’”); 6,133,627 (“the ‘627 patent’”; and 6,458,681 (“the ‘681 patent’”). The complaint named eighteen respondents. Several respondents were terminated from the investigation based on settlement agreements and consent orders. Two respondents defaulted. The following respondents remain in the investigation: Acer Inc. of Taipei, Taiwan; Acer America Corp. of San Jose, CA; Centon Electronics, Inc. of Aliso Viejo, CA; Elpida Memory, Inc. of Tokyo, Japan and Elpida Memory (USA), Inc. of Sunnyvale, CA (collectively, “Elpida”); Kingston Technology Co., Inc. of Fountain Valley, CA; Nanya Technology Corporation of Taoyuan, Taiwan; Nanya Technology Corp. USA of San Jose, CA; Powerchip Semiconductor Corporation of Hsinchu, Taiwan; ProMOS Technologies, Inc. of Hsinchu, Taiwan; Ramaxel Technology Ltd. of Hong Kong, China; and SMART Modular Technologies, Inc. of Fremont, CA. The ‘681 patent was terminated from the investigation prior to the hearing.

On August 28, 2009, the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) issued his final Initial Determination (“ID”), finding no violation of section 337 by Respondents with respect to any of the asserted claims of the asserted patents. Specifically, the ALJ found that the accused products do not infringe the asserted claims of the ‘106 patent. The ALJ also found that none of the cited references anticipates the asserted claims and that none of the cited references renders the asserted claims obvious. The ALJ further found that the asserted claims of the ‘106 patent satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first, second and fourth paragraphs. Likewise, the ALJ found that the accused products do not infringe the asserted claims of the ‘977 and ‘627 patents and that none of the cited references anticipates the asserted claims of the patents. The ALJ further found that the asserted claims of the ‘977 and ‘627 patents satisfy the definiteness requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and that Respondents waived their argument with respect to obviousness. The ALJ also found that all chips Respondents purchased from Tessera licensees were authorized to be sold by Tessera and, thus, Tessera’s rights in those chips became subject to exhaustion, but that Respondents, except Elpida, did not purchase all their chips from Tessera licensees.

On September 17, 2009, Tessera and the Commission investigative attorney filed petitions for review of the ID. That same day, Respondents filed contingent petitions for review of the ID. On October 1, 2009, the parties filed responses to the various petitions and contingent petitions for review.