

FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA  
(TRIAL DIVISION)

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Applicant

and

HOECHST AG

Accused

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AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS

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I. THE ACCUSED

Hoechst AG

1. Hoechst AG ("Hoechst") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Germany. Hoechst produced and exported sorbates into Canada through its Food Ingredients Business Unit between 1979 and 1996.

II. OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATIONS

**Note:** Hoechst has no direct knowledge of the facts set out in paragraphs 2 -7 which are based on information obtained by the Commissioner of Competition (the "Commissioner").

Eastman Chemical Company, Inc.

2. Eastman Chemical Company Inc. ("Eastman") is a Kingsport, Tennessee based corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware. Eastman produces and exports sorbates to its Canadian subsidiary, Eastman Chemical Canada, Inc. of Toronto, Ontario. In addition, Van Waters & Rogers Ltd./Van Waters & Rogers Ltée sold sorbates produced by Eastman Chemical Company, Inc., in Canada.

Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.

3. Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd. ("Daicel") is a Japan based corporation engaged

in the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale and supply of sorbates, during the relevant period. Daicel sells sorbates in Canada through a distributor, St.Lawrence Chemical Inc./Les Produits Chimiques St.Lawrence Inc.

**Ueno Fine Chemicals Industry, Ltd.**

4. Ueno Fine Chemicals Industry, Ltd. ("Ueno") is a Japan based corporation engaged in the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale and supply of sorbates, during the relevant period. Ueno sells sorbates in Canada through a distributor, Ashland Canada Inc.

**Chisso Corporation**

5. Chisso Corporation ("Chisso") is a Japan based corporation engaged in the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale and supply of sorbates, during the relevant period. Chisso sells sorbates in Canada through a distributor, Tomen Canada Inc.

**Nippon Gohsei**

6. Nippon Gohsei is a Japan based corporation engaged in the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale and supply of sorbates, during the relevant period. Nippon Gohsei sells sorbates in Canada through distributors, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

**Cheminova Agro A/S**

7. Cheminova Agro A/S ("Cheminova") is a Danish corporation engaged in the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale and supply of sorbates, during the relevant period. Cheminova sells sorbates in Canada through a distributor, Quadra Chemicals Ltd./Quadra Chimie Limitée.

**III. SORBATES AND THE CANADIAN MARKET FOR SORBATES**

8. Sorbates are chemical preservatives used primarily as mold inhibitors in high moisture and sugar foods such as dairy and bakery products, fruit, berry and vegetable products, flavours, spices, syrups and pet foods. There are no manufacturing or refining facilities for sorbates in Canada. Hoechst and the other companies identified in paragraphs 2 - 7 above produce and supply a substantial majority of the total volume of sorbates sold in Canada and elsewhere.
9. Based on the facts obtained by the Commissioner, total sales of sorbates in

Canada during the period of the offence were approximately \$37 million. The total volume of sales of sorbates in Canada by Hoechst during that period was approximately \$12 million.

#### IV. THE 1979-1996 AGREEMENT

10. At various times in the period between approximately January, 1979 and December, 1996, executives of Hoechst engaged in conversations and attended meetings with the representatives of the other sorbate producing companies. The meetings during the relevant period generally occurred in locations in Europe and Japan.
11. As a result of these conversations and meetings, an unlawful conspiracy amongst the producers identified herein was reached in relation to the sale and supply of sorbates. The parties also agreed to fix, raise and maintain the prices at which each company would sell sorbates, and they also agreed on an allocation among themselves of the volume of sorbates that each company would supply, in Canada and elsewhere. The conspiracy came to an end in December 1996.

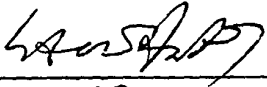
#### C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

12. Pursuant to his responsibilities for the administration and enforcement of the *Competition Act*, the Commissioner has conducted and continues to conduct extensive inquiries into the sorbates industry in Canada. He considers that Hoechst's cooperation with this inquiry has assisted in the investigation of other individuals and corporations for violations of the *Competition Act* in relation to sorbates.
13. The decision by Hoechst to appear and submit to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Courts to plead guilty has saved considerable costs of further investigation and trial which would otherwise have been incurred by the Government of Canada.

#### D. CONCLUSION

14. Hoechst admits the above facts, pursuant to section 655 of the *Criminal Code*, solely for the purpose of dispensing with their proof at trial in this proceeding.
15. Hoechst acknowledges, on the basis of its admission of the facts set out herein, with respect to the agreement alleged in the Indictment, that all the constituent elements of an indictable offence under paragraph 45(1)(c) of the *Competition Act* have been established.
16. The parties agree that this document may be executed by signature conveyed by

facsimile transmission or in counterparts.



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Hoechst AG  
by its counsel,  
Lawson A.W. Hunter, Q.C.

October 19, 1999



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The Attorney General of Canada  
by her counsel, D. Martin Low, Q.C./  
Josephine A.L. Palumbo

October 5, 1999

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AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS

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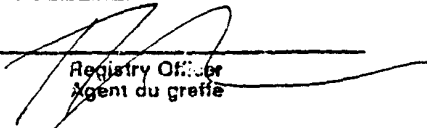
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FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA  
COUR FÉDÉRALE DU CANADA

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Déposé au Greffe

Date

21 October 1998

  
Registry Officer  
Agent du greffe

T. J. Breton  
Registry Officer  
Agent du greffe