

If You Bought Electronics Such as a Portable Computer, Power Tool or Camcorder Containing a Lithium Ion Cylindrical Battery or a Replacement Battery from January 1, 2000 through May 31, 2011

The Amount of Money You Could Receive from \$44.95 Million in Settlements May Have Changed and Your Legal Rights May Be Affected

A Federal Court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- This Notice provides a summary of the proposed Settlements and the lawsuit and also provides new information regarding recent changes to the proposed Distribution Plan for the Settlements, extended deadlines to exclude yourself from the Settlements, re-join the class, or to object to the Settlements, and Class Counsel’s renewed request for attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses. To obtain more specific details concerning the Settlements, please read this entire Notice and the Settlement Agreements, available at www.reversethecharge.com, carefully.
- **The following rights and options – and deadlines to exercise them – have changed, as explained in this Notice.**

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS		
<u>YOU MAY:</u>		<u>DUE DATE:</u>
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	You will not be included in the Settlements from which you exclude yourself. You will receive no benefits from the Settlements, but you will keep any rights you currently have to sue LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC about the claims in the case(s) from which you exclude yourself.	April 13, 2020 See Questions 11-16 for more details
DO NOTHING NOW	You will be included in the Settlements with Settling Defendants. You will give up your rights to sue the Settling Defendants about the claims in this case. If you previously filed a claim for this settlement or the other settlements discussed in Paragraph 8 below, you may receive a portion of the settlement fund pursuant to the Court-approved plan of distribution.	N/A
OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENTS	You can write to the Court explaining why you disagree with the Settlements with Settling Defendants or any request for attorneys’ fees (only if you do not exclude yourself).	April 13, 2020
GO TO THE HEARING	Ask to speak in Court about your opinion of the Settlements.	May 20, 2020

- A class action lawsuit has been brought on behalf of indirect purchasers of the following products that contained Lithium-Ion Cylindrical Batteries, which is a type of Lithium-Ion Battery (“Li-Ion Battery”): (i) portable computers; (ii) power tools; (iii) camcorders; or (iv) a replacement battery for any of these products. Indirect purchasers include consumers, businesses, and California local governments who purchased their products from someone other than the manufacturer, such as a retail store.
- Plaintiffs claim that Defendants (listed below) and co-conspirators engaged in an unlawful conspiracy to fix, raise, maintain, or stabilize the prices of cylindrical Lithium Ion Battery Cells (“Li-Ion Cells”). Plaintiffs further claim that indirect purchasers of the products listed above containing Lithium-Ion Cylindrical Batteries (“Li-Ion Cylindrical Batteries”) may recover for the effect that the conspiracy had on the prices of these devices. Plaintiffs allege that, as a result of the unlawful conspiracy involving cylindrical Li-Ion Cells, they and other indirect purchasers paid more for these products and replacement batteries than they would have paid absent the conspiracy. Defendants deny Plaintiffs’ claims.
- Settlements have been reached with LG Chem, Ltd. and LG Chem America, Inc. (“LG Chem”), Hitachi Maxell Ltd. and Maxell Corporation of America (“Hitachi Maxell”), and NEC Corporation (“NEC”) (collectively, the “Settling Defendants”).
- The Court in charge of these cases previously approved the Settlements, but must now reconsider whether to finally approve the Settlements along with a revised Distribution Plan and Counsel’s renewed request for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses, as more fully described herein. Payments will be made (1) after the Court approves all Settlements, along with the revised Distribution Plan, (2) after any appeals are resolved, and (3) after the Court-approved payment of attorneys’ fees, expenses, and service awards to Class Representatives.

QUESTIONS? VISIT WWW.REVERSETHECHARGE.COM OR CALL 1-855-730-8645

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1. What Is This Notice About?

This Notice is to inform you about updates to these Settlements reached in this litigation and Class Counsel's renewed request for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses, before the Court decides whether to finally approve the Settlements with Settling Defendants. This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlements, and your legal rights. The Court in charge is the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. This litigation is known as *In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation – All Indirect Purchaser Actions*, MDL No. 2420. The people who sued are called the "Plaintiffs." The companies they sued are called the "Defendants."

In October 2017, the Court granted final approval of the Settlements with the Settling Defendants. Subsequently, an appeal was filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ("Ninth Circuit") regarding aspects of the Court's certification of a nationwide class and a pro rata distribution plan as part of the final approval. Recently, the Ninth Circuit vacated (eliminated) the Court's final approval order and remanded (sent) the case back for further proceedings before the Court. Since then, the parties have submitted to the Court a revised Distribution Plan for distribution of the Settlement Fund, which is detailed in this Notice.

The Ninth Circuit has also recently vacated the final fee order issued in 2019. The Ninth Circuit did so to allow the Court in charge of these cases to consider whether any modification of that award should be made. As discussed below, Class Counsel will request that the prior awards of fees, litigation expenses, and service awards be reinstated as they were, along with final approval of the Settlements.

The Court has yet to decide these matters.

2. What Is This Lawsuit About?

The lawsuit alleges that Defendants and co-conspirators conspired to raise and fix the prices of cylindrical Li-Ion Cells for over ten years, resulting in overcharges to buyers of portable computers, camcorders, and power tools containing Li-Ion Cylindrical Batteries. The complaint describes how the Defendants and co-conspirators allegedly violated the U.S. and state antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws by agreeing to fix prices and restrict output of these cells by, among other things, face-to-face meetings and other communications, customer allocation, and the use of trade associations. Defendants deny Plaintiffs' allegations. The Court has not decided who is right.

3. Why Are There Settlements?

This Notice concerns three groups of Defendants that have agreed to settle the lawsuit – LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC. Previously, notices were provided about (a) a settlement reached with Sony Corporation, Sony Energy Devices Corporation, and Sony Electronics Inc. (collectively "Sony"), and (b) settlements reached with four groups of defendants – Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. and Samsung SDI America, Inc. ("SDI"); TOKIN Corporation ("TOKIN"); Toshiba Corporation ("Toshiba"); and Panasonic Corporation, Panasonic Corporation of North America, SANYO Electric Co., Ltd., and SANYO North America Corporation ("Panasonic"). In paragraph 8, below, there is information about the benefits of the other settlements.

4. What Are Li-Ion Cells, Li-Ion Packs, Li-Ion Batteries, Cylindrical Li-Ion Batteries, And Finished Products?

For purposes of the Settlements:

- "Lithium Ion Battery Cell(s)" or "Li-Ion Cells" means cylindrical, prismatic, or polymer cells used for the storage of power that are rechargeable and uses lithium ion technology.
- "Lithium Ion Battery Pack(s)" or "Li-Ion Packs" means Lithium Ion Battery Cells that have been assembled into packs, regardless of the number of Lithium Ion Cells contained in such packs.
- "Lithium Ion Battery" or "Li-Ion Battery" means a Lithium Ion Battery Cell or Lithium Ion Battery Pack.
- "Lithium Ion Cylindrical Battery" or "Li-Ion Cylindrical Battery" means a cylindrical-type Lithium Ion Battery Cell or cylindrical-type Lithium Ion Battery Pack.
- "Finished Product" means any product and/or electronic device that contains a Lithium Ion Battery, including but not limited to laptop PCs, notebook PCs, netbook computers, tablet computers, mobile phones, smart phones, cameras, camcorders, digital video cameras, digital audio players, and power tools.

5. Why Is This A Class Action?

In a class action, one or more people called the "Class representatives" sue on behalf of themselves and other people with similar claims. All of these people together are the "Class" or "Class Members." In a class action, one court may resolve the issues for all Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the class.

THE SETTLEMENTS

6. How Do I Know If I May Be Included In The Class Or If My Rights Are Affected?

The Class includes all persons and entities who, as residents of the United States and during the period from January 1, 2000 through May 31, 2011, purchased new for their own use and not for resale one of the following products which contained a lithium-ion cylindrical battery manufactured by one or more Defendants in this lawsuit or their co-conspirators: (i) a portable computer; (ii) a power tool; (iii) a camcorder; or (iv) a replacement battery for any of these products.

The specific definition of who is included in the Class is set forth in the Settlement Agreements. The Settlement Agreements, and the related Complaints, are accessible on the website www.reversethecharge.com. Payments to Class Members will be made only: (1) after the Court approves all Settlements, along with the revised Distribution Plan and, (2) after any appeals are resolved, and (3) after the Court-approved payment of attorneys' fees, expenses, and service awards to Class Representatives. A revised settlement Distribution Plan has been proposed to the Court for approval. The revised Distribution Plan, as approved by the Court, will determine the amount, if any, that each Class Member will receive.

7. What Do The Settlements Provide?

The Settlement Fund in connection with these specific settlements is \$44.95 million. If these settlements are approved, that will create a cumulative Settlement Fund of \$113.45 million. After deducting Court-approved attorneys' fees, service awards, notice and administration costs, and litigation expenses, the remaining Net Settlement Fund will be divided into two funds, a Repealer Fund and a Non-Repealer Fund. The Repealer Fund (90% of the Net Settlement Fund) will be available for distribution to Class Members who are residents of the following Repealer States: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. All other states and/or jurisdictions are "Non-Repealer" States. The Non-Repealer Fund (10% of the Net Settlement Fund) will be available for distribution to Class Members who are residents of Non-Repealer States. However, the plan for distributing the Settlement Funds is not final and may be changed by the Court after considering any and all objections by Class Members. If the Court determines that further changes to the allocation of the Settlement Funds between the Repealer and Non-Repealer Fund are appropriate, those changes will be posted on the settlement website (www.reversethecharge.com), which also provides more details about the Settlements).

HOW TO GET BENEFITS FROM THE SETTLEMENTS

8. How Much Money Can I Get?

Money from all settlements in this case will be distributed together on a per-Class Member basis, but the amount you receive from each settlement will depend on a Court-approved Distribution Plan. For the LG Chem, Hitachi, and NEC Settlements, the amount Class Members will be paid has changed to the following:

LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC: Notice was previously provided about the Settlements reached with LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC for \$44.95 million. The claim form in connection with these settlements allowed Class Members to state the number of devices they had that are subject to the settlement. Every Class Member who already filed a valid claim will have that claim applied against the Repealer Fund or Non-Repealer Fund, depending on the Class Member's state of residence. As noted above, 90% of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to the Repealer-State residents, and 10% of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Non-Repealer-State residents. The amount available for distribution will be affected by any awards made by the Court against the funds for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of costs, or service awards for the Class representatives. How much each Class Member receives will also depend on the number of claims made from Repealer and Non-Repealer states and a balancing of the cost of distribution with the amount to be distributed to each Class Member.

Class Members will also be paid from settlement funds involving other Defendants, which the Court has previously approved:

Sony Settlement: The Court previously approved a settlement with Sony for \$19.5 million. Every Class Member who already filed a valid claim will receive the same amount per device. The amount available for distribution will be affected by any awards made by the Court against the funds for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of costs, or service awards for the Class representatives.

SDI, TOKIN, Toshiba, and Panasonic Settlements: The Court previously approved settlements with SDI, TOKIN, Toshiba, and Panasonic for \$49 million. Every Class Member who already filed a valid claim will have their claim against the Repealer fund or Non-Repealer fund for those settlements, depending on the

Class Member's state of residence. The amount available for distribution will be affected by any awards made by the Court against the funds for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of costs, or service awards for the Class representatives. How much each Class Member receives will also depend on the number of claims made from Repealer and Non-Repealer states and a balancing of the cost of distribution with the amount to be distributed to each Class Member. Although the Court granted final approval of these settlements, that approval is currently being appealed, and claims may not be paid until the appeals are resolved.

Any remaining balance after an initial distribution of the Settlement Funds to qualified claimants will be redistributed to Class Members or, if redistribution is too costly compared with the amount of the remaining balance, such funds will escheat to federal or state governments. No money will return to the Settling Defendants once the Court finally approves the Settlements.

9. How And When Will I Get A Payment?

No money will be distributed yet. If final approval is granted to the Settlements with Settling Defendants, Class Members who have already filed a valid and timely claim will receive cash payments and may receive them distributed directly into an online account. Such accounts may include accounts with Amazon, PayPal, or Google Wallet, among others. If you are a Class Member with valid and timely claims and prefer to receive a physical check, please submit a written request to Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements, c/o Epiq, P.O. Box 10194, Dublin, OH 43017-3194. The deadline to file a claim has already passed. The deadline was July 19, 2019. If you did not already file a claim, you will not receive a cash payment from the Settlements with Settling Defendants, unless you previously requested to be excluded from the settlement and successfully apply to rejoin the class as described in this Notice.

The timing of the distribution will be requested by the Plaintiffs' lawyers and approved by the Court. It may not occur until all Settlements are final, and after resolution of any appeals. All Settlement Funds that remain after payment of the Court-ordered attorneys' fees, service awards, costs, and expenses will be distributed within 45 days of the final judgment (which includes resolution of any appeals), unless modified by the Court.

REMAINING IN THE CLASS

10. What Happens If I Remain In The Class?

You will give up your right to sue the Settling Defendants on your own for the claims described in detail in the Settlement Agreements unless you exclude yourself from the Class. You also will be bound by any decisions by the Court relating to the Settlements. In return for paying the Settlement Amounts and providing the non-monetary benefits, the Settling Defendants (and certain related entities defined in the Settlement Agreements) will be released from claims relating to the alleged conduct pertaining to any indirect purchase of cylindrical, prismatic, or polymer battery cells or packs (including cylindrical, prismatic, or polymer battery cells or packs contained in finished products). The Settlement Agreements describe the released claims in detail, so read them carefully since those releases will be binding on you if the Court approves the Settlements. If you have any questions, you can talk with Class Counsel for free, or you can, of course, talk with your own lawyer (at your own expense) if you have questions about what this means. The Settlement Agreements and the specific releases are available at www.reversethecharge.com.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS

11. How Do I Get Out Of The Class?

To exclude yourself from the Class, you must send a letter by mail stating that you want to be excluded from *In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation – All Indirect Purchaser Actions*, MDL No. 2420, Indirect Purchaser Settlements. Your letter must also include:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A statement saying that you want to be excluded from *In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation – All Indirect Purchaser Actions*, MDL No. 2420, Indirect Purchaser Settlements; and
- Your signature.

You must mail your exclusion request postmarked no later than April 13, 2020, to:

Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements
EXCLUSIONS
c/o Epiq
P.O. Box 10194
Dublin, OH 43017-3194

12. If I Don't Exclude Myself, Can I Sue For The Same Thing Later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue the Settling Defendants for the claims being released in this case.

13. If I Exclude Myself, Can I Still Get Money Benefits?

No. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you will not receive any money from the Settlements.

14. If I Previously Filed A Claim Form, Can I Exclude Myself Now?

Yes. If you already filed a claim form, you may still exclude yourself from the Settlement Class. To do so, you must submit an exclusion request as detailed in paragraph 11. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you will not receive any money from the Settlements and your previously submitted claim will not be considered.

15. If I Previously Excluded Myself, Do I Need To Exclude Myself Again?

No. If you already sent a letter by mail to exclude yourself before the previous exclusion deadline, you do not need to submit another request for exclusion to exclude yourself from the Class.

16. If I Previously Excluded Myself in Relation to these Settlements, Can I Re-Join the Class Now?

If you previously excluded yourself from these settlements, but would like to re-join the class now in light of these changes to the Distribution Plan, you must send a letter requesting inclusion in the class for these settlements postmarked no later than April 13, 2020 to:

Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements
EXCLUSIONS
c/o Epiq
P.O. Box 10194
Dublin, OH 43017-3194

The Court will determine whether persons or entities that previously excluded themselves are permitted to re-join the class.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

17. Do I Have A Lawyer Representing Me?

The Court has appointed the following lawyers as Class Counsel to represent you and all other members of the Class:

Adam Zapala, Esq. Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP San Francisco Airport Office Center 840 Malcolm Road, Suite 200 Burlingame, CA 94010 batteries@cpmllegal.com	Shana Scarlett, Esq. Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP 715 Hearst Avenue, Suite 202 Berkeley, CA 94710 batteries@hbsslw.com	Brendan P. Glackin, Esq. Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 lithiumbatteries@lchb.com
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You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

18. How Will The Lawyers And Class Representatives Be Paid?

At the Final Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel may ask the Court to reimburse them for certain fees, costs, and expenses. At the Final Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel may ask the Court for attorneys' fees based on their services in this litigation, but such a request *will not exceed 30% of the cumulative Settlement Fund* of \$113.45 million for a total request of \$33,829,176 in attorneys' fees. Any payment to the attorneys will be subject to Court approval, and the Court may award less than the requested amount.

At the Final Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel will also ask the Court to reimburse them for costs and expenses incurred throughout this litigation, not to exceed \$6,751,735.84.

At the Final Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel may also ask the Court to provide service awards to the Class Representatives in the amount of \$10,000 for each of the individual class representatives, and \$25,000 each for two government entities for the work they have undertaken on behalf of the Plaintiffs. Any service award will be subject to Court approval, and the Court may award less than the requested amount.

The attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, and service awards that the Court orders, plus the costs to administer the Settlements, will be paid from the cumulative Settlement Fund.

When Class Counsel's motion, if any, for fees, costs, expenses, and service awards is filed, it will be available at www.reversethecharge.com. The motion will be posted on the website 35 days before the deadline for requests for exclusion or objections to the settlement, and you will have an opportunity to comment on the motion. Any member of any of the settlement classes in this case may do so.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENTS

19. How Do I Object To Or Comment On The Settlements?

You can ask the Court to deny final approval of the Settlements with Settling Defendants by filing an objection. You can't ask the Court to change the Settlements; the Court can only approve or reject the Settlements. If the Court denies approval, no settlement payments will be sent out and the lawsuit will continue. If that is what you want to happen, you must object. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you can't object to the Settlements.

Any objection to the proposed Settlements with Settling Defendants must be in writing. If you file a timely written objection, you may, but are not required to, appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through your own attorney. If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for hiring and paying that attorney. All written objections and supporting papers must:

- Specify your name, address, and telephone number;
- Clearly identify the case name, number, and settlement (*In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation – All Indirect Purchaser Actions*, MDL No. 2420, Indirect Purchaser Settlements);
- Be submitted to the Court either by mailing it to the Clerk of the Court, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 1301 Clay Street, Suite 400S, Oakland, CA 94612, or by filing them in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; and
- Be filed or postmarked on or before April 13, 2020.

20. What Is The Difference Between Excluding Myself From The Class And Objecting To The Settlements?

If you exclude yourself from the Class, you are telling the Court that you do not want to participate in the Settlements. Therefore, you will not be eligible to receive any benefits from the Settlements, and you will not be able to object to the Settlements. Objecting to a Settlement means telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlements. You are still eligible to receive a settlement payment if you object if you already filed a valid and timely claim form.

THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlements with Settling Defendants and any requests by Class Counsel for fees, costs, expenses, and Class representative service awards. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but you do not have to do so.

21. When And Where Will The Court Decide Whether To Approve The Settlements?

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2020 at 2:00, at the United States Courthouse, 1301 Clay Street, Courtroom 1, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. The hearing may be moved to a different date or time without additional notice, so check the Court's PACER site, www.reversethecharge.com, or call 1-855-730-8645 to confirm the date has not been changed. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlements are fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections or comments, the Court will consider them at that time and may listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. The Court may also decide how much to pay Class Counsel or whether and how much to provide in service awards to Class representatives. At or after the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlements.

22. Do I Have To Attend The Hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. But you are welcome to attend at your expense. If you send an objection or comment, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed your written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also hire your own lawyer at your own expense to attend on your behalf, but you are not required to do so.

23. May I Speak At The Hearing?

If you send an objection or comment on the Settlements, you may have the right to speak at the Final Fairness Hearing as determined by the Court. You cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Class.

GET MORE INFORMATION

24. How Do I Get More Information?

This Notice summarizes the Settlements. More details are in the Settlement Agreements. You can get copies of the Settlement Agreements and more information about the Settlements at www.reversethecharge.com. You also may write with questions to Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements, c/o Epiq, P.O. Box 10194, Dublin, OH 43017-3194 or call the toll-free number 1-855-730-8645.

**DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT,
DEFENDANTS OR THEIR COUNSEL REGARDING THIS NOTICE**

Dated: February 11, 2020

By Order of the Court
United States District Court
Northern District of California