

If You Bought Electronics Such as a Portable Computer, Power Tool, Camcorder, and/or Other Items Containing a Lithium Ion Cylindrical Battery Since 2000

You Could Get Money From \$44.95 Million in Settlements

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

- Please read this Notice and the Settlement Agreements available at www.reversethecharge.com carefully. Your legal rights may be affected whether you act or don't act. This Notice is a summary, and it is not intended to, and does not, include all of the specific details of the Settlements. To obtain more specific details concerning the Settlements, please read the Settlement Agreements.
- 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.
- 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"), or collectively "the Settling Defendants."
- Your legal rights will be affected whether you act or don't act. This Notice includes information on the Settlements and the lawsuit. Please read the entire Notice carefully.
- **The following rights and options – and deadlines to exercise them – are explained in this Notice.**

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS		
YOU MAY:		DUE DATE:
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.	August 11, 2017
DO NOTHING NOW	You will be included in the Settlements and eligible to submit a claim for a payment (if you qualify). You will give up your rights to sue the Settling Defendants about the claims in these cases.	
OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENTS	If you do not exclude yourself, you can write to the Court explaining why you disagree with the Settlements.	August 11, 2017
SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR PAYMENT	If you qualify, review the claim form online at www.reversethecharge.com and submit an online claim for payment or mail in a completed claim form.	January 18, 2019
GO TO THE HEARING	Ask to speak in Court about your opinion of the Settlements.	October 3, 2017
REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE	The best way to receive updates about the lawsuit.	

- The Court in charge of these cases still has to decide whether to finally approve the Settlements. Payments will be made only (1) if the Court approves the Settlements and after any appeals are resolved, and (2) after the Court approves a Distribution Plan to distribute the Settlement Fund minus expenses, any Court-approved attorneys' fees, and service awards ("Net Settlement Funds") to Class Members.

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. What Is This Notice About?

This Notice is to inform you about Settlements reached in this litigation, before the Court decides whether to finally approve the Settlements. 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.”

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 indirect purchasers 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 But The Litigation Is Continuing?

Three groups of Defendants have agreed now to settle the lawsuit – LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC. Previously, notice was provided about a settlement reached with Sony Corporation, Sony Energy Devices Corporation, and Sony Electronics Inc. (collectively “Sony”). In paragraph 9, below, there is information about how to get benefits from the Sony settlement. The case is continuing against the remaining Non-Settling Defendants. Additional money may become available in the future as a result of a trial or future settlements, but there is no guarantee that this will happen.

4. Who Are The Non-Settling Defendant Companies?

The Non-Settling Defendant companies include: Samsung SDI Co. Ltd.; Samsung SDI America, Inc.; Panasonic Corporation; Panasonic Corporation of North America; Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.; Sanyo North America Corporation; NEC Tokin Corporation; and Toshiba Corporation.

5. What Are Li-Ion Cells, 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 is rechargeable and uses lithium ion technology.
- “Lithium Ion Battery Pack” means Lithium Ion Battery Cells that have been assembled into a pack, 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 Lithium Ion Battery Cell or cylindrical Lithium Ion Battery Pack.
- “Finished Product” means any product and/or electronic device that contains a Lithium Ion Battery or Lithium Ion Battery Pack, 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.

6. 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 in the specific class action. 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

7. How Do I Know If I May Be Included In The Class?

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, indirectly 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. “Indirectly” means the product was purchased from someone other than the manufacturer, such as a retail store.

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 may be made only: (1) if the Court approves the Settlements and after any appeals are resolved, and (2) in accordance with a Distribution Plan to distribute the Settlement Funds to Class Members after deducting expenses, Court-approved attorneys' fees, and service awards (the portion of the Settlement Funds remaining after deducting expenses, Court-approved attorneys' fees, and service awards, is called the “Net Settlement Fund”). The Court will determine the amount, if any, that each Class Member will receive.

8. What Do The Settlements Provide?

The Settlement Fund is \$44.95 million. After deduction of attorneys' fees, service awards, notice and administration costs, and litigation expenses, as approved by the Court, the remaining Settlement Fund will be available for distribution to Class Members who timely file valid claims. The Settlements also includes non-monetary relief, including cooperation in the litigation. More details about the Settlements are set forth in the Settlement Agreements, available at www.reversethecharge.com.

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

HOW TO GET BENEFITS FROM THE LG CHEM, HITACHI MAXELL, NEC, OR SONY SETTLEMENTS

9. How Much Money Can I Get and How Do I Make A Claim?

At this time, it is unknown how much each Class Member who submits a valid claim will receive. Payments from the LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC Settlements will be distributed to Class Members based on a number of factors, including the number of valid claims filed by all Class Members and each Class Member's number of purchase(s) of the following products which contained a lithium-ion cylindrical battery: (i) a portable computer; (ii) a power tool; (iii) a camcorder; or (iv) a replacement battery for any of these products, in proportion to the total claims filed and products purchased. To the extent that there is any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund and money is not able to be reasonably redistributed to class members, remaining funds will be distributed to the Attorneys General for the class jurisdictions for use in prosecuting consumer antitrust claims. No matter how many claims are filed or how the funds are distributed, no money will be returned to the Settling Defendants once the Court finally approves the Settlements.

Previously, notice was provided about a settlement reached with Sony for \$19.5 million. The claims period for that settlement will be opened up and occur during the same time period as the claims period for the LG Chem, Hitachi Maxell, and NEC settlements, and it will also end on January 18, 2019. Payments to Class Members from the Sony settlement will be based on a number of factors, including the number of valid claims filed by all members of the Sony Class and each Class Member's number of purchase(s) of Finished Products or a replacement battery for any of these Finished Products, in proportion to the total claims filed and products purchased. To the extent that there is any balance remaining in this Net Settlement Fund and money is not able to be reasonably redistributed to class members, remaining funds will be distributed to the Attorneys General for the class jurisdictions for use in prosecuting consumer antitrust claims. No matter how many claims are filed or how the funds are distributed, no money will be returned to the Settling Sony Defendants once the Court finally approves the Settlement. You must submit a claim during the claim period to receive money from the Sony Settlement.

To make a claim and get payment, you will need to file a valid claim form online or by mail by January 18, 2019. **The simple online claim form only takes 3-5 minutes for most individuals to complete. You will find the claim form at www.reversethecharge.com.** Claims may be submitted online at www.reversethecharge.com or by mail to Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements, c/o KCC Class Action Services, P.O. Box 43454, Providence, RI 02940-3454. The same products are not covered by all of the settlements, and thus filling out the claim form as accurately and completely as possible is important to ensure that Class Members submitting valid claims receive a correct share of the Settlements.

10. How And When Will I Get A Payment?

If final approval is granted to the settlements, Class Members who have filed valid and timely claims will receive cash payments and may receive them distributed directly into an online account, as possible examples only: an Amazon account, PayPal account, or a Google Wallet account. If you are a Class Member with valid and timely claims and would prefer to receive a physical check, please submit a written request by January 18, 2019 to Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements, c/o KCC Class Action Services, P.O. Box 43454, Providence, RI 02940-3454.

The timing of the distribution will be requested by Plaintiffs' lawyers and approved by the Court. It may not occur until the settlements are final, through resolution of any appeals. The lawyers for the Plaintiffs will continue to pursue the lawsuit against the Non-Settling Defendants. 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

11. 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

12. 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 August 11, 2017, to:

Lithium Batteries Indirect Purchaser Settlements
EXCLUSIONS
c/o KCC Class Action Services
P.O. Box 43454
Providence, RI 02940-3454

13. 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 litigation.

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

No. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement Class in these Settlements, you will not get any money as a result of the Settlements.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

15. 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:

Steven N. Williams, Esq. Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP San Francisco Airport Office Center 840 Malcolm Road, Suite 200 Burlingame, CA 94010 batteries@cpmlegal.com	Jeff Friedman, Esq. Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP 715 Hearst Avenue, Suite 202 Berkeley, CA 94710 batteries@hbsslaw.com	Brendan P. Glackin, Esq. Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-3339 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.

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

At the Final Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel will ask the Court to reimburse them for certain fees, costs, and expenses. At the Final Fairness Hearing, or at a later date, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees in the amount of \$11,240,000, which is 25% of the \$44.95 million Settlement Fund. Class Counsel is also requesting reimbursement of \$4,159,515.28 in costs. 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 also will ask the Court to provide service awards to the Class representatives in the amount of \$1,500 each 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 come out of the Settlement Fund. Class Counsel may seek additional attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, as well as service awards, from any other settlements or recoveries obtained in the future.

When Class Counsel's motion 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 14 days before the deadline for requests for exclusion or objections to the settlement, and you will have an opportunity to comment on the motion.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENTS

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

If you have objections to or comments about any aspect of the Settlements, you may express your views to the Court. You can object to or comment on the Settlements only if you do not exclude yourself from the Class. To object to or comment on the Settlements, you must:

- Specify in writing your name, address, and telephone number;
- Clearly identify in writing the case name, number, and settlement (*In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation – All Indirect Purchaser Actions*, MDL No. 2420, Indirect Purchaser Settlements);
- Submit your letter to the Court either by mailing it to the Class Action Clerk, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612, or by filing it in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; and
- Make sure that the letter is filed or postmarked on or before August 11, 2017.

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

18. 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 simply means telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlements. Objecting does not make you ineligible to receive a payment.

THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlements 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.

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

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing at 2:00 p.m. on October 3, 2017, 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 to provide service awards. At or after the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement.

20. 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.

21. 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.

THE TRIAL

22. When And Where Will The Trial Against The Non-Settling Defendants Take Place?

If the case against the Non-Settling Defendants is not dismissed or settled, the Plaintiffs will have to prove their claims against the Non-Settling Defendants at trial. Trial dates have not yet been set.

At the trial, a decision will be reached about whether the Plaintiffs or the Non-Settling Defendants are right about the claims in the lawsuit. There is no guarantee that the Plaintiffs will win any money or other benefits for Class Members at trial.

23. What Are The Plaintiffs Asking For From The Non-Settling Defendants?

The Class representatives are asking for money for Class Members. The Class representatives are also seeking an order to prohibit the Non-Settling Defendants from engaging in the alleged behavior that is the subject of the lawsuit.

24. Will I Get Money After The Trial?

If the Plaintiffs obtain money or benefits as a result of a trial or settlement, Class Members will be notified about how to ask for a share or what their other options are at that time. These things are not known right now.

GET MORE INFORMATION

25. 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 KCC Class Action Services, P.O. Box 43454, Providence, RI 02940-3454 or call the toll-free number 1-855-730-8645. You should also register at the website to be directly notified of any future settlements, the terms of the Distribution Plan of the Settlement Fund, and other information concerning this litigation.

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

Dated: _____

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