

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MITSUI O.S.K. LINES, LTD.,)	Case No. 11-cv-02861-SC
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING SUMMIT
)	LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL,
SEAMASTER LOGISTICS, INC., SUMMIT)	INC.'S MOTION TO ALTER OR
LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,)	<u>AMEND THE JUDGMENT</u>
KESCO CONTRAINER LINE, INC.; KESCO)	
SHIPPING, INC., and DOES 1 through)	
20,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
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I. INTRODUCTION

The Court issued Findings of Fact ("FF") and Conclusions of Law ("CL") in the above-captioned matter on March 21, 2013. ECF No. 261.¹ Among other things, the Court found Defendants Summit Logistics International ("Summit US") and Kesco Container Line, Inc. ("Kesco") liable for intentional misrepresentation and conspiracy. Specifically, the Court found that the defendants had conspired together to induce Plaintiff Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.

¹ Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. v. Seamaster Logistics, Inc., 11-CV-02861-SC, 2013 WL 1191213, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40466 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 21, 2013).

1 ("MOL") to pay for fake truck shipments. The Court held Summit US
2 and Kesco jointly and severally liable for the entire scheme, which
3 ran from 2000 through June 2010. Summit US subsequently filed a
4 motion to alter or amend the judgment pursuant to Rule 59(e). ECF
5 No. 273 ("Mot."). In an Order issued on May 30, 2013, the Court
6 agreed with Summit US's argument that Summit US could not be held
7 liable for torts completed before it joined the conspiracy.
8 However, the Court deferred ruling on the motion and asked for
9 supplemental briefing on whether Summit US could be held liable for
10 shipments completed before its incorporation under a theory of
11 successor liability. ECF 296 ("May 30 Order"). The Court also
12 requested supplemental briefing on the issue of whether the Court
13 had held the defendants liable for damages attributable to
14 shipments made after June 2010. Summit US and MOL have since filed
15 supplemental briefs on these issues. ECF Nos. 298 ("Summit
16 Liability Br."), 300 ("MOL Damages Br."), 301 ("MOL Liability
17 Br."), 303 ("Summit Damages Br."). The matter is now appropriate
18 for determination without oral argument pursuant to Civil Local
19 Rule 7-1(b). For the reasons set forth below, Summit US's motion
20 to alter or amend the judgment is GRANTED.

21

22 **II. BACKGROUND**

23 **A. Factual Background**

24 MOL is a vessel-operating common carrier ("VOCC") that
25 operates ships that carry cargo between foreign ports and the
26 United States. Defendants Summit US and Kesco are non-vessel
27 operating common carriers ("NVOCC(s)") that contracted for space on
28 MOL's vessels and re-sold that space to their own customers. When

1 moving cargo from Asia to the United States, MOL sometimes arranged
2 trucking for its NVOCC customers through third-party truckers. For
3 example, at the behest of its customers, MOL sometimes paid third
4 parties for trucking between factories in inland China to ports in
5 Hong Kong. MOL would recover the trucking costs by charging its
6 customers a higher rate for through carriage.

7 In this case, Kesco and Summit US conspired with Michael Yip,
8 a high-level MOL employee, to induce MOL to pay for trucking that
9 never actually occurred. Under this so-called "Shenzhen door
10 arrangement," Summit US and Kesco requested that MOL arrange for
11 trucking between inland ports (typically in Shenzhen) and Hong
12 Kong, and nominated Rainbow Trucking ("Rainbow") to perform the
13 trucking services. MOL would pay Rainbow and charge Summit US and
14 Kesco for each truck move. Because the price MOL paid to Rainbow
15 was less than the extra charge to Defendants, MOL would lose money
16 on each truck move. Unbeknownst to MOL, Rainbow did not actually
17 perform any trucking, but it kicked back a portion of MOL's
18 payments to Defendants to compensate them for requesting and paying
19 for trucking services that they neither needed nor used.²

20 The Shenzhen door arrangement began sometime in 2000. At that
21 time, Yip proposed the arrangement to one of Kesco's high-level
22 officers, Raymond Cheng. Cheng carried out the scheme at Kesco
23 with the help of two of his subordinates, Winnie Lau and Geoff
24 Tice. Lau booked the fake truck moves, and Tice negotiated
25 trucking rates with MOL representatives.

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28 ² Findings of Fact paragraphs 10 through 68 provide a more detailed
description of the Shenzhen door arrangement and Defendants'
involvement in the scheme.

1 Much of the cargo moving under the Shenzhen door arrangement
2 was connected to Fashion Merchandising Inc. ("FMI"), a company that
3 performed warehousing and trucking services for a number of garment
4 manufacturers, including Jones Apparel. FMI and Kesco were
5 strategic partners. FMI acted as Kesco's sales agent in the United
6 States, Kesco acted as FMI's local handling agent in Hong Kong, and
7 the two companies had a profit sharing agreement. Tice, a key
8 player in the Shenzhen door arrangement, worked for both Kesco and
9 FMI at various times.

10 In 2006, FMI was acquired by the newly formed Summit Group,
11 which is not a defendant in this case. After the acquisition,
12 Kesco continued to act as the local handling agent for the Jones
13 Apparel business. It also continued to move Jones Apparel cargo
14 under the Shenzhen door arrangement. Tice eventually transitioned
15 to the Summit Group, where he continued to negotiate Shenzhen
16 trucking rates without informing MOL that no trucking was actually
17 taking place.

18 In 2008, the Summit Group and its various subsidiaries,
19 including FMI, went through a strategic bankruptcy. The companies
20 were eventually liquidated, and their assets were purchased by
21 TriDec Acquisition Co., Inc. ("TriDec"), which was managed by a
22 number of Summit Group executives. The bankruptcy and the TriDec
23 acquisition did not interrupt the operations of the former Summit
24 Group companies. The same managers continued to run the companies
25 before, during, and after the bankruptcy. Throughout the process,
26 these companies continued to accept customer bookings, issue bills
27 of lading, and manage the movement of cargo. Summit US was
28 incorporated in March 2008 and primarily serviced beneficial cargo

1 owners. From May 25, 2008 through the end of 2008, Summit US used
2 Kesco as its handling agent in Hong Kong. Kesco booked many of
3 Summit US's shipments using the Shenzhen door arrangement.

4 In an effort to completely transition the Jones Apparel
5 business away from Kesco, Summit US created Summit Logistics
6 International (SCM HK) Limited ("Summit SCM") in 2009. Summit SCM
7 was a joint venture between Summit US and the three principal
8 owners of Kesco. The joint venture commenced operations in January
9 2009 and supplanted Kesco as the agent in Hong Kong for Summit US
10 shipments. Two of the principal managers of the Shenzhen door
11 arrangement at Kesco were brought on to run Summit SCM. Cheng was
12 initially hired as a consultant to assist with the start-up of
13 Summit SCM's operations, and Lau was later hired to run day-to-day
14 operations. Lau continued to report to Cheng at Kesco after she
15 moved from Kesco to Summit SCM. In January 2009, Cheng nominated
16 Rainbow to perform Summit SCM's trucking. Under the direction of
17 Lau and Cheng, Summit SCM took part in the Shenzhen door
18 arrangement.

19 Kesco and Summit terminated the Shenzhen door arrangement in
20 June 2010, when MOL inexplicably raised its rates for Shenzhen
21 trucking. Kesco ceased operations in December 2010. MOL
22 represents that Kesco is now a dead company and suggests that Kesco
23 is essentially judgment-proof.

24 **B. Procedural History**

25 MOL brought the instant action on June 10, 2011. MOL's second
26 amended complaint, the operative pleading in this matter, asserts
27 causes of action for, inter alia, intentional misrepresentation and
28 conspiracy. ECF No. 72 ("SAC"). The Court held a bench trial from

1 January 28 through February 19, 2013. In addition to hearing oral
2 arguments, the Court requested pre- and post-trial briefs, which
3 the parties submitted. ECF Nos. 172, 193, 253, 255. In its pre-
4 trial brief, MOL argued that, under California law, all of the
5 defendants should be held jointly and severally liable as co-
6 conspirators. Summit US did not substantively address the
7 conspiracy issue until after judgment was rendered.

8 In their post-trial briefs, the parties disputed whether
9 Summit US could be held liable for shipments moving under the
10 Shenzhen door arrangement prior to Summit US's incorporation in
11 March 2008. Summit US argued that it could not be held liable for
12 actions taken prior to its corporate existence and, in any event,
13 MOL had not asserted a claim for successor liability. MOL
14 countered that its second amended complaint adequately pleaded
15 facts to put Summit US on notice of a claim for successor
16 liability. MOL Post-Trial Br. at 22. In the alternative, MOL
17 moved to amend its complaint to add such a cause of action. ECF
18 No. 254.

19 In its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Court
20 found in favor of MOL on its claims for intentional
21 misrepresentation and conspiracy, holding Summit US and Kesco
22 jointly and severally liable for \$8,294,393.11. With respect to
23 MOL's conspiracy claim, the Court found that Kesco had entered a
24 conspiracy with Yip as early as 2000, when Yip and Cheng agreed to
25 the Shenzhen door arrangement. The Court also found that Summit US
26 joined the conspiracy as late as 2009 through Summit SCM, its joint
27 venture with the Kesco partners. The Court held that, as co-
28 conspirators, Summit US and Kesco could be held jointly and

1 severally liable for the entire conspiracy, including acts
2 committed in furtherance of the conspiracy prior to Summit US's
3 incorporation. CL at 61-62 (citing Pinkerton v. United States, 328
4 U.S. 640, 646-47 (1946)). As a result, the Court found that it did
5 not need to reach the issue of successor liability. Id. at 68-69.

6 Summit subsequently filed a motion to alter or amend the
7 judgment pursuant to Rule 59(e).³ Summit US argued that the Court
8 had erred in two ways: (1) by holding Summit US jointly and
9 severally liable for torts completed before it entered the
10 conspiracy, and (2) by holding Summit US and Kesco liable for
11 shipments made between July 2010 and December 2010, after the
12 termination of the conspiracy. In a May 30, 2013 Order, the Court
13 agreed with Summit US on both counts, but deferred entering an
14 amended judgment pending supplemental briefing on two major issues:
15 (1) whether Summit US could be held liable for the acts of the
16 Summit Group under a theory of successor liability and (2) what
17 portion of the damages previously awarded were attributable to
18 shipments made after June 2010. The Court found that the issue of
19 successor liability was now relevant since Summit US could no
20 longer be held liable for pre-2008 shipments under the principles
21 of conspiracy law.

22 23 **III. DISCUSSION**

24 As discussed above, the Court has already found that Summit US
25 may not be held jointly and severally liable for torts completed
26 before it entered the conspiracy and that neither Summit US nor
27 Kesco may be held liable for shipments made after June 2010, the

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³ That motion is fully briefed. ECF Nos. 285, 288.

1 date the conspiracy ended. Thus, the issues remaining before the
2 Court are: (1) whether Summit US is liable for the acts of its
3 purported predecessor; (2) if not, whether Summit US may still be
4 held liable for Shenzhen door shipments made between the time of
5 its incorporation in 2008 and formation of Summit SCM in 2009; and
6 (3) the total damages attributable to Summit US and Kesco.

7 **A. Successor Liability**

8 MOL contends that Summit US should be held liable for
9 shipments made under the Shenzhen door arrangement as early as
10 2006, when the Summit Group began operations. Summit US disagrees,
11 arguing that it cannot be held liable for the acts of its
12 predecessor. For the reasons set forth below, the Court finds that
13 MOL's attempt to impose successor liability on Summit US is
14 procedurally improper. Further, the Court finds that even if MOL
15 could assert a claim for successor liability, it has failed to
16 prove that claim.

17 **1. Procedural Considerations**

18 As a procedural matter, MOL may assert a claim for successor
19 liability if such a claim is properly pled in its SAC, or if MOL
20 establishes that its SAC may be amended to conform to the evidence
21 adduced at trial. As set forth below, the Court finds that neither
22 condition applies here.

23 A claim for successor liability must generally be pled in a
24 manner which comports with the requirements of Federal Rule of
25 Civil Procedure 8. See Owens v. Bank of Am., N.A., 11-cv-4580-YGR,
26 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 154435, at *15-16 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 25, 2012).
27 Here, MOL did not expressly assert a claim for successor liability
28 in its SAC, the operative pleading in this matter. MOL contends

1 that the SAC makes it clear that MOL was seeking to recover damages
2 from Summit US for a period of time that pre-dates its
3 incorporation in 2008. MOL Liability Br. at 16. However, the
4 portions of the SAC cited by MOL indicate that the alleged
5 conspiracy pre-dated 2008, not that MOL seeks to hold Summit US
6 liable for the acts of its predecessor. See SAC ¶¶ 6, 79, 86. MOL
7 also argues that allegations of successor liability should be
8 reviewed under the liberal notice pleading standards of Rule 8.
9 MOL Liability Br. at 17. But the authority cited by MOL addresses
10 pleadings that expressly allege that one party is the successor-in-
11 interest of another and that the successor should be held liable
12 for the acts of its predecessor. See Chao v. Concrete Mgmt. Res.,
13 L.L.C., 08-2501-JWL, 2009 WL 564381, at *1-2 (D. Kan. Mar. 5,
14 2009). MOL's pleading is far less clear about the scope of
15 liability alleged.

16 MOL's pleading defects are not necessarily fatal, since
17 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(b) allows the amendment of
18 pleadings during and after trial. Pursuant to Rule 15, MOL moved
19 to correct its pleadings to conform with the evidence adduced at
20 trial. ECF No. 254. Rule 15(b)(2) provides that a Court may rule
21 on an issue not raised by the pleadings where that issue is tried
22 by parties' express or implied consent. Summit US did not
23 expressly consent to Plaintiff's claims for successor liability,
24 and its repeated objections to MOL's proffer of evidence of
25 successor liability throughout trial indicates that the issue was
26 not tried by implied consent. See, e.g., Tr. 986-987, 1453-1455,
27 1630. Rule 15(b)(1) applies to situations where an opposing party
28 objects to evidence that is not within the issues raised in the

1 pleadings. The rule provides that, in such cases, "[t]he Court
2 should freely permit an amendment when doing so will aid in
3 presenting the merits and the objecting party fails to satisfy the
4 Court that the evidence would prejudice that party's action or
5 defense on the merits." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(b)(1). The Court finds
6 that allowing MOL to amend now would prejudice Summit US. At one
7 point early in the trial, MOL represented that it was introducing
8 evidence concerning the predecessor companies merely for
9 background, Tr. at 87, and at a later point the Court sustained
10 Summit US's relevance objections to evidence concerning the
11 predecessor companies, id. at 1454-55. Accordingly, Summit US may
12 have been working under the assumption that it did not need to
13 introduce evidence concerning successor liability.

14 Trial objections aside, Summit US would be prejudiced if the
15 Court now allowed MOL to amend its pleading. As discussed in
16 Section III.A.2 infra, successor liability raises distinct
17 evidentiary issues, including whether the successor is a mere
18 continuation of the predecessor and whether the successor paid
19 adequate consideration for the predecessor. Because MOL's pleading
20 did not put Summit US on notice of its claims for successor
21 liability, Summit US did not have an opportunity to develop these
22 issues during discovery or at trial.

23 For these reasons, the Court finds that MOL's assertion of
24 successor liability is procedurally improper and DENIES MOL's
25 motion to amend its pleadings.

26 **2. Substantive Considerations**

27 Even if MOL could assert a cause of action for successor
28 liability, the Court finds that MOL failed to prove it at trial.

1 The decision whether to impose successor liability involves broad
2 equitable considerations. See Ray v. Alad Corp., 19 Cal. 3d 22, 34
3 (Cal. 1977); see also Rosales v. Thermex-Thermatron, Inc., 67 Cal.
4 App. 4th 187, 196 (Cal. Ct. App. 1998). Each case of successor
5 liability must be assessed on its own unique set of facts. See
6 CenterPoint Energy, Inc. v. Super. Ct., 157 Cal. App. 4th 1101,
7 1122 (Cal. Ct. App. 2007). Under California law, a corporation
8 that purchases the assets of another does not assume the
9 liabilities of the selling corporation unless: "(1) there is an
10 express or implied agreement of assumption, (2) the transaction
11 amounts to a consolidation or merger of the two corporations, (3)
12 the purchasing corporation is a mere continuation of the seller, or
13 (4) the transfer of assets to the purchaser is for the fraudulent
14 purpose of escaping liability for the seller's debts." Ray, 19
15 Cal. 3d at 28.

16 MOL focuses on the third ground for liability, arguing that
17 Summit US is a "mere continuation" of the Summit Group, though MOL
18 has yet to identify which particular Summit Group subsidiary
19 constitutes the predecessor company. In Ray, the California
20 Supreme Court held that courts should only impose liability under
21 the mere continuation theory where the plaintiff shows "one or both
22 of the following factual elements: (1) no adequate consideration
23 was given for the predecessor corporation's assets and made
24 available for meeting the claims of its unsecured creditors; (2)
25 one or more persons were officers, directors, or stockholders of
26 both corporations." Id. at 29. There does not appear to be any
27 dispute that the second criterion is satisfied here. After the
28 Summit Group companies went into bankruptcy, their assets were

1 purchased by TriDec, which was managed and owned by the same
2 individuals who managed and owned the Summit Group. Summit US, a
3 subsidiary of TriDec, was managed by some of these same
4 individuals.

5 The parties do dispute whether MOL must show that insufficient
6 consideration was paid for the Summit Group. The California
7 Supreme Court has yet to issue an unequivocal ruling on this issue.
8 As noted above, in Ray, the court held that a plaintiff must show
9 "one or both" of the factors involving insufficient consideration
10 and the identity of officers. Id. Since Ray was decided, several
11 courts have held that inadequate consideration is an essential
12 ingredient or a crucial factor in assessing successor liability.
13 See Katzir's Floor & Home Design, Inc. v. M-MLS.com, 394 F.3d 1143,
14 1150 (9th Cir. 2004) (inadequate consideration is an "essential
15 ingredient"); CenterPoint, 157 Cal. App. 4th at 1121 ("crucial
16 factor"); Franklin v. USX Corp., 87 Cal. App. 4th 615, 625 (Cal.
17 Ct. App. 2001) ("crucial factor"); Maloney v. Am. Pharm. Co., 207
18 Cal. App. 3d 282, 288-89 (Cal. Ct. App. 1988) ("essential
19 ingredient").

20 As MOL points out, one recent case has held that a showing of
21 inadequate consideration is not necessary to establish successor
22 liability. In Cleveland v. Johnson, 209 Cal. App. 4th 1315, 1320-
23 23 (Cal. Ct. App. 2013), the defendant took money that the
24 plaintiff had invested in ISI, the defendant's internet provider
25 business, and used that money to fund a similar business, IS West.
26 Around the time of the asset transfer, ISI declared bankruptcy.
27 Id. at 1324. The plaintiff sued defendant and IS West for, among
28 other things, breach of contract, alleging that the defendants had

1 "hijack[ed]" his investment "for [their] own use and profit without
2 the burden of the obligations owed to [the plaintiff]." Id. The
3 jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff. Id. at 1325. The
4 defendants appealed, arguing that IS West could not be held liable
5 as a successor of ISI because there was no evidence IS West paid
6 inadequate consideration for the transferred assets. Id. at 1326.
7 The court of appeal held that the plaintiff did not need to show
8 inadequate consideration, reasoning that previous cases merely hold
9 that "no single factual element, standing alone, would establish or
10 negate successor liability." Id. at 1334. The court also noted
11 that the jury's verdict was sustainable on the separate ground that
12 successor liability could be imposed where "the transfer of assets
13 to the purchaser is for the fraudulent purpose of escaping
14 liability for the seller's debts." Id. (quoting Ray, 19 Cal. 3d at
15 28).

16 Cleveland is distinguishable. First, there is no indication
17 that the Summit Group's assets were transferred to Summit US for
18 the fraudulent purpose of escaping liability to MOL. Robert
19 Agresti and Robert O'Neill, the Summit US/Summit Group principals
20 who arranged the bankruptcy and asset transfer, testified that they
21 had no knowledge of the Shenzhen door arrangement until this
22 lawsuit was filed. FF ¶ 48. In contrast, successor liability was
23 a central issue in Cleveland because the defendant invested the
24 plaintiff's money in a successor organization to avoid the
25 obligations owed to the plaintiff. 209 Cal. App. at 1325, 1334.
26 Second, the court of appeals noted that Cleveland was distinct from
27 other successor liability cases because the individual defendant
28 and the successor corporation owed a fiduciary duty to the

1 plaintiff. Id. at 1332 n.7. Here, there is no indication that
2 Summit US or the Summit Group owed MOL any kind of fiduciary duty.
3 Third, MOL had an opportunity to file a claim with the bankruptcy
4 court. See Katzir's Floor, 394 F.3d at 1151 ("Where the
5 predecessor files bankruptcy and its debts are discharged, . . . it
6 is the discharge and the lack of sufficient assets that deprive the
7 predecessor's creditors of their remedy[.]"). MOL argues that it
8 was not aware of the fraud until 2011, three years after the
9 bankruptcy petition was filed. However, the Court has already
10 found that MOL had reason to investigate the Shenzhen door
11 arrangement much earlier than it did and that a reasonable
12 investigation would have uncovered the fraud. FF ¶ 73.

13 Accordingly, the Court finds that MOL must show that TriDec
14 paid inadequate consideration for the assets of the Summit Group.⁴
15 The Court also finds that MOL has not met its burden. There is no
16 indication that the Summit Group bankruptcy prejudiced the
17 company's creditors or deprived them of a remedy. In fact, very
18 little evidence concerning the bankruptcy was introduced at trial.
19 Since MOL cannot show inadequate consideration, it cannot establish
20 successor liability on the part of Summit US for the bad acts of
21 the Summit Group.

22 **B. Summit US's Liability for Shenzhen Door Shipments Made**
23 **between May 2008 and January 2009**

24 MOL argues that even if the Court decides that Summit US has
25 no successor liability for the pre-bankruptcy conduct of the Summit
26 Group, Summit US should still be held liable for the damages

27 _____
28 ⁴ Summit US argues that MOL must also show that Summit US is the
alter ego of TriDec. The Court need not reach the issue since
other elements of successor liability are absent.

1 attributable to the 3,110 Shenzhen door shipments made between May
2 25 and December 30, 2008 -- that is, those shipments made after the
3 bankruptcy but before the creation of Summit SCM. The Court
4 agrees. The Court previously held that Summit US was directly
5 involved with the conspiracy as late as 2009, through Summit SCM,
6 its joint venture with the Kesco partners. CL at 61. However,
7 Summit US's liability predates 2009 since Kesco, its handling
8 agent, booked Shenzhen door shipments on behalf of Summit US during
9 this period. FF ¶ 49.

10 Summit US argues that it should not be held liable for these
11 shipments because Kesco did not inform anyone at Summit US about
12 the Shenzhen door arrangement. Summit US Br. at 14. But
13 regardless of whether Summit US had any direct knowledge of these
14 shipments, it can still be held liable under the basic principles
15 of agency law. Since Kesco was acting as Summit US's handling
16 agent, its bad acts can be imputed to Summit US. See Black v. Bank
17 of Am., 30 Cal. App. 4th 1, 6 (Cal. Ct. App. 1994). Further, the
18 evidence shows that Summit US was involved in the conspiracy in the
19 period after the bankruptcy and prior to the formation of Summit
20 SCM. Tice actively managed the conspiracy by negotiating Shenzhen
21 door rates with MOL on behalf of the Summit Group. Rather than
22 making a fresh start after the 2008 bankruptcy, Summit US continued
23 to enjoy the benefits of the conspiracy and declined to disclose
24 the scheme to MOL. While Summit US can avoid liability for the
25 Summit Group's misconduct, it cannot escape liability for its own
26 actions after the Summit Group bankruptcy.

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1 **C. Damages**

2 The Court previously found that Summit US and Kesco were
3 jointly and severally liable to MOL for \$8,284,393.11. The Court
4 now finds that the judgment should be reduced so that (1) neither
5 Kesco nor Summit US is held liable for shipments made after June
6 2010, see May 30 Order at 14; and (2) Summit US is not held liable
7 for shipments made before May 25, 2008, see Section III.A-B supra.

8 With respect to the first point, the Court previously held
9 Kesco and Summit US liable for \$603,149.89 in connection with
10 Shenzhen door shipments made in 2010. It is now clear that many of
11 these shipments were made after June 2010 -- that is, after the
12 conclusion of the conspiracy. The total damages associated with
13 these post-June 2010 shipments amount to \$275,730.77.⁵ Thus, after
14 these post-June 2010 shipments are deducted, Kesco's total
15 liability is \$8,008,662.34. This represents the damages associated
16 with all Summit US and Kesco Shenzhen door shipments made from 2000
17 through June 2010.

18 With respect to the second point, Summit US is jointly and
19 severally liable for that portion of the \$8,008,662.34 associated
20 with Shenzhen door shipments made between May 25, 2008 and June 30,
21 2010. The evidence shows that MOL carried 7,271 Shenzhen door
22 shipments under the Summit US service contract from May 25, 2008
23 through June 30, 2010. See Ex. P-264. The damages associated with
24

25 ⁵ The Court calculated this number based on Exhibits P-262 and P-
26 264, spreadsheets which contain the Bill of Lading ("B/L") data for
27 Kesco and Summit US shipments, respectively. Each spreadsheet was
28 sorted oldest to newest by B/L date. The Court then took the sum
of the TPO Paid Amounts (Column AQ) for all shipments made between
July 1, 2010 and December 30, 2010 (rows 11719 through 12313 in
Exhibit P-262, and rows 7273 through 7297 in Exhibit in P-264).
The Court then converted the figure from Hong Kong dollars to US
dollars by dividing the sum by 7.8.

1 these shipments amount to \$1,987,883.33.⁶ Under principles of
2 agency and conspiracy law, Summit US is also liable for Kesco's
3 Shenzhen door shipments between May 25, 2008 and June 30, 2010.
4 See Section III.B supra. The total damages associated with these
5 Kesco shipments amount to \$242,648.72.⁷ Thus, Summit US's total
6 liability is the sum of these two numbers: \$2,230,532.05.

7 The parties have suggested alternative means for calculating
8 damages in their briefing. Summit US essentially asks the Court to
9 offset MOL's damages by any amounts that it paid MOL for the non-
10 existent trucking. See Summit US Damages Br. at 2-4. The Court
11 considered and rejected this methodology in its Conclusions of Law
12 and sees no reason to rule differently now. See CL at 74-75. As
13 the Court previously held, it would be inequitable to credit Summit
14 US or any of the other defendants for payments they made to conceal
15 their fraud. See id. MOL invites the Court to revisit the issues
16 of punitive damages and disgorgement of lost profits, which were
17 also addressed in the Conclusions of Law. MOL Liability Br. at 19-
18 20. The Court declines to do so.

19 Accordingly, the Court finds that Kesco alone is liable to MOL
20 for \$5,778,130.29 in damages. Further, Kesco and Summit US are
21 jointly and severally liable to MOL for an additional \$2,230,532.05
22 in damages.

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⁶ The Court derived this number by sorting Exhibit P-264 by B/L
25 date, oldest to newest, and taking the sum of the TPO Amounts in
26 column AQ, rows 2 through 7272. To convert from Hong Kong dollars
to US dollars, the Court divided by 7.8.

27 ⁷ The Court derived this number by sorting Exhibit P-262 by B/L
28 date, oldest to newest, and taking the sum of the TPO Amounts in
column AQ, rows 10937 through 11718. As before, the Court divided
by 7.8 to convert from Hong Kong dollars to US dollars.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons and the reasons set forth in the
3 Court's May 30 Order, Defendant Summit US's motion to alter or
4 amend the judgment is GRANTED. The Court hereby amends the
5 judgment entered on March 21, 2013 to reduce the damages
6 attributable to Summit US and Kesco in case number 11-cv-2861 SC.
7 The Court holds that Kesco is liable to MOL for \$5,778,130.29 in
8 damages, and Kesco and Summit US are jointly and severally liable
9 to MOL for an additional \$2,230,532.05 in damages. The Court's
10 findings and judgment with respect to Defendant SeaMaster
11 Logistics, Inc. and with respect to related case number 10-cv-
12 05591-SC remain undisturbed. The Court will separately enter an
13 amended judgment.

14
15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16
17 Dated: July 18, 2013

18 
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE