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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KUANG XUAN LIU, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WIN WOO TRADING, LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 14-cv-02639-KAW

ORDER REGARDING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST SAFETY TRUCKING DEFENDANTS

On May 5, 2016, the Court held a hearing on Plaintiffs' motion for sanctions against Defendants Safety Trucking, Jia Tun Zheng, and attorney Leon Jew. At the hearing, Mr. Jew informed the Court that his clients were terminating his legal representation effective the end of the business day.

On April 28, 2016, the Court ordered Defendants to produce the original time reports and original corrected time reports for all truck drivers, dated prior to November 16, 2011, for inspection and copying at a mutually agreeable location within 14 days of this order, which is May 12, 2016. (Dkt. No. 173.) At the hearing, the parties informed the Court that the date agreed upon for the production and inspection was May 10, 2016, but that the parties were not sure whether the inspection would go forward in light of Mr. Jew's termination as counsel. Corporate entities cannot appear in court without an attorney, so the undersigned is concerned that Defendants may have terminated their counsel in an effort to further obstruct Plaintiffs' discovery efforts. Furthermore, Safety Trucking's failure to retain counsel may result in entry of default against it.

Accordingly, the Court will not rule on the pending motion for sanctions until Defendants'

¹ The Court's concern arises out of Defendants' repeated failure to comply with their discovery obligations to be addressed in a separate order.

United States District Court Northern District of California

time for compliance with the prior court order—May 12, 2016—has passed. Failure to comply with the prior court order for inspection may result in the imposition of monetary and terminating sanctions. Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(b)(2).

Accordingly, the parties shall file a joint status report, on or before May 16, 2016, to inform the court (1) whether the inspection took place, and (2) whether the production was complete. If Defendants are truly no longer represented by counsel, Plaintiffs may file their own status report.

Defense counsel shall serve a copy of this order on his clients.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 9, 2016

KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge