

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

IN RE: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS :
ANTITRUST LITIGATION : Master File No. 12-md-02311
: Hon. Marianne O. Battani
:

In Re: Wire Harness : Case No. 2:12-cv-00102
In Re: Instrument Panel Clusters : Case No. 2:12-cv-00202
In Re: Fuel Senders : Case No. 2:12-cv-00302
In Re: Heater Control Panels : Case No. 2:12-cv-00402
In Re: Alternators : Case No. 2:13-cv-00702
In Re: Windshield Wiper Systems : Case No. 2:13-cv-00902
In Re: Radiators : Case No. 2:13-cv-01002
In Re: Starters : Case No. 2:13-cv-01102
In Re: Ignition Coils : Case No. 2:13-cv-01402
In Re: Motor Generators : Case No. 2:13-cv-01502
In Re: HID Ballasts : Case No. 2:13-cv-01702
In Re: Inverters : Case No. 2:13-cv-01802
In Re: Air Flow Meters : Case No. 2:13-cv-02002
In Re: Fan Motors : Case No. 2:13-cv-02102
In Re: Fuel Injection Systems : Case No. 2:13-cv-02202
In Re: Power Window Motors : Case No. 2:13-cv-02302
In Re: Automatic Transmission Fluid Warmers : Case No. 2:13-cv-02402
In Re: Valve Timing Control Devices : Case No. 2:13-cv-02502
In Re: Electronic Throttle Bodies : Case No. 2:13-cv-02602
In Re: Air Conditioning Systems : Case No. 2:13-cv-02702
In Re: Windshield Washer Systems : Case No. 2:13-cv-02802
In Re: Spark Plugs : Case No. 2:15-cv-03002
In Re: Ceramic Substrates : Case No. 1:16-cv-12194

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: :
:
ALL AUTOMOBILE DEALER ACTIONS :
:
:

**ORDER GRANTING AUTOMOBILE DEALER PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH DENSO
DEFENDANTS AND PROVISIONAL
CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASSES**

Upon consideration of Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Proposed Settlement with Defendants DENSO Corporation, DENSO International America, Inc.,

DENSO International Korea Corporation, DENSO Korea Automotive Corporation, DENSO Automotive Deutschland GmbH, ASMO Co., Ltd., ASMO North America, LLC, ASMO Greenville of North Carolina, Inc., and ASMO Manufacturing, Inc. (the “DENSO Defendants”) and Provisional Certification of Settlement Classes (“Motion”), it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Motion is hereby **GRANTED**.
2. Unless otherwise set forth herein, defined terms in this Order shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreement

3. The Court has carefully reviewed the materials provided in support of this motion and has reviewed the settlement terms set out in the Settlement Agreement. The Court has presided over this litigation for four years and is very familiar with the background of the litigation and the risks and challenges facing both the Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs and the DENSO Defendants.

4. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are hereby preliminarily approved, including the release contained therein, as being fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Classes, subject to a Fairness Hearing. The Court finds that the Settlement Agreement was entered into at arm’s length by experienced counsel and is sufficiently within the range of reasonableness that notice of the Settlement Agreement should be given, pursuant to a plan to be submitted by Settlement Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

Class Certification

5. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure, and in light of the proposed settlement, the Court hereby finds that the prerequisites for a class action have been met and provisionally certifies the following classes for settlement purposes (“Settlement Classes”):

“Automotive Wire Harness Systems Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Automotive Wire Harness Systems as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Automotive Wire Harness Systems as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Instrument Panel Clusters Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Instrument Panel Clusters as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Instrument Panel Clusters as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Fuel Senders Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Fuel Senders as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Fuel Senders as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Heater Control Panels Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Heater Control Panels as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Heater Control Panels as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Alternators Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Alternators as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Alternators as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Windshield Wiper Systems Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Windshield Wiper Systems as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Windshield

Wiper Systems as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Radiators Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Radiators as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Radiators as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Starters Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Starters as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Starters as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Ignition Coils Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Ignition Coils as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Ignition Coils as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Motor Generators Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Motor Generators as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Motor Generators as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“HID Ballasts Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more HID Ballasts as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more HID Ballasts as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Inverters Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Inverters as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Inverters as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Fan Motors Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Fan Motors as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Fan Motors as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.¹

“Fuel Injection Systems Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Fuel Injection Systems as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Fuel Injection Systems as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.²

“Power Window Motors Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Power Window Motors as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Power Window Motors as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Automatic Transmission Fluid Warmers and Oil Coolers Settlement Class” is defined as:

¹ Automobile Dealership Plaintiffs intend to amend the Fan Motors Complaint to name one or more of the DENSO Defendants as a defendant in the Fan Motors Action. For the sole purpose of implementing the Settlement Agreement, and subject to a reservation of all rights, the DENSO Defendants will not oppose that amendment.

² Because the Fuel Injection Systems Settlement Class includes Automobile Dealerships that purchased Air Flow Meters and Electronic Throttle Bodies, the Settlement Agreement does not provide for separate settlement classes for Automobile Dealerships that purchased those products.

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Automatic Transmission Fluid Warmers or Oil Coolers as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Automatic Transmission Fluid Warmers or Oil Coolers as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Valve Timing Control Devices Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Valve Timing Control Devices as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Valve Timing Control Devices as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Air Conditioning Systems Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Air Conditioning Systems as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Air Conditioning Systems as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Windshield Washer Systems Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Windshield Washer Systems as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Windshield Washer Systems as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Spark Plugs, Oxygen Sensors, and Air Fuel Ratio Sensors Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Spark Plugs, Oxygen Sensors, or Air Fuel Ratio Sensors as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Spark Plugs, Oxygen Sensors, or Air Fuel Ratio Sensors as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

“Ceramic Substrates Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, from January 1, 1998, through the Execution Date, purchased a new Vehicle in the United States that included one or more Ceramic

Substrates as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Ceramic Substrates as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant, or any co-conspirator of a Defendant.

6. The Court finds that provisional certification of the Settlement Classes is warranted in light of the Settlement Agreement because: (a) the members of the Settlement Classes are so numerous that joinder is impracticable; (b) Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs' claims present common issues and are typical of the Settlement Classes; (c) Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Counsel (defined below) will fairly and adequately represent the Settlement Classes; and (d) common issues predominate over any individual issues affecting the members of the Settlement Classes. The Court further finds that Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs' interests are aligned with the interests of all other members of the Settlement Classes. The Court also finds settlement of these actions on a class basis superior to other means of resolving the matters.

Appointment of Settlement Class Counsel

7. The Court hereby appoints Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP, Barrett Law Group, P.A., and Larson · King, LLP as Settlement Class Counsel, having determined that the requirements of Rule 23(g) are fully satisfied by this appointment.

8. Each Automobile Dealer Plaintiff class representative named in the current complaints in the above cases will serve as Automobile Dealer Plaintiff class representative on behalf of the Settlement Classes.

Notice to Potential Class Members

9. Prior to the Fairness Hearing, Settlement Class Counsel shall make reasonable efforts to provide notice of the Settlement Agreement and the Fairness Hearing to the persons and entities entitled to receive benefits under the Settlement Agreement, in compliance with the notice requirements of Rule 23 and due process of law. Such notice will be provided through the notices

and notice plan the Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs will submit to the Court for approval in a separate motion.

Other Provisions

10. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated in accordance with its provisions, the Settlement Agreement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be null and void, except insofar as expressly provided to the contrary in the Settlement Agreement, and without prejudice to the status quo and rights of Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs, the DENSO Defendants, and the members of the Settlement Classes.

11. The Court's provisional certification of the Settlement Classes as provided herein is without prejudice to, or waiver of, the rights of any Defendants to contest certification of any other class proposed in these coordinated actions. The Court's findings in this Order shall have no effect on the Court's ruling on any motion to certify any class in these actions or on the Court's ruling(s) concerning any Defendant's motion; and no party may cite or refer to the Court's approval of the Settlement Classes as persuasive or binding authority with respect to any motion to certify any such class or any Defendant's motion.

12. The Court approves the establishment of an escrow account under the Settlement Agreement as qualified settlement funds ("QSF") pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 468B and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, and retains continuing jurisdiction as to any issue that may arise in connection with the formation and/or administration of the QSF. Settlement Class Counsel are, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, authorized to expend funds from the QSF for the payment of the costs of notice, payment of taxes, and settlement administration costs.

13. The litigation against the DENSO Defendants is stayed except to the extent necessary to effectuate the Settlement Agreement.

Date: August 25, 2016

s/Marianne O. Battani
MARIANNE O. BATTANI
United States District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing Order was served upon counsel of record via the Court's ECF System to their respective email addresses or First Class U.S. mail to the non-ECF participants on August 25, 2016.

s/ Kay Doaks
Case Manager