

LINEAR RESISTORS CLASS ACTION
NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARINGS

This notice may affect your legal rights. Please read carefully.

A. WHO IS THIS NOTICE DIRECTED TOWARDS?

All persons and entities in Canada who purchased linear resistors or a product containing linear resistors between July 9, 2003 and September 14, 2015 (the “Class Period”), except the defendants and entities related to the defendants (the “Settlement Class” or “Settlement Class Members”).

A “linear resistor” is an electronic component used to regulate the current in an electrical circuit. Linear Resistors are found in electronics like computers, smartphones, gaming consoles, home appliances and televisions, among other products.

B. WHAT IS A CLASS ACTION?

A class action is a lawsuit filed by one person on behalf of a large group of people that has been “certified” or “authorized” by a Canadian court and determines “common issues” for the group of people, known as the “class”.

C. WHAT ARE THESE CLASS ACTIONS ABOUT?

In 2015, class proceedings were initiated in Ontario by Foreman & Company and Siskinds ^{LLP}, in British Columbia by CFM Lawyers ^{LLP} and in Québec by Belleau Lapointe, s.e.n.c.r.l. (collectively “Class Counsel”) on behalf of Canadians who purchased a linear resistor or products containing linear resistors during the Class Period (the “Class Actions”). These Class Actions claim that the companies that sell linear resistors were involved in a conspiracy to unlawfully increase the prices of these products. The Class Actions ask the courts to order the defendants to return any extra money that they have received due to this alleged conspiracy.

The defendants deny that they engaged in any unlawful conduct and deny any liability whatsoever in respect of the plaintiffs’ claims. The Courts have not decided who is right. The plaintiffs and the KOA and Susumu defendants have reached proposed settlements to avoid the uncertainties, risks, and costs of further litigation. The representative plaintiffs and Class Counsel consider the settlements to be fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the Settlement Class.

While the Class Actions were started in Ontario, British Columbia and Québec, the cases include all persons or entities who purchased a linear resistor or a product containing linear resistors in all provinces and territories in Canada during the Class Period.

The Class Actions were certified (authorized in Québec) on behalf of the Settlement Class by the Ontario, British Columbia and/or Québec Courts by consent orders. The certification (authorization) is conditional on the settlements being approved by the Courts. The deadline for opting out of the Class Actions has passed.

D. WHAT IS A SETTLEMENT AND WHAT PROPOSED SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THESE CLASS ACTIONS?

The Proposed Settlements

A settlement is when a defendant agrees to pay money to the members of the class action in exchange for having the case against it dismissed and the claims released.

In the Class Actions, proposed settlements have been reached with:

- KOA Corporation and KOA Speer Electronics, Inc. (collectively “KOA”) for CAD \$3.3 million; and
- Susumu Co., Ltd. and Susumu International (USA) Inc. (collectively “Susumu”) for CAD \$90,000.

KOA and Susumu are collectively referred to as the “Settling Defendants”. The Settling Defendants have agreed to pay the amounts listed above in exchange for a full release of the claims against them and a dismissal of the Class Actions against them.

The settlements, which were separately negotiated over several months, are not an admission by the Settling Defendants of liability, fault, or wrongdoing, but are a compromise of disputed claims.

The KOA and Susumu are the final group of defendants to settle the Class Actions. Four prior settlements, totalling CAD \$5,580,750, have been reached with the Panasonic, Kamaya, ROHM, and HDK defendants. These settlements were approved by previous orders of the Courts.

If the settlements are approved, the Class Actions will be resolved in their entirety. If the settlements are not approved or are otherwise terminated in accordance with their terms, the certification/authorization orders will not stand and the litigation will continue against KOA and/or Susumu.

The Settlement Approval Hearings

The settlements with KOA and Susumu are subject to Court approval. There will be settlement approval hearings in Ontario, British Columbia and Québec for the KOA settlement, and in Ontario and Québec for the Susumu settlement. At these hearings, the Courts will determine whether the settlements are fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class.

These hearings are to take place at:

- the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on February 26, 2025 at 10:00am by virtual hearing;
- the British Columbia Supreme Court on March 11, 2025 at 9:00am, in person at 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1 (KOA only); and
- the Superior Court of Québec on April 8, 2025 at 9:30 am in person at 1 Notre Dame Street, Montreal, Quebec, court room 17.09 and by virtual hearing.

Settlement Class Members who do not oppose the settlements and/or Class Counsel fees (see Part G below) are not required to appear at the settlement approval hearing or take any other

action at this time. Settlement Class Members who consider it desirable or necessary to seek the advice and guidance of their own lawyers may do so at their own expense.

Objections

At the settlement approval hearings, the Courts will consider any objections to the settlements and/or Class Counsel fees (see Part G below) by individual Settlement Class Members. Objections must be submitted by email to classactions@foremancompany.com or by mail to Foreman & Company, 4 Covent Market Place, London ON N6A 1E2, postmarked no later than February 21, 2025.

A written objection should include the following information:

- a. the objector's name, current mailing address, telephone number, and email address;
- b. the reason why the objector believes that they are a Settlement Class Member;
- c. a brief statement of the nature of and reasons for the objection; and
- d. whether the objector intends to appear at the hearing in person or by counsel. If the objector is appearing by counsel, the name, address, telephone number, and email address of counsel.

The written submissions can be provided in English or French (if necessary, an unofficial translation will be provided to the Courts).

Class Counsel will provide a copy of any written submissions to the Courts.

Attending the Settlement Approval Hearing

Settlement Class Members may (but do not need to) attend the settlement approval hearings.

You may attend the Ontario or Québec settlement approval hearings virtually or the British Columbia approval hearing in person, as an observer or to make oral submissions to the Court. If you want to make oral submissions, you must indicate that in your written objection.

If you wish to attend and/or make oral submissions, please contact Class Counsel no later than February 21, 2025.

E. WHEN WILL THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNTS BE DISTRIBUTED?

The aggregate settlement funds recovered in the Class Actions (CAD \$8,970,750), plus accrued interest and minus Court-approved Class Counsel fees, disbursements and applicable taxes, are being held in an interest-bearing trust account for the benefit of Settlement Class Members.

A further notice will be provided regarding the proposed methodology for distributing the settlement funds, including who is eligible to claim, how claims will be valued, and the deadline and process for filing a claim. To receive a copy of this notice, please register with Class Counsel at www.foremancompany.com/linear-resistors.

F. WHO ARE THE LAWYERS WORKING ON THESE CLASS ACTIONS (“CLASS COUNSEL”)?

Foreman & Company and Siskinds^{LLP} represent Settlement Class Members in Canada excluding Québec and British Columbia (as applicable).

Foreman & Company can be reached at:

- Toll free at 1-855-814-4575 ext. 107, by e-mail at classactions@foremancompany.com or by mail at 4 Covent Market Place, London, Ontario N6A 1E2, Attention: Anni Barry.

Siskinds can be reached:

- Toll free at 1-800-461-6166, by email at resistors@siskinds.com or by mail at 275 Dundas Street, Unit 1, P.O. Box 2520, London ON N6B 3L1, Attention: Jennifer Bald.

Belleau Lapointe s.e.n.c.r.l. represents Settlement Class Members in Québec. Belleau Lapointe s.e.n.c.r.l. can be reached at:

- Toll free at 1-888-987-6701, by e-mail at info@belleaulapointe.com or by mail at 300, Place d’Youville, Bureau B-10, Montréal, Québec H2Y 2B6, Attention: Mélissa Bazin.

CFM Lawyers^{LLP} represents Settlement Class Members resident in British Columbia. CFM Lawyers^{LLP} can be reached at:

- Toll free at 1-800-689-2322, by e-mail at info@cfmlawyers.ca or by mail at Suite 400, 856 Homer Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 2W5, Attention: Sharon Wong.

G. HOW WILL CLASS COUNSEL BE PAID?

You do not have to pay Class Counsel any money out of pocket. If approved by the Courts, Class Counsel will be paid from the money collected in these Class Actions. The Courts will be asked to decide how much Class Counsel will be paid. Class Counsel will collectively be asking at the settlement approval hearings that the Courts approve legal fees of up to 30% of the gross settlement amounts recovered in the Class Actions plus disbursements and applicable taxes, minus previously approved legal fees. This request may be heard in whole or in part by the Courts at the same time as the settlement approval hearings or at a later date if so directed by the Court(s).

Any approved Class Counsel fees, disbursements and applicable taxes will be paid out of the applicable settlement funds.

H. WHERE CAN I ASK MORE QUESTIONS?

This notice is given to you on the basis that you may be a Settlement Class Member whose rights could be affected by the Class Actions. This notice should not be understood as an expression of any opinion of the Courts as to the merits of any claim or defences asserted in the Class Actions. Its sole purpose is to inform you of the Class Actions so that you may decide what steps to take in relation to them.

This notice contains a summary of the Class Actions and the settlements. Further details regarding the Class Actions and the settlements can be found on the following website: www.foremancompany.com/linear-resistors.

If you have questions that are not answered online, please contact Class Counsel identified above.

This notice contains a summary of some of the terms of the Settlement Agreements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this notice and the Settlement Agreements, including the schedules to the Settlement Agreements, the terms of the Settlement Agreements and/or the Court orders shall prevail.

Inquiries should not be directed to the Courts.