

PRESS RELEASE

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
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Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Wins Patent Infringement Suit Regarding Its Manufacturing Process for Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) Products in the Tokyo District Court

TOKYO, November 17, 2020 – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) has received a judgment in its favor in a patent infringement suit it had filed with the Tokyo District Court against CJ Japan Corp. (hereafter, “CJJ”), an affiliate of CJ CheilJedang Corp. of South Korea (hereafter, “CJCJ”), that imports and sells MSG products. The judgment, dated September 24, 2020, orders CJJ to halt the import and sale and to dispose of infringing products, and to pay damages of JPY 990 million.

In August 2016, Ajinomoto Co. filed a patent infringement lawsuit against CJCJ and its affiliates regarding the manufacturing process for MSG products with the District Court of Dusseldorf in Germany, which also found patent infringement. Appeal proceedings are currently pending.

CJJ has appealed the decision of the Tokyo District Court, but Ajinomoto Co. is confident that the legitimacy of this judgment will be upheld in the appeal proceedings.

As a leading global company in the manufacture of MSG, which is the main ingredient of umami seasoning *AJI-NO-MOTO*[®], the Ajinomoto Group has been making intensive investments in R&D to create highly resource-efficient manufacturing technologies for MSG. The Ajinomoto Group believes that infringement of its patents and other intellectual property obstructs its R&D efforts and will therefore continue to pursue necessary measures to protect its intellectual property rights.

Reference

Press release dated August 2, 2016

“Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Files Patent Infringement Suits in Germany and Japan Regarding Its Manufacturing Process for Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) Products”

https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2016_08_02.html

The Ajinomoto Group, unlocking the power of amino acids, aims to resolve food and health issues associated with dietary habits and aging, and contribute to greater wellness for people worldwide.

Based on the corporate message “Eat Well, Live Well.”, we have been scientifically pursuing the possibilities of amino acids to aim for future growth by creating new value through sustainable and innovative solutions for communities and society.

The Ajinomoto Group has offices in 35 countries and regions, and sells products in more than 130 countries and regions. In fiscal 2019, sales were 1.1000 trillion yen (10.1 billion U.S. dollars). To learn more, visit www.ajinomoto.com.

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