

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

Before the Honorable Thomas B. Pender
Administrative Law Judge

In the Matter of

CERTAIN ROBOTIC VACUUM
CLEANING DEVICES AND
COMPONENTS THEREOF SUCH AS
SPARE PARTS

Investigation No. 337-TA-1057

**RESPONDENTS HOOVER INC. AND ROYAL APPLIANCE
MANUFACTURING CO. D/B/A TTI FLOOR CARE NORTH AMERICA, INC.'S
RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT AND THE NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION**

Respondents Hoover Inc. (“Hoover”) and Royal Appliance Manufacturing Co. *d/b/a* TTI Floor Care North America, Inc. (“Royal”) (collectively, the “Hoover Respondents”), pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 210.13, respectfully submit this Response to the Complaint of iRobot Corporation (“iRobot” or “Complainant”) under Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as Amended (the “Complaint”), and the Notice of Investigation (the “Notice of Investigation”).

RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT

The Hoover Respondents respond to the Complaint dated April 17, 2017, and entitled “Verified Complaint of iRobot Corporation Under Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as Amended,” in like-numbered paragraphs, as follows. Certain headings are reproduced from the Complaint for the sake of convenience but are not an admission of the content of the Complaint or the specific allegations therein. Any allegations not specifically admitted are hereby denied.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hoover Respondents admit that iRobot has requested that the United States International Trade Commission (the “Commission”) institute an investigation under Section 337

PUBLIC VERSION

of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. § 1337. The Hoover Respondents deny that they have unlawfully imported, sold for importation, and/or sold after importation in the United States any robotic vacuum cleaning devices or components thereof that infringe any valid and enforceable United States patent owned by iRobot.

1.2 The Hoover Respondents admit that the Complaint names Bissell Homecare, Inc., Hoover Inc., Royal Appliance Manufacturing Co. Inc. d/b/a TTi Floor Care North America, Inc., Bobsweep, Inc., Bobsweep USA, The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Shenzhen Zhi Yi Technology Co., Ltd. d/b/a iLife, Matsutek Enterprises Co., Ltd., Suzhou Real Power Electric Appliance Co., Ltd., and Shenzhen Silver Start Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd. as proposed respondents (collectively, “Proposed Respondents”). The Hoover Respondents deny that they have engaged in any unfair acts in violation of Section 337, including the unlicensed importation, sale for importation, and/or sale after importation in the United States of any Accused Products that infringe one or more claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 7,155,308 (the “’308 patent”); 8,474,090 (the “’090 patent”); 8,600,553 (the “’533 patent”); 9,038,233 (the “’233 patent”); and/or 9,486,924 (the “’924 patent”) (collectively, the “Asserted Patents”). To the extent that this paragraph contains any other factual allegations, the Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the same.

1.3 The Hoover Respondents deny that they directly infringe, contributorily infringe, and/or induce the infringement of any claim of the Asserted Patents, including the claims identified in this paragraph. To the extent that this paragraph contains any other factual allegations, the Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the same.

PUBLIC VERSION

1.4 The Hoover Respondents admit that documents purporting to be certified copies of the Asserted Patents are attached to the Complaint as Exhibits 1-6. The Hoover Respondents further admit that documents purporting to be certified copies of the recorded assignments are attached to the Complaint as Exhibits 7-12. The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 1.4 and therefore deny the same.

1.5 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 1.5 and therefore deny the same.

1.6 The Hoover Respondents admit that iRobot seeks certain relief under Section 337(d) and (f) and that iRobot seeks the imposition of a bond during any Presidential review period. The Hoover Respondents deny the existence of the predicates and requirements for liability under Section 337 and therefore deny that iRobot is entitled to any relief, including the requested relief, as a result of this Investigation. To the extent that this paragraph contains any other factual allegations, they are denied.

II. COMPLAINANT

2.1 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.1 and therefore deny the same.

2.2 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.2 and therefore deny the same.

2.3 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.3 and therefore deny the same.

2.4 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.4 and therefore deny the same.

PUBLIC VERSION

2.5 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.5 and therefore deny the same.

2.6 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.6 and therefore deny the same.

2.7 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.7 and therefore deny the same.

III. PROPOSED RESPONDENTS

A. Bissell Homecare, Inc.

3.1 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 3.1 and therefore deny the same.

3.2 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 3.2 and therefore deny the same.

3.3 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 3.3 and therefore deny the same.

B. Hoover, Inc.

3.4 The Hoover Respondents admit the allegations in paragraph 3.4.

3.5 The Hoover Respondents admit that Exhibit 14 is a document purporting to be a copy of a page from the website <https://hoover.com/products/category/robot-vacuums/>. The Hoover Respondents further admit that the Quest TM line of products includes the Quest 700 (Model BH70700), Quest 800 (Model70800), and Quest 1000 (Model BH71000) robot vacuums (hereinafter, “Hoover Accused Products”). The Hoover Respondents further admit that they offer to sell the Hoover Accused Products.

3.6 [

] The Hoover

Respondents further admit that Royal imports the Hoover Accused Products into the United States. The Hoover Respondents further admit that Royal sells the Hoover Accused Products in the United States following importation.

C. Royal Appliance Manufacturing Co. Inc. d/b/a TTI Floor Care North America, Inc.

3.7 The Hoover Respondents admit the allegations in paragraph 3.7.

3.8 [

] The Hoover Respondents further admit

that Royal imports the Hoover Accused Products into the United States. The Hoover Respondents further admit that Royal sells the Hoover Accused Products in the United States following importation.

3.9 The Hoover Respondents admit that Exhibit 16 is a document purporting to be a copy of a page from the website <https://hoover.com/products/category/robot-vacuums/> that states “Today, Hoover is part of TTI Floor Care North America, Headquartered in Glenwillow, OH.” The Hoover Respondents admit that Exhibit 17 is a document purporting to be a copy of a TTI Floor Care North America website that states “Hoover: We acquired this marquee brand in 2007.” The Hoover Respondents deny that Exhibit 17, which purports to be a copy of the TTI Floor Care North America website, includes a link to the Hoover sales website. To the extent that this paragraph contains any other factual allegations, the Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the same.

D. Bobsweep, Inc.

3.10 The Hoover Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 3.10 and therefore deny the same.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.