



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Oct 14, 2008

EVENT: Settlement

Defendant: Carlton Myers and Sweeteners Plus, Incorporated

**CARLTON MYERS AND SWEETENERS PLUS, INCORPORATED
PAY \$5,000,000 TO SETTLE CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY**

Carlton Myers and Sweeteners Plus, Incorporated have agreed to pay \$5 million to settle a civil monetary penalty for their participation in a scheme to import sugar into the United States from Canada while evading the tariff rate quota on imported sugar, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

This action alleged that the defendants participated in a scheme to evade the tariff rate quota on Canadian sugar. The scheme began with a related Canadian importer and U.S. consignee located in Detroit, Michigan. These entities, later criminally convicted for their involvement in the scheme, added large gelatin beads to the sugar in Canada and then invoiced the merchandise upon importation as a non-quota sugar/gelatin food item. After importation and release by U.S. Customs, the merchandise was subjected to a screening process whereby the gelatin was sifted and removed from the sugar. The screened sugar was sold to Sweeteners Plus, Lakeville, New York, and the gelatin was returned to Canada to be

mixed with more imported sugar. Sweeteners Plus completed the scheme by liquefying and selling the imported sugar to various customers in the U.S. food processing industry.

Acting U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg said. "The agreement reached in this civil action prevents the defendants from benefitting financially from their wrongdoing. Our Civil Division left no stone unturned in pursuing this matter and ensured that an appropriate penalty has been paid."

The settlement announced today ends a civil lawsuit filed in May 2005.

This matter was investigated by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The United States was represented in the civil case by Assistant United States Attorney Julia Caroff Pidgeon and Customs And Border Protection Agency Counsel Katherine Kramarich.