



# Department of Justice

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

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## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES FIRST ANTITRUST SUIT AGAINST FOREIGN COMPANY SINCE 1992 POLICY CHANGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Justice Department acted today to break a licensing stranglehold on glass manufacturing that kept American companies from designing and building glass-making plants overseas.

A lawsuit and proposed consent decree involving a British company, Pilkington plc, and its U.S. subsidiary, is the first under a 1992 policy change that permits the Department to challenge foreign business conduct that harms U.S. export trade.

Pilkington, which dominates the world's \$15 billion a year flat glass industry, was accused of closing off foreign markets to U.S. companies and costing Americans jobs by strictly limiting the use of commercial float glass technology, only a portion of which it developed and patented more than 30 years ago. Glass produced by this process is used in most of the world's cars and buildings.

The complaint asserted that even though Pilkington's patents expired long ago and the technology is now largely in the public domain, the company used its licensing arrangements to keep

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