

Odense, September 24, 2009

No Escape through Bankruptcy

Belgian producer and his bankrupt company each held liable to pay damages for the criminal offences of trademark and copyright infringement. The beneficiary, Dutch-Danish Container Centralen, approves of the conviction.

In March 2008, a Belgian company and its owner were convicted by final judgment of the Ghent Court of Appeal for wilful illegal reproduction and use of identification labels owned by the Dutch-Danish company Container Centralen. The labels were (meant to be) used on unoriginal imitations of the CC Container. As the owner filed for bankruptcy, he probably expected to avoid the bill. However, in a recent judgment of the Kortrijk criminal court dealing with the civil aspects of the case the company's owner and his bankrupt company were each ordered to pay damages in the amount of € 1.7 million.

The judgment is under appeal, but the fact that the (bankrupt) company and its owner are both liable cannot be overturned. It remains to be seen whether the amount of damages granted will be upheld

-‘It is very reassuring that the legal system holds the perpetrators personally responsible for their actions,’ says managing director of Container Centralen, Tonny Vangsgaard Gravesen. -‘It is frustrating when they simply avoid the bill by filing for bankruptcy today, and then found a new company tomorrow and continue their activities.’



Tonny Vangsgaard Gravesen, Managing Director of Container Centralen, is content that you can't run away from the bill by filing for bankruptcy.

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