

1410207

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS: Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman
Julie Brill
Maureen K. Ohlhausen
Joshua D. Wright
Terrell McSweeney

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined to accept the executed Consent Agreement and to place such Consent Agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days for the receipt and consideration of public comments, now in further conformity with the procedure described in Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34, the Commission hereby issues its Complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and issues this Order to Maintain Assets:

1. Respondent Dollar Tree is a corporation organized, existing, and doing business under

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from the date this Order to Maintain Assets becomes final and effective:

- A. Respondents shall maintain the viability, marketability, and competitiveness of the Assets To Be Divested, and shall not cause the wasting or deterioration of any of the Assets To Be Divested. Respondents shall not cause the Assets To Be Divested to be operated in a manner inconsistent with applicable laws, nor shall they sell, transfer, encumber, or otherwise impair the viability, marketability, or competitiveness of the Assets To Be Divested.
- B. Respondents shall conduct or cause to be conducted the business of the Assets To Be Divested in the regular and ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice (including regular repair and maintenance efforts) and shall use best efforts to preserve the existing relationships with suppliers, customers, employees, and others having business relations with the Assets To Be Divested in the regular and ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice.
- C. Respondents shall not terminate the operation of any of the Assets To Be Divested.
- D. Respondents shall continue to maintain the inventory of each of the Assets To Be Divested at levels and selections in the regular and ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice.
- E. Respondents shall maintain the organization and properties of each of the Assets To Be Divested, including current business operations, physical facilities, working conditions, staffing levels, and a work force of equivalent size, training, and expertise associated with each of the Assets To Be Divested.
- F. Included in the above obligations, Respondents shall, without limitation:
 - 1. Maintain all operations at each of the Assets To Be Divested

4. Not transfer inventory from any Asset To Be Divested, other than in the ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice;
5. Make all payments required to be paid under any contract or lease when due, and otherwise pay all liabilities and satisfy all obligations associated with each of the Assets To Be Divested, in each case in a manner in accordance with past practice;
6. Maintain the books and records of each of the Assets To Be Divested;
7. Not display any signs or conduct any advertising (e.g. direct mailing, point-of-purchase coupons) that indicates that any Respondent is moving its operations at any Asset To Be Divested to another location, or that indicates an Asset To Be Divested will close;
8. Not conduct any “going out of business,” “close-out,” “liquidation,” or similar sales or promotions at or relating to any Asset To Be Divested;
9. Not materially change or modify the existing pricing or advertising practices, marketing, or merchandising programs and policies, or price zones for or applicable to

- G. The purpose of this Order to Maintain Assets is to: (1) maintain and preserve the Assets To Be Divested as viable, marketable, competitive, and ongoing businesses

- C. Respondents shall give the above-described notification by e-mail with return receipt requested or similar transmission, and keep a file of those

4. The Monitor shall have full and complete access to all of Respondents' facilities, personnel, books, documents, and records relating to the Assets To Be Divested, and such other relevant information as the Monitor may reasonably request, related to Respondents' compliance with their obligations under the Orders and the Remedial Agreements.
5. The Monitor shall serve, without bond or other security, at the expense of Respondents, on such reasonable and customary terms and conditions as the Commission may set.
6. The Monitor shall have the authority to employ, at the expense of Respondents, such consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants as are reasonably necessary to carry out the Monitor's duties and responsibilities.
7. Respondents shall indemnify the Monitor, and hold the Monitor harmless, against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Monitor's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel, and other reasonable expenses incurred, Rmsr JT2004 (Tg 003-21)-219-315 000 Respondents

Monitor Agreement, without the prior approval of the Commission, shall constitute a failure to comply with the Orders.

C. If the Commission determines that the Monitor has ceased to act, or failed to act diligently, the Commission may appoint a substitute Monitor, subject to the consent of Respondents, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, as follows:

1. If Respondents has not opposed in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor within five (5) business days after notice by the staff of the Commission to Respondents of the identity of the proposed substitute Monitor, then Respondents shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor; and
2. Respondents shall, no later than five (5) business days after the Commission appoints a substitute Monitor, enter into an agreement with the substitute Monitor that, subject to the prior approval of the Commission, confers on the substitute Monitor all of the rights, powers, and authority necessary to permit the substitute Monitor to perform his or her duties and responsibilities on the sam2(t)-2(t(s)-1(on 5S/2(bi)-2(1)

changed or modified pricing at, or price zones applicable to, each of the Dollar Stores included in the Assets To Be Divested, other than in the regular and ordinary course of business, consistent with the changes or modifications applicable to Dollar Stores retained by Respondents, and in accordance with past practices and business strategy; and

B.

VII .

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with this Order, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, and upon written request with reasonable notice to Respondents, with respect to any matter contained in this Order, Respondents shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Commission:

- A. Access, during office hours and in the presence of counsel, to all facilities, and access to inspect and copy all non-privileged books, ledgers, accounts, correspondence, memoranda, and other records and documents, in the possession or under the control of Respondents, related to compliance with the Consent Agreement and/or the Orders, for which copying services shall be provided by Respondents at the request of the authorized representative of the Commission and at the expense of Respondents; and
- B. Upon five (5) days' notice to Respondents, and without restraint or interference from them, to interview officers, directors, or employees of Respondents, who may have counsel present.

VII I.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order to Maintain Assets shall terminate at the earlier of:

- A. Three (3) business days after the Commission withdraws its acceptance of the Consent Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34; or
- B. The business day after Respondents are no longer required to provide Transition Services to the Acquirer pursuant to the Transition Services Agreement approved by the Commission.

~~It~~ , that if the Commission, pursuant to Paragraph II.B. of the Decision and Order, requires the Respondents to rescind any Divestiture Agreement, then, upon rescission, the requirements of this Order to Maintain Assets shall again be in effect with respect to the relevant Assets To Be Divested until the day after Respondents are no longer required to provide Transition Services to the Acquirer, as described in and required by the Decision and Order.

By the Commission, Commissioner Wright dissenting.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary

SEAL:
ISSUED: July 2, 2015

CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX A

CONTROL GROUP STORES

[Redacted From the Public Record Version, But Incorporated By Reference]

APPENDIX B

MONITOR AGREEMENT

[Redacted Public Version]