

Decision for dispute CAC-UDRP-105582

Case number CAC-UDRP-105582

Time of filing 2023-06-29 08:48:23

Domain names torayindustriesinc.com

Case administrator

Organization Iveta Špiclová (Czech Arbitration Court) (Case admin)

Complainant

Organization Toray Kabushiki Kaisha

Complainant representative

Organization RODENBAUGH LAW

Respondent

Name Earl Rummel

OTHER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Panel is not aware of any other legal proceedings which are pending or decided and which relate to the disputed domain name.

IDENTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

The Complainant as provided evidence of ownership of several trademarks, including the following:

- USPTO trademark TORAY n. 1780965 registered since July 13, 1993;
- USPTO trademark TORAY n. 1619563 registered since October 30, 1990;
- Japanese trademark TORAY n. 3014955 registered since December 21, 1994.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Complainant, TORAY KABUSHIKI KAISHA, is a multinational chemistry company founded in 1926. The Complainant is the owner of trademarks in the terms TORAY.

The disputed domain name was registered on September 11, 2022 and resolves to an error page.

PARTIES CONTENTIONS

COMPLAINANT

The disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark TORAY. The Complainant contends that the mere addition of the terms 'industries inc', which are comprised in the Complainant's company name, is not sufficient to escape the finding that the domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademarks nor does it change the overall impression of the domain name as being associated with the trademark TORAY. Moreover, the Complainant submits that the addition of the suffix ".com" is irrelevant in determining whether or not a disputed domain name is confusingly similar to a mark.

Per the Complaint, the Respondent is not known by the disputed domain name. The Complainant contends that Respondent is not affiliated with nor authorized by the Complainant in any way and that Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name. The use of the domain name, in relation to fraudulent e-mails cannot be considered as a bona fide offering of goods or services under the Policy, nor does the Respondent use the domain name for a legitimate or non-commercial fair use, per the Complainant.

As regards the bad faith of the Respondent, the disputed domain name includes the distinctive trademark TORAY. It is reasonable to infer that the Respondent has registered the domain name with full knowledge of the Complainant's trademark.

Furthermore, the Complainant argues that the Respondent actively uses the domain in connection with a fraud and phishing scam, in bad faith.

RESPONDENT

NO ADMINISTRATIVELY COMPLIANT RESPONSE HAS BEEN FILED.

RIGHTS

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy).

NO RIGHTS OR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the Respondent to have no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy).

BAD FAITH

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the disputed domain name has been registered and is being used in bad faith (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy).

PROCEDURAL FACTORS

The Panel is satisfied that all procedural requirements under UDRP were met and there is no other reason why it would be inappropriate to provide a decision.

PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Notwithstanding the fact that no Response has been filed, the Panel shall consider the issues present in the case based on the statements and documents submitted by the Complainant.

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy directs that the Complainant must prove each of the following elements:

- the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights; and
- the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name; and
- the disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith.

Identical or Confusingly Similar

The Complainant must establish that it has a trademark or service mark and that the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to that trademark or service mark, to succeed.

The Complainant, TORAY KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Toray Industries Inc), is a multinational chemistry company founded in 1926. The Complainant has provided evidence of ownership of trademarks in the terms TORAY.

The disputed domain name is <torayindustriesinc.com>.

As regards the question of identity or confusing similarity for the purpose of the Policy, it requires a comparison of the disputed domain name with the trademarks in which the Complainant holds rights. According to section 1.7 of the WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), "this test typically involves a side-by-side comparison of the domain name and the textual components of the relevant trademark to assess whether the mark is recognizable within the disputed domain name".

Also, according to section 1.7 of the WIPO Overview 3.0, "in cases where a domain name incorporates the entirety of a trademark, or where at least a dominant feature of the relevant mark is recognizable in the domain name, the domain name will normally be considered confusingly similar to that mark for purposes of UDRP standing".

The disputed domain name wholly incorporates the Complainant's trademark **TORAY**, followed by the terms "industriesinc". This addition does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity with the Complainant's trademarks. The fact that a domain name wholly incorporates the Complainant's trademark is sufficient for this Panel to establish identity or confusing similarity for the purpose of the Policy, despite the addition of other words to such marks. The disputed domain name is equally identical to the Complainant's company name.

It is well accepted by UDRP panels that a generic Top-Level Domain ("gTLD"), such as ".com", is typically ignored when assessing whether a domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark.

This Panel concludes that the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark and therefore finds that the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy is satisfied.

Rights or Legitimate Interests

Under paragraph 4(c) of the Policy, any of the following circumstances, if found by the Panel, may demonstrate the Respondent's rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name:

- before any notice to it of the dispute, the Respondent's use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the disputed domain name or a name corresponding to the disputed domain name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services; or
- the Respondent has been commonly known by the disputed domain name, even if it has acquired no trademark or service mark rights; or
- the Respondent is making a legitimate non-commercial or fair use of the disputed domain name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers or to tarnish the trademark or service mark at issue.

The consensus view of UDRP panels on the burden of proof under paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy is summarized in section 2.1 of the WIPO Overview 3.0, which states: "[...] where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element."

The Panel accepts that, in the absence of rebuttal from the Respondent, the Complainant has not at any time authorised or licensed the Respondent to use **TORAY** as a domain name, business or trading name, trade mark or in any other way. In addition, nothing in the record shows any bona fide offering of goods or services from the disputed domain name on the part of the Respondent before the submission of the Complaint. On the contrary, the evidence of the record clearly demonstrates an attempt from the Respondent to make undue financial gains by defrauding partners or distributors of the Complainant's, by impersonating the Complainant.

The Panel notes that the Respondent's e-mail address in the WHOIS also reproduces the Complainant's trademark and company name. Nothing, in this Panel's view, would concede a legitimate interest in the disputed domain name solely based on an e-mail address. Quite to the contrary, such use of the e-mail address – although it does not fall within the scope of the present proceeding – clearly demonstrate the intention of the Respondent to benefit from the Complainant's renown.

The Panel concludes that the Respondent has no right or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name and therefore finds that the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy is satisfied.

Registration and Use in Bad faith

For the purpose of Paragraph 4(a) (iii) of the Policy, the following circumstances, in particular but without limitation, if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of the disputed domain name in bad faith:

- circumstances indicating that the holder has registered or has acquired the disputed domain name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the disputed domain name registration to the Complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of that Complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of the holders documented out-of-pocket costs directly related to the disputed domain name; or

- the holder has registered the disputed domain name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that the holder has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or
- the holder has registered the disputed domain name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; or
- by using the domain name, the holder has intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to the holder's website or other online location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of your website or location or of a product or service on the holder's website or location.

The evidence on the record shows that the Respondent was aware of the existence of the Complainant and of the rights of the Complainant, without the shadow of a doubt. The Panel accepts the Complainant's submission that the TORAY trademarks enjoy a worldwide long-standing reputation.

The disputed domain name reproduces that trademark integrally. It is abundantly clear to the Panel that the Respondent registered the disputed domain name in full knowledge of the Complainant's well-known trademark TORAY, in an attempt to disrupt the Complainant's business. Indeed, the disputed domain name creates a likelihood of confusion in the mind of the average Internet users, as demonstrated by evidence produced by the Complainant. The Respondent's use of the disputed domain name in connection with e-mail services impersonating the Complainant, is a deliberate attempt to defraud Internet users for financial gain.

The matter at hand is a clear-cut case of cybersquatting.

In the absence of a rebuttal from the Respondent, and in light of all the elements above, the Panel concludes that the Respondent has registered and is using the disputed domain name in bad faith, and finds that the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy is satisfied.

FOR ALL THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, THE COMPLAINT IS

Accepted

AND THE DISPUTED DOMAIN NAME(S) IS (ARE) TO BE

1. **torayindustriesinc.com**: Transferred

PANELLISTS

Name	Arthur Fouré
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DATE OF PANEL DECISION **2023-07-28**

Publish the Decision
