Fragrances Direct — Settlement Summary

Last Modified on 11/09/2026 12:02 pm EST

In Re Fragrance Direct Purchaser Antitrust Litigation — IFF & Firmenich Settlements

Summary

This antitrust class action, pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, alleges that manufacturers of fragrance ingredients, formulas, and compounds unlawfully conspired to fix, raise, or maintain prices. Two separate settlements have been reached: one with International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc. (IFF) for **$26,000,000**, and one with the Firmenich entities for **$33,000,000**, for a combined total of **$59,000,000**. Both settlements are subject to final court approval at a Fairness Hearing scheduled for December 8, 2026, and litigation continues against the remaining non-settling defendants.

Announcements

- **IFF Settlement — Preliminary Approval Granted:** The Court preliminarily approved the IFF Settlement on **November 17, 2025**. Key deadlines are now active (see Filing Deadline below).
- **Firmenich Settlement — Preliminary Approval Granted:** The Court preliminarily approved the Firmenich Settlement on **August 4, 2026**. An Order Amending Deadlines was issued for this settlement; current deadlines align with the IFF settlement schedule.
- **Litigation Continues Against Non-Settling Defendants:** Neither settlement dismisses claims against Givaudan SA, Givaudan Fragrances Corporation, Ungerer & Company, Inc., Custom Essence LLC, Symrise AG, Symrise Inc., and Symrise US LLC.
- **Opt-Out Deadline Has Passed:** The deadline to request exclusion from either settlement was **October 19, 2026**.
- **Objection Deadline Has Passed:** The deadline to object to either settlement was **November 8, 2026**.
- **Fairness Hearing Upcoming:** Final approval hearings for both settlements are scheduled for **December 8, 2026**.

Settlement Amount

- **IFF Settlement:** $26,000,000
- **Firmenich Settlement:** $33,000,000
- **Combined Total:** $59,000,000

Per-claimant distribution amounts have not yet been published on the settlement websites. In addition to monetary payments, both IFF and Firmenich have agreed to cooperate with plaintiffs in the ongoing litigation against the non-settling defendants, including producing documents, making employees available for interviews and depositions, and providing other relevant information.

Class Period

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023 (applies to both the IFF and Firmenich settlements).

Filing Deadline

A formal claim filing deadline has not yet been published on either settlement website. The claims process and distribution timeline will be determined following the Fairness Hearing on **December 8, 2026**. FRS should monitor for a claims deadline announcement after final approval. Key interim deadlines are:

- **Opt-Out (Exclusion) Deadline:** October 19, 2026 (both settlements) — *passed*
- **Objection Deadline:** November 8, 2026 (both settlements) — *passed*
- **Final Approval (Fairness) Hearing:** December 8, 2026 (both settlements)

Who Qualifies

Class members are entities or individuals who **directly purchased** fragrance ingredients, fragrance formulas, and/or fragrance compounds from the respective defendants (or their subsidiaries or affiliates) during the class period:

- **IFF Settlement Class:** Direct purchasers from International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc. or their subsidiaries or affiliates between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2023.
- **Firmenich Settlement Class:** Direct purchasers from DSM-Firmenich AG, Firmenich International SA, Firmenich S.A., Firmenich Inc., Agilex Flavors & Fragrances, Inc., or their subsidiaries or affiliates between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2023.

Note: These are "direct purchaser" settlements only — indirect purchasers (e.g., end consumers) are not covered.

Who Is Excluded

Specific exclusions have not been enumerated on the settlement websites beyond the standard opt-out mechanism. Any class member who timely submitted a valid Request for Exclusion postmarked by **October 19, 2026** will be excluded from the respective settlement and will retain the right to pursue independent claims against that settling defendant. The defendants themselves and their affiliates are typically excluded from class membership as well, though this is not explicitly stated on the settlement pages. FRS should consult the Long Form Notice documents for full exclusion details.

How to File

The settlement websites do not yet describe a formal claim submission process, and no online claim portal or paper claim form has been announced. Based on available information:

- **Step 1 — Register for Updates:** Submit a request for settlement updates at the settlement website to receive notification when the claims process opens.
- **Step 2 — Opt-Out Deadline Has Passed:** The October 19, 2026 deadline to request exclusion has passed. Class members who did not opt out remain eligible to participate in any monetary distribution.
- **Step 3 — Review the Long Form Notice:** Download and review the Long Form Notice from the Important Documents section of each settlement website for detailed eligibility and claims instructions.
- **Step 4 — Monitor for Claims Process Announcement:** After the Fairness Hearing on December 8, 2026, a formal claims process is expected to be announced. FRS should monitor both settlement websites for updates.
- **Step 5 — Contact the Claims Administrator:** For questions, contact Simpluris at **info@FragranceSettlementDPP.com** or **(833) 360-6870**.

Defendants

Settling Defendants

- **International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc. (IFF)** — Alleged to have participated in an unlawful conspiracy to fix, raise, or maintain the price of fragrance products. IFF denies any wrongdoing.
- **DSM-Firmenich AG; Firmenich International SA; Firmenich S.A.; Firmenich Inc.; Agilex Flavors & Fragrances, Inc.** — Collectively referred to as "Firmenich." Alleged to have participated in the same price-fixing conspiracy. Firmenich denies any wrongdoing.

Non-Settling Defendants (Litigation Continues)

- Givaudan SA
- Givaudan Fragrances Corporation
- Ungerer & Company, Inc.
- Custom Essence LLC
- Symrise AG
- Symrise Inc.
- Symrise US LLC

The lawsuit alleges that all defendants engaged in an unlawful conspiracy to fix, raise, or maintain the prices of fragrance ingredients, fragrance formulas, and/or fragrance compounds sold to direct purchasers in the United States.

Case History

- **Case Filed:** Complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, Case No. 2:23-cv-02174 (WJM)(JSA). Case initiated in 2023.
- **Presiding Judge:** U.S. District Court Judge William J. Martini; Magistrate Judge JSA.
- **IFF Settlement — Preliminary Approval:** November 17, 2025 — Court preliminarily approved the IFF settlement and provisionally certified the IFF Settlement Class.
- **Firmenich Settlement — Preliminary Approval:** August 4, 2026 — Court preliminarily approved the Firmenich settlement and provisionally certified the Firmenich Settlement Class.
- **Order Amending Deadlines (Firmenich):** Issued after initial preliminary approval to align Firmenich deadlines with the IFF settlement schedule.
- **Opt-Out Deadline (Both Settlements):** October 19, 2026 — passed.
- **Objection Deadline (Both Settlements):** November 8, 2026 — passed.
- **Fairness Hearing (Both Settlements):** December 8, 2026 — Final approval hearing before Judge Martini.

Source

- Main Settlement Homepage: **FragranceSettlementDPP.com**
- IFF Settlement Homepage and Documents: **FragranceSettlementDPP.com** (IFF section)
- Firmenich Settlement Homepage and Documents: **FragranceSettlementDPP.com** (Firmenich section)
- Claims Administrator: Simpluris — **info@FragranceSettlementDPP.com** | **(833) 360-6870**

Last Updated

2026-11-09

Reviewer Flags

- **Changes from previous version:**
  - **Announcements section updated:** "Opt-Out Deadline Approaching" bullet replaced with two new bullets noting that both the opt-out deadline (October 19, 2026) and the objection deadline (November

8, 2026) have now passed. Fairness Hearing upcoming bullet added.
    - **Filing Deadline section updated:** Opt-out and objection deadlines now marked as *passed*.
    - **How to File section updated:** Step 2 reworded to reflect that the opt-out deadline has passed and class members who did not opt out remain eligible.
    - **Who Is Excluded section updated:** Minor wording change to past tense for the opt-out deadline ("submitted" rather than "submits"), consistent with the deadline having passed.
    - **Last Updated date updated:** Changed from 2026-09-22 to 2026-11-09.
    - **No substantive new information found in source pages** relative to the prior article version. Settlement amounts, class period, defendants, documents list, and all key dates remain unchanged.
- **Source mapping:**
    - IFF settlement amount ($26M), class period, opt-out/objection/fairness hearing dates, non-settling defendants, and legal rights options: *Fragrances Direct — IFF Homepage*
    - IFF preliminary approval date (November 17, 2025): *Fragrances Direct — IFF Homepage*
    - IFF available documents (Long Form Notice, Complaint, Stipulation, Motion for Preliminary Approval, Motion for Final Approval, Motion for Attorneys' Fees): *Fragrances Direct — IFF Documents*
    - Firmenich settlement amount ($33M), class period, opt-out/objection/fairness hearing dates, non-settling defendants, and legal rights options: *Fragrances Direct — Firmenich Homepage*
    - Firmenich preliminary approval date (August 4, 2026): *Fragrances Direct — Firmenich Homepage*
    - Firmenich available documents (Long Form Notice, Complaint, Stipulation, Motion for Preliminary Approval, Order Amending Deadlines, Motion for Final Approval, Motion for Attorneys' Fees): *Fragrances Direct — Firmenich Documents*
    - Combined overview and non-settling defendants confirmed: *Fragrance Direct Home Page*
- **Motions for Final Approval and Attorneys' Fees now posted:** Both the IFF and Firmenich document pages list a Motion for Final Approval and a Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Awards — consistent with the December 8, 2026 Fairness Hearing approaching. These documents were not listed in the prior article's documents section; reviewer may wish to note their availability for clients reviewing fee and approval details.
- **No claims filing process published:** Neither settlement website describes a claim form, submission portal, or claims deadline. FRS should monitor closely after the December 8, 2026 Fairness Hearing for claims process details.
- **No per-claimant recovery estimate:** Neither settlement website provides an estimated per-claimant distribution amount. Typical at this pre-final-approval stage.
- **Ongoing concern re: separate claims processes:** As noted in the prior version, the IFF settlement was preliminarily approved in November 2025 and the Firmenich settlement in August 2026. Despite the Order Amending Deadlines aligning both on a December 8, 2026 hearing, reviewer should confirm post-approval whether a single combined claims process or two separate processes will be established.
- **Exclusions section:** The Long Form Notice documents (available on both settlement sites) likely contain full exclusion criteria. The exclusions section of this article is based on general class action practice since the settlement pages do not enumerate specific excluded parties beyond the opt-out mechanism.