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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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CVD EQUIPMENT CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

10 CV 573 (RJH)

TAIWAN GLASS INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

New York, N.Y March 25, 2011 2:48 p.m.

Before:

HON. RICHARD J. HOLWELL,

District Judge

APPEARANCES

RUSKIN MOSCOU FALTISCHEK, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff CVD Equipment Corp. BY: DOUGLAS JAY GOOD JOSEPH R. HARBESON

KING & SPALDING Attorneys for Capital One BY: PAUL A. STRAUS J. EMMETT MURPHY

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VINCENT T. CHANG

13PLC	VDA Argument Page 2
1	(Case called; in open court)
2	THE COURT: Good afternoon. All right. We have four
3	motions, actually, I guess the two sets of motions. Maybe we
4	could address the Mizuho CVD motions first.
5	MR. MAHER: Your Honor.
6	THE COURT: Yes.
7	MR. MAHER: This lawsuit really relates to a dispute
8	between CVD, which is an equipment technological manufacturer
9	on Long Island, with Taiwan Glass, which is a glass
10	manufacturer in Taiwan. They have a \$11.8 million dispute,
11	roughly \$12 million dispute over whether they complied with the
12	contract between themselves. That dispute, your Honor, has
13	nothing to do with Mizuho Corporate Bank and that dispute will
14	go on in this case having nothing to do with Mizuho Corporate
15	Bank.
16	There's one claim against Mizuho Corporate Bank in
17	this lawsuit, your Honor, and that is Mizuho Corporate Bank
18	refused to honor a draw down request on a \$12 million letter of
19	credit, \$11.8 million letter of credit, related to this
20	transaction. That letter of credit was issued by Mizuho at
21	Taiwan Glass's request in order to facilitate this transaction.
22	Now, the letter of credit, your Honor, that we issued
23	has milestones attached to it. There's a 30 percent up-front
24	payment which is subject to CVD getting a standby letter of

25 credit for the same amount in case a refund is needed, and

that's what Capital One is here for. They provided the standby letter of credit. That's the second set of motions your Honor is going to hear.

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There was a 30 percent initial payment under Mizuho's letter of credit. That was paid. There's no dispute about that.

There was another 30 percent payment that was supposed to be made upon shipment and proof of shipment of CVD's goods to Taiwan to TGI after testing at CVD's facility on Long Island and acceptance for shipping by TGI. That's the subject of the dispute currently before your Honor on the motion for summary judgment.

Then the other 40 percent of the letter of credit is based upon milestones that nobody claims was reached in this case and has nothing to do with the dispute before the Court.

Now I'd like to focus on the 30 percent shipment part, which is the part that's before the Court currently.

THE COURT: And that's 3 million and change?

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}.$ MAHER: Three and a half million, your Honor, roughly, yes.

Now, the last day that Mizuho, the Mizuho letter of credit could be drawn upon was August of 2010. But, of course, that relates to the 40 percent milestones that people claim are not at issue in this case. The relevant date for purposes of this motion is when the last date that the goods were supposed

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1 to be shipped, and that was November 30, 2009. And on that

day, we needed to have proof, written proof that the goods

actually were on board an ocean vessel, on board the vessel on

or before that date.

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The November 30, 2009 date, therefore, your Honor, is a critical date. And if the goods were not on board the ship and they did not present proof that the goods were on board on the ship on November 30, 2009, they're not entitled to be paid.

Now, the reality here, and this has been submitted

from Taiwan Glass in a submission on our motion, Mr. Chen attaches a document which is a shipper's document, Exhibit 10 to his affirmation or declaration, dated September 30, 2010.

And that document, which is the shipper's own document, says that the goods were not loaded on board the boat until

that the goods were not roaded on board the boat

December 5. That's five days too late.

THE COURT: That's when they were loaded or the vessel left?

MR. MAHER: That's when they were loaded on board the ship, which was going to sail to Taiwan.

THE COURT: Of course, that's in a sense irrelevant to you because you don't look to shipper's documents.

MR. MAHER: Exactly, your Honor. But I'm just saying that there is something submitted in the record here that indicates that in fact the goods were not loaded until five days later. But you're right. I'm focused on the documents

here that were presented to us to determine whether or not they complied with the letter of credit.

Now, as your Honor knows, the documents presented to an issuing bank, and that issuing bank here is Mizuho, must strictly comply with the precise terms of the letter of credit. And because such matters are subject to documentary proof, they're frequently determined on motions for summary judgment.

Now, our summary judgment papers list five different ways in which the documents we were presented did not comply. I'm only going to address two of them here today, your Honor, because I think those are the two clearest. Then I'm going to address briefly their defense, their principal defense that our rejection of the documents was not timely. And then I want to just touch on, just in passing, the claim of fraud that we've alleged here with respect to the documentation.

Now, your Honor, there are two separate ways we claim the document -- five, but two I'm arguing here today in which the document was noncompliant. First, the bill of lading was not in compliance and, second, the insurance certificate was not for the full amount of the shipment of the contract, meaning \$12 million plus 10 percent, which was required.

Turning first to the bill of lading issue, the Mizuho letter of credit specifically required "onboard ocean bills of lading." That means that Mizuho was entitled to receive documentary proof that CVD's goods were loaded on an ocean

1 vessel by November 30, 2009, at the very latest. Now, we

believe, obviously, they couldn't do that because the goods in

fact were not loaded. But they pretend that they have a bill

of lading that says that they were loaded.

THE COURT: Well, the second bill of lading has "on board" stamped on it.

MR. MAHER: It does, your Honor, but that bill of lading was presented more than 20 days after, and this gets ahead to the timing issue which is their principal defense. The goods had to be shipped by November 30. We had -- there

was 20 days that they had under their letter of credit to present conforming documents. The subsequent document which

they tried to present --

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THE COURT: When was that 20th day?

MR. MAHER: December 20.

THE COURT: December 20.

MR. MAHER: The subsequent documents that they tried to submit, your Honor, to correct the defect that you've noted, which is it did note it was on board, was dated after, was submitted after the 20-day period and, therefore, it's not allowed to be accepted. We frankly think it's fraudulent.

The bill of lading they submitted, your Honor, merely states that an intermediate shipper.

THE COURT: What document or documents creates the $20\mbox{-day}$ window?

13PLC	VDA Argument Page 7
1	MR. MAHER: There is, well, there are two things, your
2	Honor. There is the last day that the goods have to be shipped
3	is stated to be
4	THE COURT: 30th of November.
5	MR. MAHER: 30th of November, 2009. That's in the
6	amendment. The original date was earlier. There was an
7	amendment to the letter of credit. The first letter of credit
8	is Exhibit A to the Wong affidavit declaration. The
9	amendment is Exhibit B to the Wong declaration. The amendment
10	says that they have until November 30, 2009 to ship the goods.
11	THE COURT: Right.
12	MR. MAHER: Then there's a separate provision in the
13	letter of credit that says the documents, the presentation
14	documents have to be submitted within 20 days, and that's on
15	page 2 of the Wong declaration, your Honor, which is
16	THE COURT: It's in the letter of credit, you're
17	saying.
18	MR. MAHER: Yes, exactly. It's in the letter of
19	credit itself.
20	Your Honor, even if it were not in the letter of
21	credit, there is a specific provision in the UCP, which
22	everyone agrees is applicable here, that says it has to be
23	within 21 days. So whether it's 20 days under the contract,
24	which is what we say, or 21 days on the off-the-rack rule on

the UCP, what they submitted on the 24th or the 27th or

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thereafter of December was too late either under the letter of credit or under the UCP rules.

Going back for a minute, if I could, to the original bill of lading they presented. All it states is that an intermediate shipper picked up the goods from Suffolk County, Long Island, at the very end of November 2009. It doesn't state or purport to state that the goods were loaded on board an ocean vessel on or before November 30, 2009, which is what is required. Our briefs recite the clear legal distinction between a received bill of lading and a shipped bill of lading, and that's on pages 16 to 19 of our reply brief of September 30, your Honor. I won't repeat it. But it's clear that the first bill of lading did not comply. The second one that they tried to submit, too late.

The second discrepancy, your Honor, with respect to the documents is the full CIF value of the shipment was not insured. Now, the letter of credit is very specific on this, your Honor. It says it requires an insurance policy or certificates for the full CIF value plus 10 percent. CIF means cost, freight, and insurance -- cost, insurance, and freight. So the Mizuho letter of credit required proof of insurance of approximately 12 million, which is the amount of the contract, plus 10 percent. The insurance certificate that was submitted and presented, which is attached again to the Wong declaration as Exhibit C, says it was insured for only 7.8 million. So

obviously the shipment was underinsured, and Mizuho properly rejected the documents on the grounds that the shipment was underinsured.

Now, at the time, CVD agent, Capital One, claimed that it was appropriate to deduct the initial three and a half million dollar payment from the total amount and that, therefore, the 7.8 million was enough insurance. We've shown in our briefs, your Honor, that that is not the correct legal standard, that's not what the letter of credit says, and, in fact, CVD has completely abandoned that argument now. They're no longer arguing that the prepayment is a deduction against the amount of the insurance that they're supposed to carry.

And so what do they say now instead of that? They say that CVD is claiming without any support whatsoever that the value of the shipment that they shipped was somehow magically exactly equal to the 70 percent, which was a hundred percent minus the 30 percent deduction for the prepayment, because the materials were unassembled. This argument is not supported by anything that appears in the letter of credit or on the face of the presented documents which are controlling and, therefore, it must be rejected.

Your Honor, in summary on the discrepancies, CVD did not present an onboard ocean bill of lading and did not present an insurance policy for the full CF value plus 10 percent and either of those entitles us to prevail on the claim that the

not complying with the letter of credit.

December 10. On December 17, Mizuho rejected the documents as

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13PL(CVDA Argument Page 11
1	THE COURT: When did Mizuho receive them?
2	MR. MAHER: December 10.
3	THE COURT: And then seven days later?
4	MR. MAHER: Seven days later. Everyone agrees with
5	that chronology, your Honor.
6	Here's the relevance. Mizuho, the relevant provisions
7	of the UPC say that Mizuho has five banking days to determine
8	if a presentation is compliant. The 10th to the 17th is seven
9	calendar days but only five banking days because Saturday and
10	Sunday aren't banking days.
11	CVD now finally admits in their reply brief, your
12	Honor, which is $10/22/10$ submitted, page 9, at note 5, that if
13	the relevant date is December 10, that Mizuho's rejection was
14	timely. They've conceded that. That's all we need to win on
15	summary judgment, your Honor.
16	THE COURT: Because you say the five-day period runs
17	from the 10th.
18	MR. MAHER: It runs from the 10th, but it's five
19	banking days.
20	THE COURT: Yes, I understand that. But the issue is
21	whether both Capital One and Mizuho get five days each or
22	whether it's five days for both.
23	MR. MAHER: Absolutely.
24	THE COURT: Banking days.
25	MR. MAHER: Yes. They now claim for the first time,

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1 your Honor, on this summary judgment motion for the first time

- that each entity doesn't get five days. There's only one
- 3 five-day period and it starts to run from when Capital One, the
- 4 agent of CVD, got the documents, and that's totally
- 5 counterintuitive. How can the five-day period begin to run
- 6 before Mizuho even receives the documents?

Now, under CVD's reading of the rules, that means that Capital One could have sat on these documents for five days, intentionally or otherwise, and then passed them along to Mizuho and said, oh, Mizuho, your time is up. You have no opportunity to object no matter whether the documents comply or not. That was not CVD's position when they were discussing

this in December 2009, your Honor.

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I want to call your attention to the Wine declaration, Exhibit E at page 2. This is Capital One in a litany of rejections saying why the submission was compliant. The last one they said is this. Lastly, documents received by you on 12/10 and your refusal should have been received latest 12/16 instead of 12/17. CVD and Capital One were counting Mizuho's days from the 10th of December. They miscounted. Maybe they didn't count the first day right or they missed one of the weekends days, but they were counting from the 10th. And they said we were too late because we didn't do it on the 16th. We did it on the 17th. They've now admitted their error.

THE COURT: So is this a waiver argument by you, an

1 estoppel argument?

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MR. MAHER: In part, your Honor, absolutely. That's an alternative basis. But the principal basis is the statute doesn't support their interpretation of it. They've made a textual argument. Under 14B of the UCP, it says clearly, the plain reading is each of the nominated bank, the confirming bank, if any, and the issuing bank, each gets five days when the presentation is made to them.

We've rebutted that textual argument, your Honor, quite well on pages 12 to 14 of our reply brief, which is dated September 30, so I won't repeat them. But it says each, and their interpretation reads out the word each. All they have to say to that textually is that one of the three types of bank listed on UCP 14B, namely, the confirming bank, is not entitled to any presentation of the documents. That is wrong. Under UCP 8A, it says that the documents are presented to the confirming bank for review and compliance.

Now, this was an argument they made really principally in their reply brief which is the last submission and we had no chance to respond to, your Honor. But I'm pointing out for the record they are making arguments that are not consistent with the statute itself and certainly make no sense from a commercial reasonableness point of view or from common sense.

There's no evidence that -- CVD has presented no proof that Capital One as a nominated bank was acting on its

1 nomination, according to them. There's no evidence that

- 2 Capital One did anything other than forward the documents to
- 3 Mizuho. There's no evidence that Capital One agreed to advance
- 4 funds to CVD. In fact, there's no evidence that they paid or
- 5 agreed to pay anybody. They did nothing other than forward the
- 6 documents, your Honor. If you look at what they say in their
- 7 certification, their certification says, We hereby certify that
- the documents were presented within the validity of the credit, 8
- 9 meaning it was before August of 2010 and within the
- 10 presentation period, meaning the 20-day period from November 30
- 11 to December 20. They say nothing about whether these documents 12
 - comply with the terms of the letter of credit.
 - Finally, your Honor, very briefly, the last point on fraud.
- 15 THE COURT: Yes.

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- 16 MR. MAHER: Even if the Court disagrees on the
- 17 timeliness issue with us, CVD cannot obtain summary judgment on
- 18 its cross motion due to the presence of the fraud issues. Now, 19 I understand based upon their last submission, which we haven't
- 20 had a chance to respond to, they come up with some kind of
- 21
- explanation for why they're trying to back date these
- 22 documents. We haven't had a chance to test that, your Honor.
- 23 But latent fraud can be raised as a defense at any time to a
- 2.4 letter of credit. Under a letter of credit, falsified
- 25 documents are the sames as not having presented any documents

at all, and that's argued in our reply brief at pages 7 and 11.

Now, in light of the explanations, Mizuho may not

obtain summary judgment on the fraud issue here today, your

Honor, and I accept that; but neither can CVD obtain summary

judgment on its cross motion even if you disagree with us on

judgmente on tes cross motion even it you disagree with us on

the timeliness issue which, frankly, we think we're right on.

Your Honor, one last point. They claim in their papers, what was the motive? What was the motive for trying to make it December, November 27 instead of November 30? It was still good in November 30, wasn't it? That's their argument. So why were they frantically trying to back date these documents? Here's why. Everybody knows -- and we'll be able to get people to testify to this if need be -- you can't get goods being picked up on the 30th from eastern Long Island, ship them over here to the ports of Manhattan to a warehouse or a dock and get them loaded on the ship in the same day. So they're trying to back date these documents to give them a patina of cover that there was enough time for somebody to pick up the documents on -- equipment on eastern Long Island, ship them over to Manhattan, have them sit on a dock and then get

And we believe that stamping later in December "on board" on that designation when we know all it meant was we picked up the documents on eastern Long Island, when they

the motive here, your Honor. That's the fraud.

loaded on the boat somehow within a couple of days. That was

stamped clean onboard on that, that's a fraud, Judge. They weren't on the ship.

We respectfully rest on the remainder of our papers.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Good.

MR. GOOD: Thank you, your Honor. We do agree with a lot of what Mr. Maher has said about the governing law, about the strict construction of the letter of credit. Let me tell you some of the things we disagree about, and I'm going to refer to some of the statements that Mr. Maher just made toward the end of his argument.

You can't take the goods at Ronkonkoma, ship them over to Manhattan -- that's what he said; he said it twice -- can't ship them over to Manhattan and get them loaded on a boat in one day. Judge, there's a real issue here about the use of the word shipping or the words shipping and shipment. Neither of those words is defined in the UCP.

Now, the only hint of a definition of what shipment is is in the letter of credit. The word appears, shipment appears once and shipped appears once, by my recollection. The first time it appears is in item 44C, field 44C on the letter of credit, and it says last date of shipment, and Mr. Maher told your Honor that that means it's got to be on a vessel. There was no vessel that was going to transport these goods from Ronkonkoma to Manhattan, an act that Mr. Maher himself

1 described as shipping, used the word ship.

2 The other place that "ship" appears in the letter of 3 credit, which has to be construed against Mizuho, the issuer,

is in item, in field 45B and that -- here are the words that

appear there.

THE COURT: So CVD's position as to the last day of shipment in the letter of credit means the day in which it goes into the possession of the shipper?

MR. GOOD: The day in which the movement of those

goods --10

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THE COURT: -- begins.

MR. GOOD: -- begins.

13 THE COURT: So that's the pickup from the Ronkonkoma 14

plant.

shipping, what 45B calls shipping and testing at seller's facility. That's the only clue that we have as to what these parties meant by shipping, shipping and testing, shipping at

MR. GOOD: Right, what Mr. Maher described as

seller's facility. That clearly was done on November 27. And if Mizuho doesn't think we proved it was done on November 27,

it was done on November 30, the last day for shipping.

So there is nothing in the letter of credit that requires an onboard bill of lading dated on or before

November 30, nothing at all. It just says an onboard bill of

lading separately. It says last date for shipment, 11/30,

1 separately. It says shipping and testing at seller's facility.

We shipped it on time. There is no question about that.

Here's the other thing that we disagree about or the primary thing that we disagree about is the rule about when the documents were presented on this letter of credit. In our opening memorandum we said --

THE COURT: Well, do you disagree on whether the bill of lading in question is a received bill of lading as opposed to an onboard bill of lading?

MR. GOOD: We don't see the word received bill of lading in the UCP. So we believe that the bill of lading satisfied the conditions set forth in the letter of credit. But our primary argument is that the notice of discrepancies was untimely.

THE COURT: Was what?

MR. GOOD: Untimely. We argued in our initial brief that there was one presentation and it was made to Capital One. Capital One is a nominated bank under the UCP.

THE COURT: Whose agent are they?

didn't prepare the letter of credit. Mizuho prepared a letter of credit that said available at any bank. It's clear under

MR. GOOD: Both. They are a nominated bank. We

the UCP that that means that any bank is a nominated bank.

Capital One took the documents, examined them, verified them,

sent them on and asked for payment to its account, and that is

sufficient proof for the purposes of this motion that it acted as a nominated bank.

We have cited in our briefs the purpose behind the five-day rule, and we have shown, just as Mr. Maher says we read words out of -- I'm going to call it the statute -- out of the UCP, they read words into it. The 14B says that the issuing bank, the confirming bank, the nominated bank acting on its nomination shall each have a maximum of five banking days following the day of presentation to determine if a presentation is compliant.

THE COURT: So do you agree with Mr. Maher that under CVD's reading of the five-day period that Capital One could either intentionally or unintentionally keep the documents for five business days and essentially have a pocket veto over whether or not Mizuho can reject documents?

MR. GOOD: The answer in a word to that is yes, I do believe that, but I don't believe that Mizuho was without a remedy if that happens.

But the UCP actually contemplates a very similar scenario. Article 35, the second paragraph, says that if a nominated bank or a confirming bank accepts documents and forwards them on to the issuing bank and they are lost in transit, that the issuing bank must honor. So that's not even a case of withholding. That's a case of the issuing bank not getting it late, never getting the documents at all, the UCP

says the issuing bank must honor.

I don't know what better proof there could be other than the plain language on this day of presentation. There's only one day of presentation. We have cited the quote/unquote legislative history of UCP 600 and the five-day rule. Used to be a reasonable time, seven days, and the whole purpose was to make it finite and quick and give the seller a right to reclaim his goods and dispose of them by another means if he wasn't going to receive payment.

The flip side of Mr. Maher's argument that the nominated bank that holds the documents for more than the five days and then send them on to the issuing bank is that the nominated bank could hold the documents for two years and two years later send them to the issuing bank and the issuing bank would have five days, two years and five days from the submission of documents to reject them.

THE COURT: That wouldn't be the case if each had five days. Then that period couldn't be more than ten.

MR. GOOD: I'm saying if Mr. Maher's argument is correct that notwithstanding the nominated bank accepting, examining and negotiating and forwarding them on, that the issuing bank still has five days once they receive them, if the nominated bank holds on to them for two years, by Mr. Maher's argument, the issuing bank would still have five days two years later when they first received them. That can't be the rule,

1 the whole reason that the UCP went to this firm five-day limit.

Mr. Maher cited some language from Article 5. The

fact of the matter is that presentation is defined in

Article 2, and it does not include within that definition a

confirming bank. So I grant you, your Honor, that the language

Mr. Maher read from Article 8 is indeed in Article 8. But the

definition in Article 2, which by the terms of the UCP governs

all of the articles, is to the contrary.

THE COURT: So what import, if any, does CVD apply to the word "each"?

MR. GOOD: The import of each is as follows, your Honor. The nominated bank here, Capital One, got the documents on December 7. They had five days. They sent the documents by FedEx or whatever. They arrived in Taiwan on December 10 -- I think I have this right; was that correct -- they arrived in Taiwan on December 10. There was still five banking days. There was still a remainder of the five banking days left. The five banking days started on the 7th and ended on the 14th because of the intervening two weekend days.

So they got it on the 10th and they had until the 14th to reject, and that is consistent with the UCP speaking about expedited communications, telecommunication whenever possible, and the fact that Mizuho and Taiwan Glass had it within their power not to designate a nominated bank or they could have designated Mizuho's branch in New York as the only nominated

1 bank where a presentation could be made, but they didn't do 2

that. They designated any bank.

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A word about the insurance, and then I want to address this I must say what I find offensive argument about fraud.

THE COURT: I don't think we need to go very far on the fraud issue. If it gets down to that level of analysis, I think everybody would agree it's a guestion of fact.

MR. GOOD: OK. I just think it's clear from the string of emails that this is a wholly concocted fiction about back dating and whatnot, but I will leave that at that.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. GOOD: I want to talk about the insurance just for a minute. And I think Mr. Maher acknowledged this in his presentation and I think all parties would acknowledge, at least all parties who know about it would acknowledge the fact that CVD is a company that fashions unique solutions, very high tech, unique solutions to very difficult technological problems. And the evidence before the Court even on summary judgment shows that the equipment that was shipped occupied three containers and weighed more than we all collectively could lift. I don't remember the exact numbers.

But that equipment was to be, as per the contract, which is an exhibit to somebody's papers, maybe not in our motion but I think in the Capital One motion, that equipment was to be inserted into not exactly the middle but some place

1 within an existing assembly line at Taiwan Glass. In fact, the 2 payment schedule, as payment schedules would, contemplated that

the assembly was going to take months and was a major expense,

and it only makes sense that the payments be scheduled to correspond to the expense item.

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So the value of the goods, this being a contract for goods and services, the value of the goods on the ship was equal to the payments that would be required to be made at the time those goods were received. Those were the two \$3.5 million and change payments. You add them together, you get 7.1 or something in that neighborhood. You add the 10 percent, and you get the amount of the insurance.

We covered the full CIF value of the goods, and that is apparent from the payment schedule which is set forth within the letter of credit. So no extrinsic documents were needed for Mizuho to verify that the amount of the insurance was adequate as required.

Just one last reference that I didn't touch on when I was talking about the date of presentation. There is simply no evidence that CVD made or contributed to the statement that Capital One made that Mr. Maher quoted that the last day to object was December 16 when it initially rejected Mizuho's notice. So we don't see how that could possibly be a waiver on behalf of CVD. We never said that. CVD never said that.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13PLC	CVDA Argument Page 24
1	Then let's go to the Capital One, Taiwan Glass
2	dispute.
3	MR. ALLEGAERT: Who do you care to hear from first,
4	your Honor?
5	THE COURT: Who moved first?
6	MR. STRAUS: It's our motion to dismiss the
7	counterclaim, your Honor.
8	THE COURT: All right. Mr. Straus, why don't you go
9	first.
10	MR. STRAUS: Thank you, your Honor. Capital One has
11	no business being in this case. This is a contract dispute
12	between CVD, the manufacturer, Taiwan Glass, the purchaser.
13	Capital One's only role was to issue a standby letter of
14	credit. And when CVD submitted a bill of lading in support of
15	the cancellation conditions of that standby letter of credit,
16	Capital One forwarded it on to Taiwan Glass's agent and Taiwan
17	Glass's bank and notified them of the cancellation. When
18	Taiwan Glass sought payment after that, Capital One told them
19	it's already been canceled, we're not going to pay you. That's
20	the extent of their involvement.
21	The entire claim that Taiwan Glass asserts against
22	Capital One is premised on one thing, which is that the bill of
23	lading that CVD submitted should have contained an onboard
24	stamp and that premise
25	THE COURT: CVD submitted its bill of lading to

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in other words, the parties agreed on what the bill of lading

had to say. They didn't say it had to have an onboard stamp.

Now, that's in contrast to the Mizuho letter of credit

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which said that for purposes of the presentation under that

letter of credit, that it required an onboard ocean bill of

3 lading. There's no such language in the standby letter of

credit. It just says a copy of an original bill of lading.

THE COURT: So that means that Taiwan Glass has to make and does make the argument that that may be so but the letter of credit incorporates the UCP as the governing rules for the letter of credit, and Article 20 of the UCP says that a

bill of lading must be an onboard bill of lading. So that's

how they get it in.

MR. STRAUS: That's right, and there are two responses to that, your Honor. One is that while the UCP in general applies, Article 20 does not apply to this cancellation condition. It's clear under the text, under the commentary throughout the UCP that Article 20 applies when there needs to be presentation made seeking payment under the letter of credit, and there's a reason for that which is that the UCP is intended to facilitate business transactions, to standardize items, if you will, and there are -- it's always contemplated that there will be a presentation seeking payment under a letter of credit. The UCP governs that.

What it does not govern is cancellation, what results in the cancellation of a standby letter of credit, if anything. There's nothing in the UCP that speaks to that. It's left up to the parties to agree on that and set it forth expressly, and

1 that's exactly what they did in this case, your Honor. The

- 2 standby letter of credit, that specific provision on
- 3 cancellation, it says expressly exactly what is required and
- 4 what the bill of lading is required to include, and it does not
- 5 say that it needs to be an onboard bill of lading. It doesn't
- 6 say that it needs to have that stamp.

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In addition, your Honor, it also doesn't say that it needs to show that the goods shipped by any particular date.

That's another difference between this letter of credit and the

Mizuho letter of credit. This letter of credit just says that

the bill of lading needs to be dated no later than November 30,

2009. It says nothing about the date of shipment or the date

something is located on board.

THE COURT: You don't get a bill of lading -- does the bill of lading issue before shipment?

MR. STRAUS: It can, your Honor, where -- again, it depends on what you mean by shipment. But to avoid using that term, it can issue as soon as the goods are delivered to the carrier for shipment. So it doesn't necessarily mean that the goods are on the water on that day and there's no reason that Taiwan Glass would have understood that.

And as we cited a Second Circuit case for the proposition that it is their, Taiwan Glass's, responsibility as the beneficiary to make sure that the language of the letter of credit reflects exactly what their understanding of the deal

1 is. And so the onus was on them to make sure that the letter

of credit set out the requirements that they wanted met. And

it didn't say that there needed to be an onboard stamp, it

didn't say that it needed to be on board, it didn't say that

5 the goods needed to be shown to be shipped by a certain date;

none of that was in the standby letter of credit.

Now, in December of '09, CVD submitted its bill of lading which met every one of the express requirements that were set forth in that letter of credit, and there's no dispute about that. There's no dispute that all the list of items were met. Capital One gets that, sends it on to Mizuho December 8. At that point there's nothing Capital One is going to do other than treat the letter of credit as canceled. At that point, its customer, its bank, the applicant, has submitted a bill of lading that meets all the express requirements under the letter of credit. And if Capital One at that point had turned around and paid Taiwan Glass when Taiwan Glass made a demand, CVD would have sued Capital One.

And on Article 20, we go through in our brief the specifics of why this applies to -- why Article 20 applies to a presentation and not to a cancellation. As I said, the cancellation is not provided for in the UCP. It's something the parties agreed to. It's clear from the language.

THE COURT: Both LCs, do they both bear the same date or is one issued first?

13PLC	CVDA Argument Page 29
1	MR. STRAUS: No, your Honor, I believe one was issued
2	first.
3	MR. HARBESON: The Mizuho LC is 9/15/2008, your Honor.
4	MR. ALLEGAERT: Capital One LC is October 8, 2008,
5	your Honor.
6	THE COURT: October what?
7	MR. ALLEGAERT: 8, 2008, so it's after the Mizuho LC.
8	MR. STRAUS: Now, so that's the cancellation. That's
9	why this was not required to comply with Article 20 and, in
10	fact, as we say in the brief, I won't go into the whole
11	argument, but there are provisions of the UCP that would make
12	absolutely no sense if a presentation referred to the
13	submission of documents for purposes of cancellation.
14	Article 15 says that when an issuing bank determines
15	that a presentation is complying, it must honor. Well, if CVD
16	submitting a bill of lading to Capital One was a presentation
17	and if Capital One determined that complied, it would be
18	required under Article 15 to honor the letter of credit. That
19	makes no sense. It means if the cancellation were complying,
20	it would have to honor the letter of credit.
21	THE COURT: And who prepared the Capital One letter of
22	credit, is that prepared by Capital One?
23	MR. STRAUS: I believe that's the case, your Honor.
24	But the important thing is that Taiwan would have had an
25	opportunity to reject it if Taiwan disagreed with the letter of

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1 credit or if the letter of credit did not reflect what it

wanted to do, and I think that's the important thing and that's

3 why the case law puts the onus on the beneficiary because the

beneficiary, whether it prepares it or whether it simply

reviews it, has an opportunity to ensure that the language

6 reflects the terms of the deal.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. STRAUS: And, sorry, the second point, your Honor,

is that -- so there was no obligation to comply with

10 Article 20, but our second point is that even if there were,

they still lose because CVD submitted a bill of lading that did

comply with Article 20 according to even Taiwan Glass. There's no dispute that the second bill of lading, which was forwarded

on to Taiwan Glass's bank on December 24, met whatever

15 requirements Taiwan Glass believes had to be met. And the only

arguments that Taiwan Glass makes in opposition to that second

bill of lading are that, first, Capital One should be precluded

from relying on it now because it did not argue about it at the

19 time.

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Well, at the time Capital One sent the notice of

cancellation, which was on December 8 of 2009, the second bill

of lading -- it didn't have the second bill of lading. It had

the original bill of lading, and that was the original basis

for the cancellation.

THE COURT: Yes, that's true, although Taiwan Glass

then argues that when they presented for payment in early

2 January, Capital One simply referred back to the December 8

cancellation letter and didn't refer to a second bill of

lading.

MR. STRAUS: That's correct, your Honor, they did refer back to the December 8 cancellation. But, it's also very clear that Taiwan and Mizuho knew exactly that the second bill of lading was being asserted as a basis for cancellation, and that's clear from the fact that when Capital One refused to honor the letter of credit in response to Taiwan Glass's January 4 request, Mizuho argued about why the second bill of lading did not meet the requirements.

And that's in Exhibit 11 to the Sigh January 27 declaration, Mizuho says that the applicant presented the revised bill of lading on December 24 and the actual onboard date and it goes on to make an argument about why the revised bill of lading doesn't comply. So, in other words -- and this was in January of 2010 -- so, in other words, they knew exactly that this was being submitted in support of cancellation. It was also being submitted in support of CVD's seeking payment under the Mizuho letter of credit, but they understood as well that this would have been a basis for cancellation and they argued with it and we have a dispute about whether or not -- but they certainly knew at the time that it was being done, so Capital One should in no way be precluded from arguing now

1 based on that second bill of lading.

THE COURT: All right.

3 MR. STRAUS: And our last point is a fraud one which,

as even your Honor said, we don't look to the shipping

5 documents. The bank is entitled to rely on the documents that

are presented to it. In this case it was the bill of lading.

The shipping document that they referred to is not a stipulated

document. That's not something that was required to be

submitted pursuant to the bill of lading, pursuant to the

10 cancellation provision.

It's black letter law that the bank does not have to investigate allegations of fraud, and here it's incredibly distant that there would be any suggestion of fraud, but that's not something the bank has to worry about. And even if it were, just shifting for a moment to Taiwan's summary judgment motion, even if your Honor disagreed with everything that we said on the motion to dismiss and why we're entitled to dismissal from the case, at a minimum there would be an issue of fact as to whether there was a fraud that the bank -- an outright, intentional fraud that the bank somehow knew about, and there's no evidence of that in the record, your Honor. So we're entitled to win as a matter of law.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Straus.

MR. ALLEGAERT: Thank you, your Honor, for Taiwan

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Taiwan Glass is entitled we argue at summary judgment because there are no disputed issues of material fact and, as a matter of law, we're entitled to judgment against Capital One.

matter of law, we're entitled to judgment against Capital One. As to the facts, Capital One and Taiwan Glass both agree on the same version of the story. Capital One purported to cancel the standby LC in early December of 2009 based on a bill of lading lacking an onboard notation. We refer to this as the first bill of lading. Taiwan Glass promptly objected to that purported cancellation. In the bank's correspondence at that time, Taiwan Glass and Capital One agreed that Article 20 of UCP 600 applied. They argued about whether the first bill of lading complied with Article 20, but not about the application of the UCP and Article 20. They agreed about that. In January 2010, Taiwan Glass requested payment under the standby LC. Capital One refused payment because of its purported cancellation which was done under the first bill of lading, not the second bill of lading.

Now, as for the law, Taiwan Glass is entitled to judgment as a matter of law because the first bill of lading does not comply with Article 20 of UCP 600. Article 20 requires that the first bill of lading contain an onboard designation, and the first bill of lading indisputably doesn't. No one disputes that.

Capital One doesn't dispute that the first bill of lading fails to comply with Article 20. They make a different

1 argument. They just say Article 20 doesn't apply at all based

on a purported distinction which they say is encompassed within

3 Article 20 which is that it only deals with presentations for

4 payment and not presentations for cancellation, but Capital One

cites to no authority for that proposition and, indeed, the

facts and the authorities are in direct contradiction to that

position.

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THE COURT: The commentary to that section discusses presentation, not cancellation.

MR. ALLEGAERT: Excuse me, it's not the commentary to that section that they cite to. It's the commentary to Article 2, which I'll get to in a minute. Thus, the standby letter of credit incorporates the entirety of UCP 600. It doesn't exclude Article 20. The parties agreed UCP 600 applied. They didn't make any exclusions. Capital One makes much of the fact that the standby letter of credit does not specifically require onboard or ocean bill of lading.

THE COURT: And you'd agree with that, that the letter, the Capital One letter of credit is obviously different in its literal terms --

MR. ALLEGAERT: That is correct.

THE COURT: -- than the Mizuho letter of credit.

23 MR. ALLEGAERT: We don't dispute that. That is 24 correct. But that issue is a red herring because the standby

letter of credit already incorporates Article 20 and, in any

1 event, we've cited to cases, the Blonder case, and to ICC

2 opinion showing that Article 20 is applicable even when an LC

governed by the UCP does not specifically require an ocean or

onboard bill of lading. So we have authorities for that

proposition.

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Article 20 of the UCP is entitled bill of lading. It doesn't make any distinction between presentation for payment and presentation for cancellation. That's something they've grafted into it. The definitions of presentation and presenter are contained in UCP Article 2, and they contradict Capital One's position. Presentation is defined as "either the delivery of documents under a credit to the issuing bank or nominated bank or the documents so delivered." Presenter is defined as "beneficiary, bank, or other party that makes a presentation."

There can be no doubt given the breadth of those definitions that a party in the position of the applicant here, CVD, can make a presentation to cancel a letter of credit. Capital One has no answer to that point.

The commentary to the definition of presenter in Article 2 that they have is the sole basis for their argument, but it doesn't support the distinction that they're trying to make. The commentary says a presenter "may be" the

beneficiary, here, Taiwan Glass or its bank, here, Mizuho, or,

the beneficiary's agent. The commentary doesn't trump the

plain words of what Mr. Good called the statute, the UCP here, what is incorporated in the party's contract. It doesn't say that the presenter cannot be a party seeking to cancel the LC.

Now, one of the points that my adversary makes is certain provisions of the UCP wouldn't make any sense if a presentment or presenter could involve a cancellation of a letter of credit rather than just, as they would argue, the payment of a letter of credit. But actually in the introduction to the UCP, it very specifically says, and we cite this in our brief, that the provisions of the UCC apply to a standby letter of credit to the extent applicable. So it is acknowledged right in the UCP that not every provision is going to be applicable to a standby letter of credit. And to the provisions that they cite to that they say would result in a nonsensical result, clearly those don't apply to a standby letter of credit.

Now, in any event, and furthermore Capital One otherwise doesn't tell us what rule applies, what international banking practice should be looked to in examining the first bill of lading. They just say you've just got to have a document that says bill of lading. That's it. They don't tell you what body of law, what authority defines what will satisfy that condition that the parties put into the LC. We say what the parties put into the LC was the UCP and that's what applies, particularly the section of the UCP that has a heading

1 on it, bill of lading.

was compliant under Article 20.

Now, in any event, even if Capital One's distinction between presentation for payment and presentation for cancellation has merit, the parties incorporated by their course of dealing Article 20 into the LC agreement. This is because in the course of its correspondence, Taiwan Glass, through Mizuho, and Capital One acknowledge that Article 20 applied. Indeed, Capital One insisted that the first bill of lading complied with Article 20. And I cite to you to the Sigh declaration, Exhibit 6, which is the telex which Capital One sent to Mizuho explaining why their cancellation was proper and why Article 20 applied and why the bill of lading they received

Now, perhaps understanding that they're on shaky ground with respect to the first bill of lading, Capital One now incredibly seeks to rely on the second bill of lading which, of course, as we say conveniently has an onboard stamp dated November 27, 2009. Now, first, it's got to be noted that Capital One has repeatedly admitted it didn't rely on the second bill of lading, it didn't need to rely on the second bill of lading when it purportedly canceled the standby LC. Under Article 16 of UCP 600, Capital One is precluded from now relying on the second bill of lading. Thus, the sole legal issue for the Court to decide is whether the first bill of lading as we argued complied or not.

Moreover, Capital One cannot now rely on the second bill of lading because the onboard date on that bill of lading is in direct and obvious contradiction to the onboard date shown in the shipping company's cargo tracking record. Capital One was informed of the cargo tracking record back in early December 2009. It had a copy of the cargo tracking record, and it hasn't disputed in these proceedings the accuracy of that record. Nobody has. CVD hasn't disputed it; Capital One hasn't disputed it.

The point here is Capital One can't now say we're off the hook because of the second bill of lading in good faith. The two documents don't make sense together. One is right and one is wrong, but they don't go together.

The cases we cite show that when false or fraudulent shipping documents such as bills of lading are presented, the issuing bank has a duty to exercise due diligence. Capital One argues it has no duty to investigate fraud, but we're not asking them to investigate fraud. What's being asked of Capital One here is that it act in good faith and that means Capital One cannot willfully ignore the obvious problems on the faces of these bills of lading, which purport, by the way, to be the same document.

And the Schroeder Merchant's Corporation, Crutcher, and Old Colony cases that we cited all involve false or fraudulent bills of lading, and the court in each of these

cases required the issuing bank to exercise some due diligence

2 before deciding to accept problematical bills of lading. Here,

3 Capital One by asking this Court to allow it to rely on the

second bill of lading is asking the Court to ignore these

precedents and to allow Capital One to ignore the glaring

6 inconsistency.

Now, the only portion of their briefing that we didn't have a chance to respond to is their reply brief on their motion to dismiss, and there are just a couple of points I'd like to make there. They say that the cases that we cite recognize the statutory rule that absent an injunction, an issuing bank may choose to honor or dishonor a facially compliant presentation even when there's fraud. That's the general rule.

But the point that qualifies the general rule in the UCC and in the cases that we cite is the issuing bank has to act in good faith. If it's presented with glaringly inconsistent shipping documents, it can't act. It's not allowed to just ignore what it sees right in front of it. It's not a question, as my adversary would frame it, of ferreting out who is committing fraud and who isn't. It's a question of you've got two documents that don't make sense when you look at them and you're choosing to go with one and not the other and just say, hey, it's not our problem. It's someone else's problem.

Now, Capital One attempts to distinguish a very important case that cite, which is the Blonder case, and we cited that for various propositions. And the distinctions that they draw don't undermine the two major points in Blonder. Article 20's onboard requirement is satisfied by either preprinted wording or by an onboard stamp. Thus, the Blonder court held that the clean onboard stamp on the bill of lading "clearly meets the UCC requirement" and stated that "loading on board may be indicated by preprinted wording on the bill of lading providing notation of the date on which the goods had been loaded on board."

Now, critically, where the parties to a standby LC incorporate UCP Article 20 applies regardless of whether the standby LC specifically required an ocean or onboard bill of lading. So the court in Blonder applied article 20 to the shipped onboard requirement and held that the clean onboard stamp was sufficient even though the LC in that case required only as follows: "One copy of the bill of lading evidencing freight prepaid and shipment from Corinto Port, Nicaragua, to Roterdam, Netherlands." So in that case, the LC similarly had no onboard requirement for payment. It was not in the LC, and the court construed that -- but the parties did agree that the UCP applied, and the court applied Article 20 and said they were going to read into it the requirement of onboard and onboard stamp.

13PLC	CVDA Argument Page 41
1	THE COURT: All right.
2	MR. ALLEGAERT: Thank you, your Honor.
3	MR. STRAUS: Your Honor, may I respond very briefly?
4	THE COURT: Yes.
5	MR. STRAUS: Just to a few points, your Honor.
6	One correction is that it's not the case that we only
7	rely on the commentary to Section 2. That's one of the things
8	we rely on because of the definition of presenter that's in
9	Article 2 of the UCP, but we also cite in our brief to the
10	commentary to Article 20 itself because that's where it
11	describes what Article 20 does apply to and it actually says
12	that Article 20 applies where a letter of credit requires
13	presentation of a bill of lading.
14	THE COURT: What are you citing?
15	MR. STRAUS: This is to the commentary to Article 20,
16	and it's at the Mazlo declaration, Exhibit 8, page 77. That's
17	the very first thing we rely on in that.
18	Next, on the Blonder point, I would just point out one
19	important distinction that the Blonder letter of credit
20	required the bill of laiding to, quote, evidence shipment.
21	There's no such language in the standby letter of credit here.
22	One other thing that was said is that in the
23	definition of in the commentary regarding presenter, it says
24	that a presenter may be the beneficiary or a bank or another
25	party acting on behalf of the beneficiary, and it's clear

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1 though that the point of the definition is to define who the

2 presenter is. It doesn't mean that it may be one of those

3 three people or anyone else under the sun. The purpose of the

definition was to define who a presenter was, and that's

5 clearly set forth as the beneficiary or someone acting on

6 behalf of the beneficiary. And, again, that's only one of the

textual pieces that we cite.

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Just a point on Article 16, your Honor. Article 16 doesn't preclude Capital One from arguing based on the second bill of lading in this case. Article 16 says that the bank has to notify the beneficiary of the discrepancies, and we notified Taiwan Glass of the discrepancies. The discrepancy was that the letter of credit had expired or been canceled and that's exactly what they said in their response to Taiwan Glass's request. There's nothing in Article 16 that requires them to go further down into the weeds and list every basis for that discrepancy. That had already been -- there was correspondence between the parties on that and Taiwan Glass knew full well what the basis for the expiration or the cancellation was at that point.

On the fraud cases, your Honor, generally the cases that Taiwan Glass cites on fraud are preliminary injunction.

THE COURT: I don't think I need argument on the fraud cases.

MR. STRAUS: OK.

1	THE COURT: All right. I initially thought I was
2	going to decide this from the bench and I'm close to deciding
3	it from the bench, but it's a very complicated fact pattern so
4	I think I'm going to convert my talking points into a very
5	short opinion and issue it next week. Thank you for coming
6	out.
7	MR. HARBESON: Your Honor, may we address I know
8	you received letters both from Mr. Chen
9	THE COURT: On discovery issues.
10	MR. HARBESON: on the discovery cutoff. I don't
11	want to go into the details.
12	THE COURT: I'll grant your reasonable extension.
13	MR. HARBESON: OK. So we should confer and submit a
14	second revised scheduling order to you next week?
15	THE COURT: Yes.
16	MR. HARBESON: Thank you very much.
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13PLCVDA Argument