

Submitted by Tyle Jochman, Marquette University Law School

GALACTIC IMPERIAL COURT

CORUSCANT DIVISION

Emperor Palpatine,

Case No. 11-DS-1133

Plaintiff,

v.

Star Dust Industries,

Defendant

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On a fateful day in the second rotation of 65 BBY a band of rebel pilots had mercilessly attacked the Galactic Empire's space station known as the Death Star. In construction and design of the Death Star; Star Dust Industries made one fatal flaw an exhaust port 3 meters wide which when struck created a chain reaction destroying the station. Emperor Palpatine is requesting 5 million republic credits for wrongful death of stormtroopers and for the replacement of the Death Star under the Corellian Strict Liability Statute.

### **Statement of Fact**

Sheev Palpatine has always been an ambitious man, Senator from Naboo who bravely stood up for his planet of Naboo during the invasion of the Trade Federation, Chancellor who ended the Clone Wars, and then later Emperor after a seize for power after the cowardly Jedi attempted to take control of the Republic. After all of these heroics Palpatine made a promise, to bring safety and security to the first Galactic Empire of the galaxy. His vision came to fruition when he contracted with Director Krennic of Star Dust Industries to start work on the Death Star, A project riddled with issues, such as the leaking of private design plans. This did not stop the Emperor's ambition and the project was soon complete. Finally, the Emperor was able to provide safety and security to his citizens until one fateful day. A young pilot named Luke Skywalker sent a proton torpedo down the exhaust shaft, destroying the Death Star. The exhaust shaft only two meters wide, about the size of a womp rat was uncovered with no protective vents or ray shielding. Galen Erso, Chief Engineer under deposition had conceded the fact that they were aware of the design flaw and did nothing.

#### **A. Emperor Palpatine should be allowed recovery under the Corellian Strict Liability Statute.**

In response to the multitude of cases which arose from spaceship accidents, the Corellian Strict Liability Statute was implemented by the Imperial Senate. The act allows for plaintiff's who were injured by the negligent manufacture of their ships were allowed to recover from defendant manufactures *G.E.S. 22.73* The act consists of two elements: (1) The defendant must manufacture the ship or substantially modified the ship, (2) accident which took place must be within the "normal or reasonably foreseeable operations of the ship". *Calrissian v. YT-100 Freighters 243 O.R. 5d 1138, 1138 (Gala. Sup. Trib. 22 BBY)*. The first element can be dispelled

without much debate. Under Galactic Empire Statute 217.8 a ship is defined as “any starfighter, freighter, or space station which can travel in no atmosphere and zero gravity . . . defined as ship for purposes of statutory interpretation. *G.E.S 217.8*. The Death Star is a space station which can travel in no atmosphere and zero gravity, This is irrebuttable presumption as the contract between Emperor Palpatine and Star Dust Industries listed the project as “Space Station” and even if the Death Star was as large as a Small Moon, the propulsion system was unable to keep the ship within the atmosphere of any planet.

**A space battle between the Galactic Empire and the Rebel Alliance was a reasonably foreseeable operation of the ship, as its purpose was that of a military installation.**

A ship’s reasonably foreseeable operations can be determined by a court if it was in the intended use of the ship, or it can be seen as an intended consequence as space navigation and operation. *Trade Federation v. Techno Union I.R. 11 1d 38,40 (Glac. Sup. Trib. 44 BBY)*. Once a presumption of a reasonably foreseeable operation has been made, it is up to the defendant to rebut that presumption *Calrissian 243 O.R. 5d at 1138*.

The Trade Federation’s battleship was destroyed over Naboo when a Naboo Starfighter had entered the ship’s interior and fired a proton torpedo at an unguarded energy pylon. *Trade Federation I.R. 11 1d 38,40*. The court in this case had ruled combat was a reasonably foreseeable operation of a battleship. They cautioned as a ship destroyed in the midst of combat does not open up the Corellian Strict Liability Statute however if a design flaw was the underlying reason for destruction, a plaintiff could recover. *Id. at 43*. Similarly the failure of a power supply in the capacitor on a YT-1300 light freighter which disabled the shields during a conflict between the plaintiff and the Hutts in *Calrissian* was also determined to be a reasonably foreseeable operation under the Corellian Strict Liability Statute. *Calrissian 243 O.R. 5d at 1145*.

The Death Star and its crew was on its way to investigating the report of rebel activity when they were suddenly attacked by a group of X-wings and Y-Wings, the fighters were able to evade the perimeter defenses and get to exhaust port, unknown to the Empires forces According to Rebellion General Dodonna, “Empire didn’t consider a small one-man fighter to be any threat, or they would have a tighter defense. An analysis of the plans provided by Princess Leia had demonstrated a weakness in the battle station. But the approach would not be easy. We were are required to maneuver straight down this trench and skim the surface to this point. The target area is only two meters wide. It’s a small thermal exhaust port, right below the main port.” (Exhibit A). If the sworn enemy was able to find the vulnerability in the Death Star’s design, why wasn’t defendant aware of this issue?

The Death Star project was commissioned by Emperor Palpatine for the purpose of providing security and safety for the Empire as a whole. It is a reasonable connection between safety and security and combat with the rebellion. This issue has already been argued and decided before in *Trade Federation v. Techno Union* where the plaintiff used his ship as a blockade over the planet of Naboo and a starfighter had destroyed an unguarded energy pylon inside the ship. *Trade Federation I.R. 11 1d 38,40*. In the present case the exhaust port was less guarded than the

energy pylon, and therefore the court should apply the same standards as they did before in *Trade Federation v. Techno Union Id at 42*.

Because space combat can be ruled as a reasonably foreseeable operation of the Death Star, The plaintiff has satisfied the second element, and therefore the court will rule that Emperor Palpatine satisfied both elements of the Corellian Strict Liability Statute and it will be up to the Defendant to rebut the presumption.

Submitted by,

/s/ Darth Vader

Darth Vader,  
Dark Lord of the Sith

Exhibit A: Deposition of General Dodonna of the Rebel Alliance

Vader: (Heavy Breathing) Please state your name, spell your last name and give your job.

Dodonna: General Jan Dodonna D-O-D-O-N-N-A, I am a General with the Rebel Alliance.

Vader: Please explain how you came about the Death Star plans?

Kenobi (Opposing Council): Objection relevancy

Judge: Overruled

Kenobi: (Hand Motion) I meant sustained

Judge: I meant sustained

Vader: What was your analysis of the plans?

Dodonna: Empire didn't consider a small one-man fighter to be any threat, or they would have a tighter defense. An analysis of the plans provided by Princess Leia had demonstrated a weakness in the battle station. But the approach would not be easy. We were required to maneuver straight down this trench and skim the surface to this point. The target area is only two meters wide. It's a small thermal exhaust port, right below the main port.

Vader: Thank you, only one more thing. Be careful not to choke on your aspirations General (Vader grasps his hand)

Dodonna: (Choking Noise)

Kenobi: Objection!

Judge: Vader, release him

Vader: As you wish.