

KFTC Sanctions Bid-Rigging **in Nongmin News Corp. Printing Paper Tenders** – Remedies and Fines Totaling KRW 3 Billion Imposed on Six Companies for Bid-Rigging in Printing Paper Tenders Issued by Nongmin News Corp.–

September 10, 2026

Cartel Investigation Division(Manufacturing)

The Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC, chaired by Byung-Ghi Ju) decided to impose remedies and fines totaling KRW 3.009 billion on six printing paper manufacturers and distributors* (hereinafter referred to as the “paper companies”) for colluding in advance on the designated winning bidder, cover bidders, and bid prices in six printing paper tenders issued by Nongmin News Corp. between June 2021 and November 2024. The KFTC also decided to refer two of the companies* to the prosecution.

** Participating Companies: Moorim SP Co., Ltd., Moorim Paper Co., Ltd., Moorim P&P Co., Ltd., Hansol Paper Co., Ltd., Hankuk Paper Mfg. Co., Ltd., and Hongwon Paper Mfg. Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to without “Co., Ltd.”)*

** Companies Referred to the Prosecution: Hansol Paper, Hankuk Paper*

The six paper companies engaged in price-fixing for all printing paper products during a similar period.* As an extension of this conduct, they sought to maintain high prices across the printing paper market by restricting competition among themselves in tenders conducted by Nongmin News Corp. and keeping winning bid prices above a certain level.

** Case Concerning Illegal Cartel Conduct by Six Printing Paper Companies, KFTC Decision No. 2026-112, June 9, 2026.*

Accordingly, the six companies participating in the tenders issued by Nongmin News Corp. agreed in advance, through meetings or phone calls, on the designated winning bidder and bid prices and implemented those agreements in order to prevent low-priced contract awards and maintain high winning bid rates, thereby restricting competition among bidders.

Specifically, during the collusion period, the companies maintained a high average winning bid rate of approximately 96.2%, reaching as high as approximately 99.4%. This was significantly higher than the average winning bid rate of 87.6% during the non-collusion period (2018–2020), enabling the companies to realize economic gains.

Following its sanctions in April this year against the same companies for price-fixing in the printing paper market, the KFTC has now detected and sanctioned their bid-rigging in printing paper tenders. This action is expected to help eliminate bid-rigging practices in the relevant tender market.

The KFTC will continue to strengthen its monitoring of cartel conduct in the paper industry and take strict enforcement action in accordance with the law against any violations detected.

**The Korean version of this documents is the original; the English version is provided for reference only.*