

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD
LENEXA, KANSAS 66219

2014 MAY 13 AM 8: 52

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of

Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC

Respondent

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Docket No. FIFRA-07-2014-0006

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7 and Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC, Respondent have agreed to a settlement of this action before filing of a Complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

Section I

Jurisdiction

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 14 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136l.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) serves as notice that EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated Section 12 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j.

Section II

Parties

3. The Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of EPA and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 7, is the Director of the Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division, EPA, Region 7.

4. The Respondent is Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC, (“Syngenta”), P.O. Box 18300, Greensboro, North Carolina 27419.

Section III

Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. Congress enacted FIFRA in 1947 and amended it in 1972 and in 1996. The general purpose of FIFRA is to provide the basis for regulation, sale, distribution and use of pesticides in the United States. 7 U.S.C. 136 *et. seq.*

6. Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), defines the term “pest” to mean (1) any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or (2) any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other micro-organism on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1).

7. Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), defines the term “pesticide” to mean any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

8. Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), defines the term “person” to mean any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.

9. Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), defines the term “to distribute or sell” to mean to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, release for shipment, or receive and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver.

10. The term “produce” is defined by Section 2(w) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(w), and by 40 C.F.R. § 167.3 as meaning to manufacture, prepare, propagate, compound, or process any pesticide or device or active ingredient or to package, repackage, label, relabel, or otherwise change the container of any pesticide or device.

11. The term “producer” is defined by Section 2(w) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(w), and by 40 C.F.R. § 167.3 as any person who manufactures, prepares, compounds, propagates or processes any pesticide or device or active ingredient used in producing a pesticide (such actions include packaging, repackaging, labeling, and relabeling a pesticide).

12. Section 2(q)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(A), states, in pertinent part, a pesticide is misbranded if its labeling bears any statement which is false or misleading in any particular.

13. Section 2(q)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(E), states a pesticide is misbranded if any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this Act to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed thereon with such conspicuousness and in such terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use.

14. Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), states it shall be unlawful for any person to distribute or sell any pesticide that is adulterated or misbranded.

Section IV

General Factual Allegations – Count 1

15. Respondent is and, at all times referred to herein, was a “person” within the meaning of FIFRA.

16. On April 11, 2013, Kansas Department of Agriculture conducted an inspection at Sims Fertilizer and Chemical facility in Osborne, Kansas.

17. At the time of inspection, Sims Fertilizer and Chemical held for sale or distribution Syngenta RUP Bicep Lite II Magnum, EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) 100-827 (“RUP product”). The inspector collected copy of the label on this product.

18. During the inspection, it was found that the label on the product was not the current agency accepted label, specifically, the label was an old label, not the current label, and that the label was missing important information including required Precautionary Statements, Directions for Use (Ag Use) and Storage & Disposal Information.

Violation – Count 1

19. The Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated FIFRA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as follows:

Count 1

20. The facts stated in paragraphs 15 through 18 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

21. On or about April 11, 2013, Respondent sold or distributed a quantity of Syngenta RUP Bicep Lite II Magnum, EPA Reg. No. 100-827 (“RUP product”).

22. On the date of the sale and/or distribution of the pesticide product sold as Syngenta RUP Bicep Lite II Magnum, EPA Reg. No. 100-827 (“RUP product”) was misbranded under Section 2 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(E).

23. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), by selling or distributing a pesticide which was misbranded under Section 2 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(E).

General Factual Allegations – Count 2

24. Respondent is and, at all times referred to herein, was a “person” within the meaning of FIFRA.

25. On April 23, 2013, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (“IDALS”) conducted an inspection at AgVantage FS in Mona, Iowa.

26. At the time of inspection, AgVantage FS held for sale or distribution Syngenta Halex GT, EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) 100-1282 (“Halex product”). The inspector collected copy of the label on this product.

27. During the inspection, it was found that the label on the Halex product was not the current agency accepted label, specifically, the label was missing the EPA Producer Establishment Number.

Violation – Count 2

28. The Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated FIFRA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as follows:

Count 2

29. The facts stated in paragraphs 24 through 27 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

30. On or about April 23, 2013, Respondent sold or distributed a quantity of Syngenta Halex GT, EPA Reg. No. 100-1282 (“Halex product”).

31. On the date of the sale and/or distribution of the pesticide product sold as Syngenta Halex GT, EPA Reg. No. 100-1282 (“Halex product”), the product was was misbranded under Section 2 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(E).

32. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), by selling or distributing a pesticide which was misbranded under Section 2 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(E).

Section V

Consent Agreement

33. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above, and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction in this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding to enforce the terms of the Final Order.

34. Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.

35. Respondent waives its right to contest any issue of fact or law set forth above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

36. Respondent and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorney's fees.

37. Nothing contained in the Final Order portion of this CAFO shall alter or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental statutes and regulations and applicable permits.

38. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.

39. Respondent certifies that by signing this CAFO that it is presently in compliance with FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136 et. seq., and all regulations promulgated thereunder.

40. The effect of settlement as described in the following Paragraph is conditioned upon the accuracy of the Respondent's representations to EPA, as memorialized in the preceding Paragraph.

41. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged in this CAFO, Respondent shall pay a mitigated penalty of \$6000.00 for Violation 1 AND \$2,720.00 for Violation 2, for a total mitigated penalty of \$8,720.00 as set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Final Order. Payment of this civil penalty in full shall resolve all civil and administrative claims for all violations of FIFRA alleged in this document. Complainant reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of FIFRA or any other applicable law and/or regulation administered by the EPA.

42. Respondent consents to the issuance of the Final Order hereinafter recited and consents to the payment of a civil penalty as specified in the Final Order.

43. Late Payment Provisions: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Respondent understands that its failure to timely

pay any portion of the civil penalty described in Paragraph 1 of the Final Order below may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall accrue thereon at the applicable statutory rate on the unpaid balance until such civil or stipulated penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. A late payment handling charge of \$15 will be imposed after thirty (30) days and an additional \$15 will be charged for each subsequent thirty (30) day period. Additionally, as provided by 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2), a six percent (6%) per annum penalty (late charge) may be assessed on any amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the due date.

Section VI

Final Order

Pursuant to Section 14 of FIFRA, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §136l, and according to the terms of the Consent Agreement set forth above, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$8,720.00) within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Final Order. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and docket number and made as follows:

If by certified or cashier's check, payment should be made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to the following address:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If by wire transfer, payment should be directed to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as follows:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account = 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

2. A copy of the check or other information confirming payment shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219;

and

Mark Leshner
Environmental Scientist
U.S. EPA, Region 7
Water, Wetlands & Pesticides Division
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219.

3. No portion of the civil penalty or interest paid by Respondent pursuant to the requirements of this CAFO shall be claimed by Respondent as a deduction for federal, state, or local income tax purposes.

4. This CAFO shall be effective upon the filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 7. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

RESPONDENT
SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION, LLC

Date: 3/3/2014

By:

Steve Berrett
Print Name

VP
Title


COMPLAINANT
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: 5/8/14



Karen Flournoy
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Date: 5/8/14



Lucretia Myers
Office of Regional Counsel

IT IS SO ORDERED. This Order shall become effective immediately.

Date: May 13, 2014

Karina Borromeo
KARINA BORROMEO
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

IN THE MATTER OF Syngenta Corp Protection, LLC, Respondent
Docket No. FIFRA-07-2014-0006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

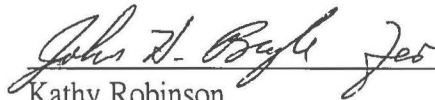
Copy emailed to Attorney for Complainant:

Lucretia.Myers@epa.gov

Copy by First Class Mail to Respondent:

Steve Berreth, Vice President
P.O. Box 18300
Greensboro, North Carolina 27419

Dated: 05-13-14



Kathy Robinson
Hearing Clerk, Region 7