

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
DALLAS, TEXAS

FILED
2016 JUN 20 10 14 AM
REGION 6 OFFICE
DALLAS, TEXAS

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|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF: | § | |
| | § | DOCKET NO. FIFRA 06-2016-0312 |
| Amvac Chemical Corporation | § | |
| 12650 Highway 43N | § | |
| Axis, Alabama 36505 | § | |
| | § | |
| C.H. Robinson International, Inc. | § | |
| 309 NAFTA Blvd. | § | |
| Laredo, Texas 78045 | § | COMPLAINT |
| | § | CONSENT AGREEMENT AND |
| | § | FINAL ORDER |
| RESPONDENTS | § | |

COMPLAINT
CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The Director, Multimedia Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (EPA) as Complainant, and Amvac Chemical Corporation, located in Axis, Alabama and C.H. Robinson International, Inc. located in Laredo, Texas (Respondents) in the above referenced action, have consented to the terms of this Complaint Consent Agreement and Final Order (Complaint CAFO).

NOW THEREFORE, before the taking of any testimony, without any adjudication of any issues of law or fact herein, the parties agree to the terms of this Complaint CAFO.

I.
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This enforcement proceeding is instituted by EPA pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a) (FIFRA) which authorizes the Administrator to bring an administrative action to assess a penalty of up to

\$7,500¹ for each violation of Section 12(a)(2)(N) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(N) (failed to submit reports). This proceeding is initiated by the issuance of a Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Complaint) incorporated herein.

2. The Complaint alleges the Respondents violated regulations promulgated pursuant to FIFRA.

3. For purposes of this proceeding, the Respondents admit to the jurisdiction of this Complaint; however, the Respondents neither admit nor deny the specific factual allegations contained in this Complaint.

4. The Respondents consent to the issuance of this Complaint CAFO hereinafter recited and consents to the assessment and payment of the stated civil penalty in the amount and by the method set out in this Complaint CAFO in settlement of the violations alleged in this Complaint CAFO.

5. By signature on this Complaint CAFO, the Respondents waive any right to a hearing and/or any appeal of this proceeding.

6. The Respondents represent that it is duly authorized to execute this Complaint CAFO and that the party signing this Complaint CAFO on behalf of the Respondents are duly authorized to bind the Respondents to the terms and conditions of this Complaint CAFO.

7. The Respondents agree that the provisions of this Complaint CAFO shall be binding on its officers, directors, employees, agents, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns, including but not limited to, subsequent purchasers.

¹The Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule (62 Fed Reg. 13514, March 20, 1997 and 69 Fed Reg. 7121, February 13, 2004) provides for increases in the statutory penalty provisions for violations which occur after the date the increases take effect. For violations after March 14, 2004, the potential maximum penalty for such violations changed from \$5,500 to \$6,500. The Agency is required to review its penalties once every four years and adjust them for inflation. The Final Rule published at 73 Fed Reg. 75340 raised the FIFRA penalty to \$7,500 for violations occurring after December 11, 2008.

II.
STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

8. Section 2(s) of FIFRA defines a “person” as any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.

9. Section 2(t) of FIFRA defines the term “pesticide” as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

10. Section 2(gg) of FIFRA defines the term “to distribute or sell” as distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for shipment, or receive and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver.

11. Section 2(p) of FIFRA defines “label” as the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to, the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers.

12. The importation of pesticides into the United States is governed by Section 17(c) and (e) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136o(c) and 136o(e), and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the Administrator of the EPA (the Administrator). These regulations are found at 19 C.F.R. Part 12.

13. Importation procedures are outlined under Section 17(e) of FIFRA, when pesticides are imported to the United States, the importer must submit to EPA a Notice of Arrival of Pesticides and Devices prior to arrival.

14. Pursuant to Section 12(a)(2)(N) of FIFRA it shall be unlawful for any person who is a registrant, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor fail to file reports required by the Act.

15. Pursuant to Section 14(a)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(a)(1), any registrant, commercial applicator, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor who violates any

provision of FIFRA may be assessed a civil penalty by the Administrator of not more than \$7,500² for each offense.

III.
FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

16. The Respondents are Amvac Chemical Corporation located at 12650 Highway 43N, Axis, Alabama 36505 and C.H. Robinson International, Inc. located at 309 NAFTA Blvd, Laredo, Texas 78045.

17. The Respondents are a “person” as that term is defined in Section 2(s) of FIFRA.

18. Amvac Chemical Corporation is a registrant, wholesaler, dealer, retailer or other distributor subject to the civil penalty provisions of Section 14(a)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136/(a)(1).

19. Amvac Chemical Corporation’s product, Mocap EC (EPA Reg. No. 5481-9041), is a pesticide as defined in FIFRA Section 2(u).

20. At all relevant times, Amvac Chemical Corporation was a “distributor,” as that term is defined at Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, of the pesticide described in paragraph 19.

21. On or about April 16, 2014, April 25, 2014, April 25, 2014, May 2, 2014, May 8, 2014, May 9, 2014, August 1, 2014, October 28, 2014, November 3, 2014, November 5, 2014, and November 12, 2014, Amvac Chemical Corporation imported shipments of the product described in paragraph 19.

22. The Respondents failed to submit NOAs for all eleven shipments of the product described in paragraph 19 prior to arrival.

²See footnote 1.

23. The importer of record for all eleven shipments of Mocap EC (EPA Reg. No. 5481-9041) was Amvac Chemical Corporation and the broker was C.H. Robinson International, Inc.

24. The Respondent, C.H. Robinson International, Inc., disclosed that NOAs failed to be filed for all eleven shipments.

25. 19 C.F.R. § 12.112(a) specifies that an importer desiring to import pesticides or devices into the United States shall submit to the Administrator a NOA, prior to the arrival of the shipment in the United States.

26. Section 12(a)(2)(N) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(N), states that it is unlawful for any person who is a registrant, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor to fail to file reports required by FIFRA.

IV. **VIOLATIONS**

27. Complainant incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-26 of this Complaint CAFO.

28. Section 12(a)(2)(N) of FIFRA states that it is unlawful for any person who is a registrant, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor to fail to file reports required by the Act.

29. During 2014, the Respondents failed to submit eleven NOAs for the pesticide product described in paragraph 19 prior to the arrival of the shipment to the United States.

30. The Respondents' failure to submit NOAs prior to arrival constituted an unlawful act of Section 12(a)(2)(N) of FIFRA.

V. **CIVIL PENALTY AND** **TERMS OF SETTLEMENT**

31. For the reasons set forth above, Respondent has agreed to pay a civil penalty, which

has been determined in accordance with Section 14(a)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(a)(1), and the Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule³ which authorizes EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500.00)³ for each violation of FIFRA. Upon consideration of the entire record herein, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are hereby adopted and made a part hereof, and upon consideration of (1) the size of the Respondent's business, (2) the effect upon Respondent's ability to continue in business, and (3) the gravity of the alleged violation, the parties agree to the terms of this settlement. To develop the proposed penalty in this Complaint, the Complainant has taken into account the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to EPA's "Enforcement Response Policy for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)" dated December 3, 2009, located at:

<http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/policies/civil/erp/index.html>. It is ORDERED that Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of **SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$6,200.00)**.

32. Within thirty (30) days of Respondent's receipt of this fully executed Complaint CAFO, Respondent shall pay the assessed civil penalty by cashier's or certified check, made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America, EPA - Region 6."

Payment shall be remitted in one of the alternatives provided in the collection information section below:

COLLECTION INFORMATION

CHECK PAYMENTS:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center

³ See footnote 1.

PO Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-900

WIRE TRANSFERS:

Wire transfers should be directed to:
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"

OVERNIGHT MAIL:

U.S. Bank
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
Contact: Natalie Pearson
314-418-4087

ACH (also known as REX or remittance express)

Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) for receiving US currency
PNC Bank
808 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20074
Contact -- Jesse White 301-887-6548
ABA = 051036706
Transaction Code 22 - checking
Environmental Protection Agency
Account 310006
CTX Format

ON LINE PAYMENT:

There is now an On Line Payment Option, available through the Dept. of Treasury.
This payment option can be accessed from the information below:

WWW.PAY.GOV

Enter "sf0 1.1" in the search field;

Open form and complete required fields following directions for EPA Miscellaneous payments.

EPA Miscellaneous Payments - Cincinnati Finance Center

Form Number: **SFO Form Number 1.1**

Use this form to pay civil penalties, FOIA request, Superfund, Citations, Compliance Orders, and other miscellaneous payments

PLEASE NOTE: Docket number FIFRA-06-2016-0312 shall be clearly typed on the check to ensure proper credit. Respondent shall send a simultaneous notice of such payment, including a copy of the money order or check to the following:

Kristin Dunbar
Pesticides Section (6MM-XP)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

The check shall reference the Respondent's name and address, the case name and the docket number of the administrative complaint, and the check shall be accompanied by a transmittal letter. A photocopy of each check and its accompanying transmittal letter shall be mailed to:

Region 6 Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Respondent's adherence to this request will ensure proper credit is given to the matter at hand.

33. Respondent agrees not to claim, or attempt to claim, a federal income tax deduction or credit covering all or any part of the civil penalty paid to the United States Treasurer.

34. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11 unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue thirty (30) days after the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty that is not

paid by the respective due date. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a). Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. See 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b).

35. The EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period that the penalty remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. See 40 C.F.R. § 13.11 (c). Should a penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. See 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.


VI.
COSTS

36. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney fees.

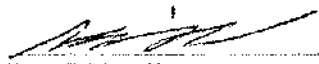
IT IS SO AGREED:

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Date: 1/15/2016

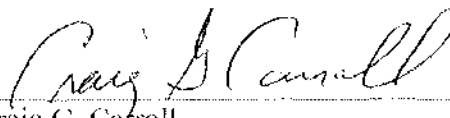

John Rizzi
Vice President of Manufacturing
Amvac Chemical Corporation
12650 Highway 43N
Axis, Alabama 36505

Date: 1/14/16


Ben Bidwell
Director of U.S. Corporate Customs
C.I.I. Robinson International, Inc.
¹⁴⁷⁰¹ 1407 Charlson Road -- Suite 450
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

Date: 01/26/16


Craig G. Carroll
Chief
Pesticides Section

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136f(a), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby ratified. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action and/or violations alleged in the Complaint. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement and the civil penalty payment instructions as set forth in the Consent Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Dated 1/28/16



Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

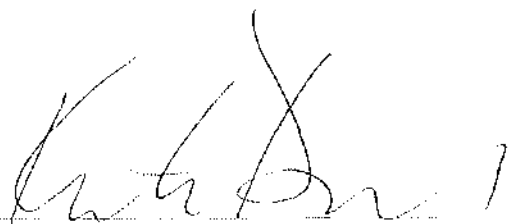
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 28th day of January, 2016, the original and one copy of the foregoing Complaint Consent Agreement and Final Order ("Complaint CAFO") was hand delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, and a true and correct copy was delivered to the following individual by method indicated below:

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Rizzi
Vice President of Manufacturing
Amvac Chemical Corporation
12650 Highway 43N
Axis, Alabama 36505

Ben Bidwell
Director of U.S. Corporate Customs
C.H. Robinson International, Inc.
1407 Charlson Road - Suite 450
Eden Prairie, MN 55347


Kristin Dunbar
Enforcement Officer
Pesticides Section