

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

2015 DEC -2 AM 8: 59

In the Matter of

United Suppliers, Inc.

Respondent

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Docket No. FIFRA-07-2016-0002

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7 and United Suppliers, Inc. (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 United Suppliers, Inc., a registrant of pesticide products located in Ames and Eldora, Iowa.

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)(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.

13. 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

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

15. Respondent is the registrant of Tomahawk 5 bearing the EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) 33270-15.

16. On or about November 20, 2014, a representative from the Missouri Department of Agriculture conducted an inspection at Lincoln County Farmers Coop, Inc. located in Troy, Missouri (hereinafter "the Inspection"). At the time of the Inspection, photographic documentation was collected of the label appearing on two bulk tanks containing Tomahawk 5 (hereinafter Tank 1 and Tank 2).

Violations

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

Count 1

18. The facts stated in paragraphs 14 through 16 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

19. On or about November 20, 2015, Respondent's registered product, Tomahawk 5, was being held for sale or distribution at Lincoln County Farmers Coop, Inc.

20. Photographic documentation of the Tomahawk 5 label on Tank 1 shows the EPA Registration Number marked out with a pen. The photograph also shows that an EPA Establishment Number was not identified.

21. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), when its registered product, being held for sale or distribution, was misbranded for failing to clearly identify the EPA Registration Number and EPA Establishment Number.

Count 2

22. The facts stated in paragraphs 14 through 16 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

23. On or about November 20, 2015, Respondent's registered product, Tomahawk 5, was being held for sale or distribution at Lincoln County Farmers Coop, Inc.

24. Photographic documentation of the Tomahawk 5 label on Tank 2 shows the EPA Registration Number marked out with a pen. The photograph also shows that an EPA Establishment Number was not identified.

25. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), when its registered product, being held for sale or distribution, was misbranded for failing to clearly identify the EPA Registration Number and EPA Establishment Number.

Section V

Consent Agreement

26. 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.

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

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

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. The effect of settlement as described in Paragraph 34 below is conditioned upon the accuracy of the Respondent's representations to EPA, as memorialized in Paragraph 32 above.

34. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged in this CAFO, Respondent shall pay a mitigated penalty of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$5,720) 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.

35. 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.

36. 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 Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$5,720) 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. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219;

and

Kelley Catlin, Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
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
UNITED SUPPLIERS, INC.**

Date: 11/23/15

By:



STEVE NIELSEN

Print Name

CORPORATE SECRETARY

Title

COMPLAINANT
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: 11/24/15



Karen Flournoy
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Date: 11/24/15



Kelley Catlin
Office of Regional Counsel

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 12/1/2015

Karina Borromeo

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

IN THE MATTER OF United Suppliers, Inc., Respondent
Docket No. FIFRA-07-2016-0002

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 by email to Attorney for Complainant:

catlin.kelley@epa.gov

Copy by email to:

marvinturpen@unitedsuppliers.com

Dated: 12/2/15



Kathy Robinson
Hearing Clerk, Region 7