



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 11 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Christina Ortiz  
EHS Director  
Airgas Specialty Products, Inc.  
2530 Sever Road, Suite 300  
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

Re: Airgas Specialty Products, Inc.  
Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b)

Dear Ms. Ortiz:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Please refer to Section VII of the CAFO for penalty information and payment requirements. To ensure proper processing, the Respondent's name and Docket Number for this case, identified above and in the CAFO, should be noted on any cashier's or certified check submitted in payment of the penalty.

Should you have any questions concerning the compliance status in the future, please contact Mr. Gopal Timsina of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9017. Thank you for your cooperation in reaching a resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry L. Lamberth".

Larry L. Lamberth  
Chief  
Chemical Safety and Land Enforcement Branch

Enclosure

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 4

In the Matter of:

Airgas Specialty Products, Inc.

Respondent.

Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b)

USEPA REGION 4  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL  
2020 FEB 11 AM 8:01  
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**I. NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This is an administrative penalty assessment proceeding brought under Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA or the Act), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), as codified at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 22.
2. This Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order shall collectively be referred to as the CAFO.
3. Having found that settlement is consistent with the provisions and objectives of the Act and applicable regulations, the Parties have agreed to settle this action pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and consent to the entry of this CAFO without adjudication of any issues of law or fact herein.

**II. PARTIES**

4. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA Region 4, who has been delegated the authority on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enter into this CAFO pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §2615(a).
5. Respondent is Airgas Specialty Products, Inc., doing business in Georgia. This proceeding pertains to Respondent's facility located at 2530 Sever Road, Suite 300, Lawranceville, GA 30043(Facility).

### **III. GOVERNING LAW**

6. Section 8(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2607(b), requires EPA to compile, keep current and publish a list of each chemical substance that is manufactured or processed, including imports, in the United States for uses under TSCA. The list is also known as the “TSCA Inventory.”
7. Pursuant to Section 15 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614, it is unlawful for any person to fail to establish or maintain records, submit reports, notices or other information, or permit access to or allow copying of records, including, but not limited to records and reports, as required by Section 8 of TSCA or any regulation thereunder.
8. The term “person” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 704.3, to include any individual, firm, company, corporation, joint venture, partnership, sole proprietorship, association, or any other business entity; any State or political subdivision thereof; any municipality; any interstate body; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.
9. The term “manufacturer” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 704.3, to mean a person who imports, produces, or manufactures a chemical substance. A person who extracts a component chemical substance from a previously existing chemical substance or a complex combination of substance is a manufacturer of that component chemical substance.
10. The term “manufacture” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 704.3, to mean manufacture for commercial purposes.
11. Any information the Respondent has claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI) which may support or form the basis of this CAFO has been intentionally left out. To determine the identity of the chemical substance referenced in this CAFO or to identify other information designated as CBI, Complainant and/or Respondent should refer to the letter dated August 16, 2019, sent to the Respondent identifying the potential violations of TSCA and notifying the Respondent of the opportunity to show cause why the EPA should not proceed with an enforcement action.

### **IV. FINDINGS OF FACTS**

12. Respondent is a person as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 704.3. Respondent conducts chemical manufacturing at its Facility.
13. On June 13, 2019, an authorized agent of the EPA Region 4 conducted an inspection at Respondent’s Facility pursuant to Section 11(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2610(a).
14. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 711.8(a)(2), any person who manufactured (including imported) for commercial purposes 25,000 pounds or more of a chemical substance described in 40 C.F.R. § 711.5 at any single site owned or controlled by that person, in any of the calendar years 2012, 2013, 2014 or 2015 are subject to the Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) requirements in 40 C.F.R. Part 711 for the 2016 submission period. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 711.20, the 2016 submission

period ran from June 1, 2016, until October 31, 2016, and 2016 CDR reports were required to have been submitted to the EPA during that period of time.

15. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 711.5, any chemical substance that is in the TSCA Master Inventory File at the beginning of a submission period described in 40 C.F.R. § 711.20 must be reported pursuant to the CDR requirements under Section 8(a) of TSCA and 40 CFR Part 711, unless the chemical substance is specifically excluded by 40 C.F.R. § 711.6.
16. A review of Respondent's 2015 production records revealed that Respondent imported a reportable quantity (> 25,000 pounds) of Chemical A to its Facility for commercial purposes in 2015.
17. Chemical A was listed on the TSCA Master Inventory File at the beginning of the CDR period (June 1, 2016, through October 31, 2016), is identified at 40 C.F.R. § 711.20, and is not specifically exempted from some or all of the CDR reporting requirements by 40 C.F.R. § 711.6.
18. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 711.15, Respondent was required to submit to the EPA a 2016 CDR report for the reportable chemical substances that were manufactured (including imported) for commercial purposes in quantities greater than 25,000 pounds in calendar year 2015 by no later than the end of the 2016 CDR submission period, October 31, 2016. Although Respondent did timely submit a CDR for other chemical substances, the CDR report did not include Chemical A, which is a substance, and was subject to the 2016 CDR.

#### **V. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

19. Based on the EPA's investigation including a review of the Respondent's records obtained during the EPA's inspection as noted above in paragraph 18, the EPA alleges that the Respondent failed to submit a CDR report for Chemical A by October 31, 2016, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 711.8 and 711.15 and Section 15 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614.

#### **VI. STIPULATIONS**

20. The issuance of this CAFO simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).
21. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:
  - a. admits that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this CAFO;
  - b. neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth in Section IV (Findings of Facts) of this CAFO;
  - c. consents to the assessment of a civil penalty as stated below;
  - d. consents to the conditions specified in this CAFO;

- e. waives any right to contest the allegations set forth in Section V (Alleged Violations) of this CAFO; and
- f. waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this CAFO.

22. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent:

- a. agrees that this CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Respondent;
- b. acknowledges that this CAFO constitutes an enforcement action for purposes of considering Respondent's compliance history in any subsequent enforcement actions;
- c. waives any rights it may possess at or in equity to challenge the authority of EPA to bring a civil action in a United States District Court to compel compliance with the CAFO, and to seek an additional penalty for such noncompliance, and agrees that federal law shall govern in any such civil action;
- d. by executing this CAFO, certifies to the best of its knowledge that Respondent is currently in compliance with all relevant requirements of the Act and its implementing regulations, and that all violations alleged herein, which are neither admitted nor denied, have been corrected;
- e. waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during any discussions with, or to be served with and reply to, any memorandum or communication addressed to EPA officials where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum, or communication is to persuade such official to accept and issue this CAFO; and
- f. agrees to comply with the terms of the CAFO.

23. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.5, the individuals named in the certificate of service are authorized to receive service related to this proceeding.

## VII. TERMS OF PAYMENT

- 24. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of **TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (\$22,500)** which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date.
- 25. Payment(s) shall be made by cashier's check, certified check, by electronic funds transfer (EFT), or by Automated Clearing House (ACH) (also known as REX or remittance express). If paying by check, the check shall be payable to: Treasurer, United States of America, and the Facility name and docket number for this matter shall be referenced on the face of the check. If Respondent sends payment by the U.S. Postal Service, the payment shall be addressed to:

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979077  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

If Respondent sends payment by non-U.S. Postal express mail delivery, the payment shall be sent to:

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA Fines & Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station: SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Contact Number: (314) 425-1819

If paying by EFT, Respondent shall transfer the payment to:

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

If paying by ACH, Respondent shall remit payment to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver  
ABA: 051036706  
Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 – checking  
Physical location of US Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737  
Contact: John Schmid, (202) 874-7026  
REX (Remittance Express): 1-866-234-5681

26. Respondent shall send proof of payment, within 24 hours of payment of the civil penalty, to:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

and

Gopal Timsina  
Chemical Safety Section  
Chemical Safety and Land Enforcement Branch  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
Timsina.gopal@epa.gov

27. "Proof of payment" means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, confirmation of wire or automated clearinghouse transfer, and any other information required to demonstrate that payment has been made according to EPA requirements, in the amount due, and identified with the Facility name and "Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b)".
28. Pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), if Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the penalty assessed under this CAFO, EPA may recover, in addition to the amount of the unpaid penalty assessed, the following amounts on any amount overdue:
- a. Interest. Interest will begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the Effective Date of this CAFO. If the civil penalty is paid within 30 days, Interest is waived. However, if the civil penalty is not paid in full within 30 days of the Effective Date of this CAFO, Interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid portion until the unpaid portion of the civil penalty and accrued Interest are paid. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate, as established by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1), 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).
  - b. Non-Payment Penalty. On any portion of a civil penalty more than ninety (90) calendar days past due, Respondent must pay a non-payment penalty of not more than six percent (6%) per annum, which will accrue from the date the penalty payment became due under Section VII and is not paid in full, as provided in 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2) and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). This non-payment penalty is in addition to charges which accrue or may accrue under subparagraphs (a) and (c) and will be assessed monthly. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c).
  - c. Monthly Handling Charge. Respondent must pay a late payment handling charge to cover the administrative costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim, based on either actual or average cost incurred. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(c), and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Administrative costs will be assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue except as provided by 40 C.F.R. § 13.12.
29. In addition to what is stated in the prior Paragraph, if Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the penalty assessed under this CAFO, EPA may:

- a. refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13 and 13.14;
- b. collect the debt by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds, 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H;
- c. suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges, or suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with EPA or engaging in programs EPA sponsors or funds, 40 C.F.R. § 13.17; and/or
- d. request that the Attorney General bring a civil action in an appropriate district court to recover the penalty assessed and interest pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a). In any such action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty and of this CAFO shall not be subject to review.

30. Penalties paid pursuant to this CAFO shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

#### **VIII. EFFECT OF CAFO**

31. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), Respondent's full compliance with this CAFO shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged in this CAFO.
32. Full payment of the civil penalty, as provided in Section VII (Terms of Payment), 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.
33. Any violation of this CAFO may result in a civil judicial action for civil penalties as provided in Section 16(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2615(a), as well as criminal sanctions as provided in Section 16(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2615(b). EPA may use any information submitted under this CAFO in an administrative, civil judicial, or criminal action.
34. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with all applicable provisions of the Act and other federal, state, or local laws or statutes, nor shall it restrict EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit, except as expressly provided herein.
35. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of EPA to undertake any action against Respondent or any person in response to conditions that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment as provided under the Act.



36. The terms, conditions, and compliance requirements of this CAFO may not be modified or amended except upon the written agreement of both Parties, and approval of the Regional Judicial Officer.
37. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.
38. Any change in the legal status of the Respondent, or change in ownership, partnership, corporate or legal status relating to the Facility, will not in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CAFO.
39. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this CAFO will be available to the public and agrees that this CAFO does not contain any confidential information under Section 14 of TSCA, 42 U.S.C. § 2613, and 40 C.F.R. Part 2 and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or personally identifiable information.
40. By signing this Consent Agreement, the Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certify that he or she is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and has the legal capacity to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.
41. By signing this Consent Agreement, both Parties agree that each party's obligations under this CAFO constitute sufficient consideration for the other party's obligations.
42. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and continues to be, true, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response, and statement. Respondent acknowledges that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing submission of such information, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.
43. EPA also reserves the right to revoke this CAFO and settlement penalty if and to the extent that EPA finds, after signing this CAFO, that any information provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information was provided to EPA. If such false or inaccurate material was provided, EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein. EPA shall give Respondent notice of its intent to revoke, which shall not be effective until received by Respondent in writing.
44. It is the intent of the parties that the provisions of this CAFO are severable. If any provision or authority of this CAFO or the application of this CAFO to any party or circumstances is held by any judicial or administrative authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the application of such provisions to other parties or circumstances and the remainder of the CAFO shall remain in force and shall not be affected thereby.

45. Unless specifically stated otherwise in this CAFO, each party shall bear its own attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

**IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

46. This CAFO shall become effective after execution of the Final Order by the Regional Judicial Officer, on the date of filing with the Hearing Clerk.

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The foregoing Consent Agreement In the Matter of Airgas Specialty Products, Inc., Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b), is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed, and Approved for Entry.

FOR COMPLAINANT:

12/18/19

DATE

Carol L. Kemker

Carol L. Kemker

Director

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

In the Matter of:

Airgas Specialty Products, Inc.

Respondent.

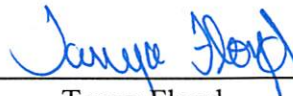
Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b)

FINAL ORDER

The Regional Judicial Officer is authorized to ratify this Consent Agreement which memorializes a settlement between Complainant and Respondent. 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.4(b) and 22.18(b)(3). The foregoing Consent Agreement is, therefore, hereby approved, ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order in accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits*, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

The Respondent is hereby ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement effective immediately upon filing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order disposes of this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31.

**BEING AGREED, IT IS SO ORDERED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.



Tanya Floyd  
Regional Judicial Officer

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing "Consent Agreement" and "Final Order," in the Matter of Airgas Specialty Products, Inc., Docket No. TSCA-04-2020-3001(b), were filed and copies of the same were mailed to the parties as indicated below.

Ms. Christina Ortiz,  
Director, EHS  
Airgas Specialty Products Inc.  
2530 Sever Road, Suite 300  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

(via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

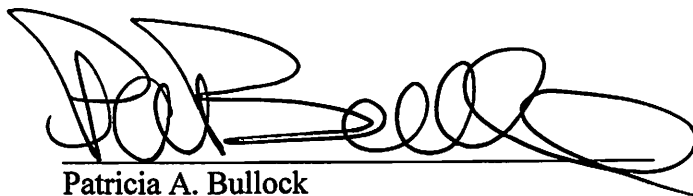
Gopal Timsina  
Chemical Safety Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan  
Senior Attorney  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA Region 4

(via EPA's internal mail)

2-11-2020  
DATE



Patricia A. Bullock  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960