

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4 ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER 61 FORSYTH STREET ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

NE 19 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Charles Patrizia Attorney at Law Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP 875 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

> Re: Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc. Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b)

Dear Mr. Patrizia:

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.

As stated in Section V of the CAFO, the assessed penalty of \$24,300 is due within 30 days from the effective date. Please ensure that the face of your cashier's or certified check includes the name of the company and the docket number of this case.

Penalty payment questions should be directed to Mr. Bryson Lehman either by telephone at (513) 487-2123 or by written correspondence to his attention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati Accounting Operations address identified in the CAFO. Should you have any questions about this matter or your compliance status in the future, please call me at (404) 562-8979 or Ms. Molly Miller at (404) 562-9684.

Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the EPA.

Sincerely, Jeaneanne M. Gettle

Chief Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch

Enclosures

cc: Tommy Gray Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

In the Matter of:)
Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc.)
Respondent)

Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b)

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. <u>Nature of the Action</u>

- This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a) (FIFRA), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. Respondent is Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc.
- 2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

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- 3. The authority to take action under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a), is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under FIFRA to EPA Region 4 by EPA Delegation 5-14, dated May 11, 1994.
- 4. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4) the following individual is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Phillip Beard Pesticides Section U.S. EPA - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (404) 562-9012.

- Respondent is Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc., a Georgia corporation, located at 5501 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30336.
- 6. Respondent is a "person" as defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), and as such is subject to FIFRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

III. Specific Allegations

- On or about February 16, 2011, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at Respondent's facility located at 5501 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30336.
- 8. During the aforementioned inspection, certain inventory of Fabuloso Antibacterial Liquid Cleaners, in three scents Orange, Fruit Passion and Ocean Cool (collectively, "Fabuloso products") were identified in Respondent's warehouse. Some of the individual containers of the Fabuloso products make pesticidal claims such as "Antibacterial" and "New Antibacterial."

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- 9. The Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial" are pesticides as defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), which includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- 10. The Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial" are also antimicrobial pesticides as defined in Section 2(mm) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(mm), to include a pesticide that is intended to disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbiological organisms.
- A pest is defined in Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), as any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136w(c)(1).
- 12. By holding in inventory Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial", Respondent held for distribution antimicrobial pesticides. The term "to distribute or sell" as defined by Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), includes to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, or release for shipment.
- 13. At the time of the inspection, it was determined that the Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial" which Respondent held were not registered as pesticides with EPA.

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- 14. Under Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), it is unlawful for any person in any State to distribute or sell any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3.
- 15. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), by holding three different scents of Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial", and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a).
- 16. At the time of the inspection, the Fabuloso products did not have adequate directions for use on the labels.
- 17. Pursuant to Section 2(q)(1)(F), a pesticide is misbranded if the labeling accompanying it does not contain directions for use which are necessary for effecting the purpose for which the product is intended and if complied with, together with any requirements imposed under Section 3(d) of this Act, are adequate to protect health and the environment.
- Under Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), it is unlawful for any person to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is misbranded.
- 19. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), by holding three different scents of Fabuloso products labeled as "Antibacterial" or "New Antibacterial", and is therefore subject to the assessment of a civil penalty under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a).
- 20. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a), in conjunction with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty.

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- 21. Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a)(4), requires EPA to consider the appropriateness of the assessed penalty to the size of business of the Respondent, the effect on Respondent's ability to continue in business, and the gravity of the violation.
- 22. After consideration of the factors set forth in Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C.
 § 136*l*(a)(4), the EPA proposes to assess a total civil penalty of TWENTY FOUR
 THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$24,300) against the Respondent for the above-described violations. Civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C.
 § 136*l*(a), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

IV. Consent Agreement

- 23. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
- 24. Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
- 25. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
- 26. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of FIFRA.
- 27. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States. Other than as expressed herein, neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

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28. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of FIFRA.

V. Final Order

- 29. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of **TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$24,300)** which shall be paid within 30 days from the effective date of this CAFO.
- 30. Respondent shall remit the penalty by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," and shall send the check via U.S. mail to the following address:

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

The check shall reference on its face the name of the Respondent and Docket Number of this CAFO.

31. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

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

Phillip Beard Pesticides Section U.S. EPA - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960; and

Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc. FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b)

Saundi Wilson Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

32. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

33. 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. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the effective date of this CAFO, if the penalty is not paid by the date required. A charge will also be assessed to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect, of overdue debts. In addition, a late payment penalty charge shall be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.

- 34. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
- 35. This CAFO shall be binding upon EPA and the Respondent, and their successors and assigns. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and hereby legally binds that party to it.

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36. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the

Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Respondent: Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc. Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b)

By:	MAN	(Signature)
Name: _	M ERI NEURERC	(Typed or Printed)
Title:	CFU	(Typed or Printed)

Date: 7/27/11

Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: (Beverly H. Banister, Director

Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

Date: _ 8 15 11

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 18 day of august 2011.

- B. Schub

Susan B. Schub Regional Judicial Officer

Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc. FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of Diaz Wholesale & Mfg. Co., Inc. Docket Number: FIFRA-04-2011-3031(b), to the addressees listed below:

Charles Patrizia, Esq. Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP 875 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Phillip Beard Pesticides Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Robert Caplan, Esq. Associate Regional Counsel Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Date: <u>8/19/11</u>

(via EPA's internal mail)

(via EPA's internal mail)

Belinda Johnson, Acting Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404) 562-9686

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

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n the	Region 4, ORC, OEA			at (404) 562+ 9504
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The Tot	al Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ (If installments, attach schedul		and respective due dates.	See Other side of this form)
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	<u>HCIAL ORDERS</u> : Copies of this form with an ald be mailed to:	attached copy	of the front page of the <u>FINA</u>	L JUDICIAL ORDER
۱.	Debt Tracking Officer	2.	Originating Office (EAD)	
	Environmental Enforcement Section	3.	Designated Program Offic	2
	Department of Justice RM 1647 P.O. Box 7611, Benjawin Franklin Station			
	Washington, D.C. 20044			
B. <u>AD</u>	MINISTRATIVE ORDERS: Copies of this for	m with an atta	ched copy of the front page of	the Administrative Order should be
1	Originating Office	3.	Designated Program Offic	-
1. 2	Regional Hearing Clerk	J. 4.	Regional Counsel (EAD)	
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EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION PROGRAM: _____

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Case Docket Control Number:_____

Total Amount Due:_____

Full payment due 30 days after issuance date of _____

Installment payments to be paid:

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