

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

In the Matter of:	)	Docket No. TSCA-05-2026-0005
	)	
Fortune Painting Company, Inc.	)	Proceeding to Assess a Civil
Lincolnwood, Illinois	)	Penalty Under Section 16(a) of the
	)	Toxic Substances Control Act,
Respondent.	)	15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)
	)	

Consent Agreement and Final Order**Preliminary Statement**

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and 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 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. The Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5.

3. Respondent is Fortune Painting Company, Inc., a corporation with a place of business located at 6619 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

4. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

5. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

6. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty specified in this CAFO and to the terms of this CAFO.

Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing

7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

8. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO. Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the final order accompanying the consent agreement.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

9. In promulgating the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-550, Oct. 28, 1998 (Title X), Congress found, among other things, that low-level lead poisoning was widespread among American children, afflicting as many as 3,000,000 children under age six; at low levels, lead poisoning in children causes intelligence quotient deficiencies, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, and behavior problems; and the ingestion of household dust containing lead from deteriorating or abraded lead-based paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning in children. A key component of the national strategy to reduce and eliminate the threat of childhood lead poisoning is to educate the public concerning the hazards and sources of lead-based paint poisoning and steps to reduce and eliminate such hazards.

10. Section 1021 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 amended TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*, by adding Subchapter IV – Lead Exposure Reduction, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2681 through 2692.

11. Section 402(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682, requires the Administrator of EPA to promulgate regulations to ensure that individuals engaged in lead-based paint activities are

properly trained; that training programs are accredited; that contractors engaged in such activities are certified; and that such regulations contain standards for performing lead-based paint activities, taking into account reliability, effectiveness, and safety.

12. Section 402(c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682, requires the Administrator of EPA to promulgate guidelines for the conduct of renovation and remodeling activities to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in connection with renovation and remodeling of target housing and public buildings built before 1978, and commercial buildings, and to revise the regulations under Section 402(a) of TSCA to apply those regulations to renovation or remodeling activities in target housing, public buildings constructed before 1978, and commercial buildings that create lead-based paint hazards.

13. Section 407 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2687, requires the regulations promulgated by the Administrator of EPA under Subchapter IV to include such recordkeeping and reporting requirements as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the TSCA Lead Exposure Reduction requirements, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2681 through 2692.

14. Under Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, it shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to comply with any rule or order issued under Subchapter IV – Lead Exposure Reduction, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2681 through 2692. *See also* 40 C.F.R. § 745.87.

15. Under Section 15 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614, it shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to establish and maintain records, submit reports, notices, or other information, or permit access to or copying of records, as required by TSCA or a rule thereunder. *See also* 40 C.F.R. § 745.87.

16. Pursuant to Sections 402 and 406 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682 and 2686, EPA promulgated the residential property renovation regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E,

prescribing procedures and requirements for: the accreditation of renovator training programs; certification of individuals and firms; work practice standards for renovation, repair and painting activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities; and recordkeeping to demonstrate compliance with work practice standards. 73 *Fed. Reg.* 21691 (April 22, 2008).

17. 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a) provides that Subpart E applies to all renovations performed in target housing and child-occupied facilities, with certain exceptions not relevant here.

18. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines *firm* to mean a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, or individual doing business, association, or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency; or a nonprofit organization.

19. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines *renovation* to mean the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is performed as part of an abatement as defined by this part (40 C.F.R. § 745.223). The term renovation includes (but is not limited to): the removal, modification or repair of painted surfaces or painted components (e.g., modification of painted doors, surface restoration, window repair, surface preparation activity (such as sanding, scraping, or other such activities that may generate paint dust)); the removal of building components (e.g., walls, ceiling, plumbing, windows); weatherization projects (e.g., cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation or to gain access to attics, planning thresholds to install weather stripping), and interim controls that disturb painted surfaces.

20. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines *renovator* to mean an individual who either performs or directs workers who perform renovations. A certified renovator is a renovator who has

successfully completed a renovator course accredited by EPA or an EPA authorized State or Tribal Program.

21. 40 C.F.R. § 745.103 defines *target housing* to mean any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities (unless any child who is less than six (6) years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing) or any zero-bedroom dwelling.

22. Section 16(a) of TSCA, 42 U.S.C. § 2615(a), 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(d), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, authorize the Administrator of EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$49,772 per violation for each day of violation of Sections 15 and 409 of TSCA that occurred after November 2, 2015, where penalties are assessed on or after January 8, 2025.

Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations

23. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a corporation with a place of business located at 6619 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, and was therefore a *firm* as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

24. On December 21, 2023, EPA sent an information request letter (IRL) to Respondent. The IRL requested Respondent to provide information regarding its compliance with the residential property renovation requirements at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

25. On January 10, 2024, and March 19, 2024, Respondent replied to the IRL via email and provided certain records. According to the information and records provided, Respondent performed or directed its employees to perform painting and other work at each of the properties identified in the table below:

Renovation Work Performed at Target Housing

Line No.	Housing Address	Year Built	Contracted Work	Project Start Date
1	1026 Woodbine Drive Oak Park, IL 60302	1930	Exterior Painting	April 27, 2021
2	1833 North Sheffield Avenue Chicago, IL 60614	1904	Exterior Painting	April 27, 2021
3	814 Monroe Street Evanston, IL 60202	1898	Exterior Painting	May 11, 2021
4	818 South East Avenue Oak Park, IL 60304	1908	Exterior Painting	June 17, 2021
5	605 Iowa Street Oak Park, IL 60302	1913	Exterior Painting	July 14, 2021
6	1017 North Columbian Avenue Oak Park, IL 60302	1929	Exterior Painting	August 11, 2021
7	204 Clinton Avenue Oak Park, IL 60302	1893	Exterior Painting	August 13, 2021
8	1826 West Morse Avenue Chicago, IL 60626	1891	Exterior Painting	August 19, 2021
9	2135 West Touhy Avenue Chicago, IL 60645	1913	Exterior Painting	August 26, 2021
10	1049 West Wolfram Street Chicago, IL 60657	1891	Exterior Painting	September 1, 2021
11	720 Ashland Lane Wilmette, IL 60091	1925	Exterior Painting	September 10, 2021
12	1316 Judson Avenue Evanston, IL 60202	1896	Exterior Painting	October 22, 2021
13	1139 Sheridan Road Evanston, IL 60202	1915	Exterior Painting	November 1, 2023

26. The exterior painting work that Respondent performed at the properties listed in paragraph 25, above, were modifications of the buildings' existing structure that resulted in disturbance of painted surfaces and were therefore *renovations* as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

27. In its IRL, EPA also requested all records concerning the renovations that Respondent had performed from January 1, 2021 to January 17, 2024. Respondent provided contracts for the renovations identified but did not provide all of the records necessary to demonstrate compliance with the work practice standards in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85.

28. The buildings listed at the addresses in paragraph 25, above, are residential housing built prior to 1978, and therefore are *target housing* as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.

29. Respondent either performed or directed workers to perform the renovations described in paragraph 25, above, and is therefore a *renovator* as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

Counts 1-2

30. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

31. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1) requires that the renovation firm provide the owner of the unit with the EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet before beginning renovation activities.

32. For the renovation projects described in line numbers 10 and 13 in paragraph 25, above, EPA alleges that Respondent failed to provide the owner of the unit with the EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet before beginning renovation activities in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

33. Respondent's violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, subject Respondent to the assessment of administrative civil penalties under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

Count 3

34. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

35. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(d)(1) requires that the renovation firm include a statement recording the owner or occupant's name and acknowledging receipt of the pamphlet prior to the start of renovation, the address of the unit undergoing renovation, the signature of the owner or occupant as applicable, and the date of signature.

36. For the renovation project described in line number 4 in paragraph 25, above, EPA alleges Respondent failed to include a statement recording the date of signature of the

owner or occupant, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(d)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

37. Respondent's violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(d)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, subject Respondent to the assessment of administrative civil penalties under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

Counts 4 – 15

38. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

39. 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a) requires firms performing renovations to retain and, if requested, make available to EPA all records necessary to demonstrate compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E for a period of three years following completion of the renovation.

40. For the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25, Respondent's renovator's certification had temporarily lapsed, therefore EPA alleges that Respondent failed to retain and make available to EPA all records necessary to demonstrate compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E for a period of 3 years following completion of the renovations, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a) and 15 U.S.C. § 2689. More specifically, EPA alleges that the Respondent failed to:

- a. Provide documentation that a certified renovator was assigned to each of the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25;
- b. Provide documentation that the certified renovator performed on-the-job training for workers at each of the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25;

- c. Provide documentation that the certified renovator performed or directed workers to perform the work practice standards described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a) at each of the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25;
- d. Provide documentation that the certified renovator performed the post-cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b) at the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25;
- e. Provide documentation of the certified renovator's training certificate described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25;
- f. Provide the certification from the certified renovator that the requirements in 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(b)(6)(i) through (viii) were completed at each of the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25.

41. Respondent's violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, subjects Respondent to the assessment of administrative civil penalties under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

Counts 16 – 27

42. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

43. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2) requires a firm to ensure a certified renovator is assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharges all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90.

44. For the renovation projects described in line numbers 1 through 12 in paragraph 25, above, Respondent's renovator's certification had temporarily lapsed, therefore EPA alleges

that the Respondent failed to ensure a certified renovator was assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharged all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2) and 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

45. Respondent's violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, subject Respondent to the assessment of administrative civil penalties under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

Civil Penalty

46. Pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$68,488. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations alleged and, with respect to Respondent, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, any history of prior such violations, the degree of culpability, and such other factors as justice may require. Complainant also considered EPA's *Interim Final Consolidated Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy for the Pre-Renovation Education Rule; Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule; and Lead-Based Paint Activities Rule*, Revised April 5, 2013.

47. Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$68,488 ("Assessed Penalty") within thirty (30) days after the date the Final Order ratifying this Agreement is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk ("Filing Date").

48. Respondent shall pay the Assessed Penalty and any interest, fees, and other charges due using any method, or combination of appropriate methods, as provided on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For additional instructions see: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>.

49. When making a payment, Respondent shall:

a. Identify every payment with Respondent's name and the docket number of this Agreement, TSCA-05-2026-0005,

b. Concurrently with any payment or within 24 hours of any payment, Respondent shall serve proof of such payment to the following person(s):

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
r5hearingclerk@epa.gov

Michael Todd
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
todd.michael@epa.gov
and
R5LEECAB@epa.gov

Robert Gustafson
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Gustafson.Robert@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
CINWD AcctsReceivable@epa.gov

“Proof of payment” means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, or 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 appropriate docket number and Respondent's name.

50. Interest, Charges, and Penalties on Late Payments. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2615, 31 U.S.C. § 3717, 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, if Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the Assessed Penalty per this Agreement, the entire unpaid balance of the Assessed Penalty and all accrued interest shall become immediately due and owing, and EPA is authorized to recover the following amounts.

- a. Interest. Interest begins to accrue from the Filing Date. If the Assessed Penalty is paid in full within thirty (30) days, interest accrued is waived. If the Assessed Penalty is not paid in full within thirty (30) days, interest will continue to accrue until any unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty as well as any interest, penalties, and other charges are paid in full. To protect the interests of the United States the rate of interest is set at the IRS large corporate underpayment rate, any lower rate would fail to provide Respondent adequate incentive for timely payment.
- b. Handling Charges. Respondent will be assessed monthly a charge to cover EPA's costs of processing and handling overdue debts. If Respondent fails to pay the Assessed Penalty in accordance with this Agreement, EPA will assess a charge to cover the costs of handling any unpaid amounts for the first thirty (30) day period after the Filing Date. Additional handling charges will be assessed each subsequent thirty (30) days, or any portion thereof, until the unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty, as well as any accrued interest, penalties, and other charges are paid in full.
- c. Late Payment Penalty. A late payment penalty of six percent (6%) per annum, will be assessed monthly on all debts, including any unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty, interest, and other charges, that remain delinquent more than ninety (90) days.

51. Late Penalty Actions. In addition to the amounts described in the prior Paragraph, if Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the Assessed Penalty, interest, or other charges

and penalties per this Agreement, EPA may take additional actions. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, the following.

- a. Refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency, per 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 government to, or held by the United States government for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the United States 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.
- d. Per 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), the Attorney General will bring a civil action in the appropriate district court to recover the full remaining balance of the debt plus interest. In such an action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the Assessed Penalty shall not be subject to review.

52. Allocation of Payments. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(f) and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(d), a partial payment of debt will be applied first to outstanding handling charges, second to late penalty charges, third to accrued interest, and last to the principal that is the outstanding Assessed Penalty amount.

53. Tax Treatment of Penalties. Penalties, interest, and other charges paid pursuant to this Agreement shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

54. Pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6050X and 26 C.F.R. § 1.6050X-1, EPA is required to send to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) annually, a completed IRS Form 1098-F (“Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts”) with respect to any court order or settlement agreement (including administrative settlements), that require a payor to pay an aggregate amount that EPA reasonably believes will be equal to, or in excess of, \$50,000 for the payor’s violation of any law or the investigation or inquiry into the payor’s potential violation of any law, including amounts paid for “restitution or remediation of property” or to come “into compliance with a law.” EPA is further required to furnish a written statement, which provides the same information provided to the IRS, to each payor (i.e., a copy of IRS Form 1098-F). Failure to comply with providing IRS Form W-9 or Tax Identification Number (“TIN”), as described below, may subject Respondent to a penalty, per 26 U.S.C. § 6723, 26 U.S.C. § 6724(d)(3), and 26 C.F.R. § 301.6723-1. In order to provide EPA with sufficient information to enable it to fulfill these obligations, EPA herein requires, and Respondent herein agrees, that:

- a. Respondent shall complete an IRS Form W-9 (“Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification”), which is available at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>;
- b. Respondent shall therein certify that its completed IRS Form W-9 includes Respondent’s correct TIN or that Respondent has applied and is waiting for issuance of a TIN;
- c. Respondent shall email its completed Form W-9 to Milton Wise at EPA’s Cincinnati Finance Center at wise.milton@epa.gov, within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, and EPA recommends encrypting IRS Form W-9 email correspondence; and

- d. In the event that Respondent has certified in its completed IRS Form W-9 that it does not yet have a TIN but has applied for a TIN, Respondent shall provide EPA's Cincinnati Finance Center with Respondent's TIN, via email, within five (5) days of Respondent's receipt of a TIN issued by the IRS.

General Provisions

55. The parties consent to service of this CAFO by e-mail at the following valid e-mail addresses: Gustafson.Robert@epa.gov (for Complainant), and fortunere restorationbob@gmail.com (for Respondent). Respondent understands that the CAFO will become publicly available upon filing.

56. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged in the CAFO.

57. This CAFO does not affect the rights of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.

58. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*, its implementing regulations, and other applicable federal, state, and local laws.

59. Respondent certifies that it is complying with the residential property renovation regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

60. This CAFO constitutes a "prior such violation" as that term is used in EPA's Interim Final Consolidated Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy for the Pre-Renovation Education Rule; Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule; and Lead-Based Paint Activities Rule to determine Respondent's "history of prior such violations" under Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(B).

61. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, and its successors and assigns.
62. Each person signing this agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.
63. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in this action.
64. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

Fortune Painting Company, Inc., Respondent
Docket No.: TSCA-05-2026-0005

Date

10/1/2025



Mr. Robert Fortune Jr.
Registered Agent
Fortune Painting Company, Inc.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant
Docket No.: TSCA-05-2026-0005

Carolyn Persoon
Acting Division Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

In the Matter of Fortune Painting Company, Inc., Respondent
Docket No.: TSCA-05-2026-0005

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

Ann L. Coyle
Regional Judicial Officer
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5