



REGION 6
DALLAS, TX 75270

4/4/2024

FILED

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REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
EPA REGION 6

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (ESA)

DOCKET NO: CAA 06-2024-3331

**This ESA is issued to: Vopak Moda Houston, LLC- Houston Marine Terminal
At: 2345 Tidal Road, Deer Park, Texas 77536
for violating Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through its delegated official, the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division and Vopak Moda Houston, LLC- Houston Marine Terminal (Respondent) have agreed to a settlement of this action before filing 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 and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

This ESA is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), the Administrator and the Attorney General jointly determined that cases which meet the criteria set forth in the EPA's policies¹ are appropriate for administrative penalty action.

ALLEGED VIOLATION

From May 23-25, 2023, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted a compliance inspection of the Respondent's facility located in Deer Park, Texas, to determine compliance with the Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 68 under Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r). The EPA found that the respondent failed to annually certify that its operating procedures were current and accurate for the year 2022. The EPA also found that the respondent failed to update in its Risk Management Plan the name of the designated emergency contact within one month from the retirement of that individual in the year 2022. The EPA found that Respondent had violated a RMP regulation and Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), as follows:

1. **40 C.F.R. § 68.69(c) Operating Procedures - (c)** *The operating procedures shall be reviewed as often as necessary to assure that they reflect current operating practice, including changes that result from changes in process chemicals, technology, and equipment, and changes to stationary sources. The owner or operator shall certify annually that these operating procedures are current and accurate.*
2. **40 C.F.R. § 68.195(b) Risk Management Plan Required Corrections - (b) Emergency contact information - Beginning June 21, 2004, within one month of any change in the emergency contact information required under § 68.160(b)(6), the owner or operator shall submit a correction of that information.**

SETTLEMENT

In consideration of the factors set forth in Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e), the criteria set forth in the EPA's policies, and upon consideration of the entire record, EPA and Respondent enter into this ESA to settle the violations, described above, for the total penalty amount of \$1,760.00.

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

Respondent, by signing below, waives any objections that it may have regarding jurisdiction, neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained herein, and consents to the assessment of the penalty as stated above. Respondent waives its rights to a hearing afforded by Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(2)(A), and to appeal this ESA. Each party to this action shall bear its own costs and fees, if any. Respondent also certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false statement to the United States Government, that Respondent has corrected the violation listed above and has paid the full penalty of \$1,760.00 by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P. O. Box 979078
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

The Docket Number of this ESA is **CAA-06-2024-3331** and must be included on the payment. **The signed ESA and a copy of the payment must be sent by email to: latiolais.kristen@epa.gov.**

Full payment of the ESA penalty shall only resolve Respondent's civil liability for the violations alleged above. The EPA does not waive any other enforcement action by EPA for any other past, present, or future violations under the CAA or any other statute.

If the **signed ESA with a copy of the payment** is not returned to the **EPA Region 6** at the above e-mail address in correct form by Respondent within 30 days of the date of the receipt of this ESA, the proposed ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file additional enforcement actions for the violation identified in this ESA.

This ESA is binding on the EPA and Respondent and is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this ESA, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6, by email to the following addresses:

To EPA: latiolais.kristen@epa.gov
To Respondent: jeff.sanford@vmterminals.com

SIGNATURE BY RESPONDENT:

Signature: 

Date: 04/16/2024

Name (print): Jeff Sanford

Title (print) Terminal Manager

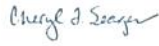
Cost of Corrective Actions: 0 - N/A

Respondent's Brief Description of Complying Action: _____

Vopak Moda has added a repeating calendar entry (annually) for certifying operating
procedures. The RMP has been updated to reflect organizational changes and will
continue to do so in the event of future organizational changes.

If you need additional space or would like to provide additional supporting documentation, please attach to this document.

SIGNATURE BY EPA:



Digitally signed by Cheryl
T. Seager
Date: 2024.04.18
12:43:29 -05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6

It is so ORDERED. This Order shall become effective upon filing of the fully executed ESA with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

THOMAS
RUCKI

Digitally signed by
THOMAS RUCKI
Date: 2024.04.18
22:05:09 -04'00'

Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order was filed with me, the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that I sent a true and correct copy this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via Email to Complainant, EPA:

latiolais.kristen@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

Jeff.sanford@vmterminals.com

Jeff Sanford
Terminal Manager
Vopak Moda Houston, LLC- Houston Marine Terminal
1221 Lamar Street Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77010

Date: _____

**LORENA
VAUGHN**

Digitally signed by
LORENA VAUGHN
Date: 2024.04.22
12:56:48 -05'00'

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 6

