

John B. Lee (SBN 104932)
LAW OFFICES OF JOHN B. LEE & ASSOCIATES,
A PROFESSION CORPORATION
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1950
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 481-1300
Facsimile: (213) 481-1700

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Attorneys for Respondent
Carimex International Trading Co., Inc.
d/b/a SHCP Baltimore

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 HAWTHORNE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

_____)	Docket No. FIFRA-09-2011-0021
In the Matter of:)	
)	
Carimex International Trading Co., Inc.)	ANSWER OF RESPONDENT TO
d/b/a SHCP Baltimore)	COMPLAINT
)	
Respondent)	
_____)	

ANSWER

Respondent Carimex International Trading Co., Inc., a California corporation doing business as "SHCP Baltimore" ("CARIMEX"), answers the Complaint ("Complaint") of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("COMPLAINANT") as follows:

1. Admit.
2. Admit.
3. Admit.
4. Admit.
5. Admit.

6. In response to Paragraph 6 of the Complaint, this allegation purports to allege the legal status of CARIMEX, for which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, CARIMEX states that Paragraph 6 states what it states. With regard to the balance of Paragraph 6, CARIMEX is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and on that basis denies each and every other allegation in this paragraph.

7. Admit.

8. In response to Paragraph 8 of the Complaint, CARIMEX admits to operating a business at the facility located at 2000 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland. With regard to the balance of Paragraph 8, CARIMEX denies each and every other allegation in this paragraph.

9. Admit.

10. Admit.

11. Admit.

12. In response to Paragraph 12 of the Complaint, this allegation purports to define the term "disinfectant", for which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, CARIMEX states that Paragraph 12 states what it states. With regard to the balance of Paragraph 12, CARIMEX is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and on that basis denies each and every other allegation in this paragraph.

13. In response to Paragraph 13 of the Complaint, this allegation purports to define the term "bacteria", for which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, CARIMEX states that Paragraph 13 states what it states. With regard to the balance of Paragraph 12, CARIMEX is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to

the truth of the allegations and on that basis denies each and every other allegation in this paragraph.

14. Deny.

15. In response to Paragraph 15 of the Complaint, CARIMEX admits that the Disinfectant Wipes were not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA. With regard to the balance of Paragraph 15, CARIMEX is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and on that basis denies each and every other allegation in this paragraph.

16. Admit.

17. Deny.

18. In response to the Proposed Civil Penalty provision of the Complaint (page 4), CARIMEX denies each and every request for relief sought by COMPLAINANT.

19. CARIMEX hereby requests a hearing in this matter.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

For a further answer to COMPLAINANT's Complaint and by way of affirmative defenses, CARIMEX alleges as follows:

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Failure to State a Cause of Action)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the Complaint herein, and each purported cause of action thereof, fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against CARIMEX.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(COMPLAINANT's Conduct)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, by COMPLAINANT's conduct, and/or by the conduct of their agents, employees and representatives.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Unclean Hands)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, by COMPLAINANT's unclean hands.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Laches)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, because COMPLAINANT is guilty of laches.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Waiver)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action against

CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, because, by the conduct of COMPLAINANT and its agents, employees, and representatives, COMPLAINANT has waived their rights, if any.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Equitable Estoppel)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrine of estoppel because of the conduct of COMPLAINANT and its agents, employees, and representatives.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Statute of Limitations)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, by any applicable statute of limitations.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Indemnification and Contribution)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that if it is established that CARIMEX is in any manner legally responsible for any of the damages claimed by COMPLAINANT in its causes of action in its Complaint, and for any of the damages cited by COMPLAINANT in its causes of action in its Complaint, such damages were proximately caused by either COMPLAINANT or other persons or entities not yet parties in this action and over whom CARIMEX has no control, and CARIMEX is entitled to indemnity or contribution from these other parties.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(No Compensable Injury)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that COMPLAINANT has not suffered any compensable injury as a result of CARIMEX's alleged actions, and as a result, is not entitled to judgment against CARIMEX.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Comparative Fault)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX asserts that any loss, injury or damage alleged in the Complaint and Complaint was directly or proximately caused and contributed to by the actions of other persons other than CARIMEX, including, but not limited to, COMPLAINANT and its agents, employees and representatives. Therefore, COMPLAINANT's recovery against CARIMEX, if any, should be reduced in proportion to the percentage of responsibility attributable to persons other than CARIMEX.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Breach of Duty by Third Parties)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX asserts that the purported causes of action contained in the Complaint are barred because the breach of duty, if any, was by third parties.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Set-Off)

CARIMEX is entitled to a setoff, or deduction from, any amounts which may be recovered by COMPLAINANT, for amounts they may have received from any non-collateral source for their alleged damages.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Failure to Mitigate)

CARIMEX denies that COMPLAINANT is entitled to recover any of the damages alleged in the Complaint. Any such damages should be offset, in whole or in part, by COMPLAINANT' failure to take reasonable steps to mitigate those damages, by, among other things, unreasonably failing to take advantage of any preventive or corrective opportunities provided by CARIMEX or any other party or to avoid harm otherwise.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(In Pari Delicto)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, under the doctrine of in pari delicto.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Duress)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, under the affirmative defense of duress.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Comparative Negligence)

The Complaint and the purported causes of action contained herein, are barred because of COMPLAINANT's comparative negligence.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Consent)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, through COMPLAINANT's consent as to the allegations in COMPLAINANT's Complaint.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Lack of Duty)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, in that no duty is owed by CARIMEX to COMPLAINANT.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Lack of Contractual Relationship)

As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint herein and to each purported cause of action thereof, CARIMEX alleges that the purported claims and causes of action in the Complaint against CARIMEX are barred, in whole or in part, in that no contractual relationship exists between CARIMEX and COMPLAINANT.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Additional Defenses)

CARIMEX has insufficient knowledge or information upon which to form a belief as to whether additional defenses are available. CARIMEX reserves the right to amend its Answer to add, delete or modify defenses based on legal theories which may or will be divulged through clarification of the Complaint, through discovery, through change or clarification of the governing law, or through further legal analysis of COMPLAINANT' position in this litigation.

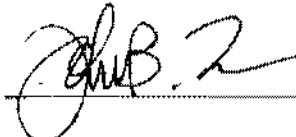
WHEREFORE, CARIMEX prays:

1. That the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice;
2. That COMPLAINANT takes nothing by way of its Complaint;
3. That CARIMEX recover its cost of suit, including attorneys' fees; and,
4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: March 19, 2012

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN B. LEE
& ASSOCIATES

By: _____



John B. Lee

Attorney for Carimex International Trading Co. Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1950, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

On March 21, 2012, I served a copy of the following document:

ANSWER OF RESPONDENT TO COMPLAINT

(By Regular Mail) by placing such envelope(s) with postage thereon, fully prepaid in the United States mail at Los Angeles, California. I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with the U.S. postal service on that same day in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one date after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

(By Personal Delivery) I personally delivered by hand to the offices of the addressee(s)

The foregoing envelope was addressed and mailed to the addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ivan Lieben
Assistant Regional Counsel (ORC-3)
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

(State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on March, 21 2012, at Los Angeles, CA.



Sarah Moon