



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG - 4 2015

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Susan M. Franzetti  
Nijman - Franzetti LLP  
10 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Re: Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co., Eagan, Minnesota  
Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket No. **EPCRA-05-2015-0023**

Dear Ms. Franzetti:

Enclosed please find a copy of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in resolution of the above case. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has filed the original CAFO with the Regional Hearing Clerk on August 4, 2015.

Please have your client pay the EPCRA civil penalty in the amount of \$37,184 in the manner prescribed in paragraph 3~~6~~ and reference your payment with the docket number **EPCRA-05-2015-0023**

The payment is due on September 3, 2015.

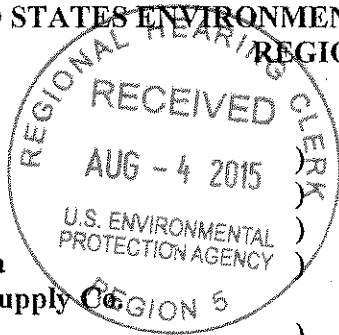
Please feel free to contact Ruth McNamara at [mcnamara.ruth@epa.gov](mailto:mcnamara.ruth@epa.gov) or by telephone at (312) 353-3193 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents. Please direct any legal questions to Kris Vezner, Associate Regional Counsel, at [vezner.kris@epa.gov](mailto:vezner.kris@epa.gov) or by telephone at (312) 886-6827. Thank you for your assistance in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Hans, Chief  
Chemical Emergency Preparedness  
and Prevention Section

Enclosure

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5



In the Matter of:

Essendant Co., f/k/a  
United Stationers Supply Co.  
Eagan, Minnesota

Respondent.

Docket No. EPCRA-05-2015-0023

Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty

Under Section 325(c)(1) of the Emergency  
Planning and Community Right-to-Know  
Act of 1986

Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Preliminary Statement

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 325(c)(1) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) 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 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. The Complainant is, by lawful delegation, the Chief of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent is Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co., a corporation doing business in the State of Minnesota.

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 at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO.

#### **Statutory and Regulatory Background**

9. Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42.U.S.C. § 11022(a), and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 370 require the owner or operator of a facility, which is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to prepare or have available a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for a hazardous chemical, to prepare and submit to the state emergency response commission, community emergency coordinator for the local emergency planning committee and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility by March 1, 1988, and annually thereafter on March 1, an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier 1 or Tier II as described in 40 C.F.R. Part 370). The form must contain the information required by Section 312(d) of EPCRA, covering all hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time during the preceding year in amounts equal to or exceeding 10,000 pounds and all extremely hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time in amounts equal to or greater than 500 pounds

or the threshold planning quantity designated by U.S. EPA at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B, whichever is lower.

10. Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a), assists state and local committees in planning for emergencies and makes information on chemical presence and hazards available to the public. A delay in reporting could result in harm to human health and the environment.

11. Under 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(b)(1), all employers are required to provide information to their employees about the hazardous chemicals to which they are exposed including, but not limited to, MSDS.

12. Under Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e), with certain exceptions, the term "hazardous chemical" has the meaning given such term by 29 U.S.C. § 1910.1200(c).

13. Under 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(c), a hazardous chemical is any chemical which is classified as a physical or health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas, or hazard not otherwise classified.

14. Section 325(c)(1) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1), authorizes U.S. EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each EPCRA Section 312 violation. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19 increased the statutory maximum penalty to \$37,500 per day of violation for violations that occurred after January 12, 2009.

#### **Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations**

15. Respondent is a "person" as that term is defined under Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).

16. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was an owner or operator of the facility located at 1720 Alexander Road, Eagan, Minnesota (facility).

17. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was an employer at the facility. Respondent's facility consists of buildings, equipment, structures and other stationary items which are located on a single site or on contiguous or adjacent sites, and which are owned or operated by the same person.
18. Respondent's facility is a "facility" as that term is defined under Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).
19. Sulfuric acid CAS# 7664-93-9 is classified as a health hazard.
20. Sulfuric acid CAS# 7664-93-9 is an "extremely hazardous substance" according to Section 302(a)(2) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a)(2).
21. Sulfuric acid CAS# 7664-93-9 has a minimum threshold level of 500 pounds, as provided in 40 C.F.R. Part 370.
22. OSHA requires Respondent to prepare, or have available, an MSDS for sulfuric acid.
23. Lead CAS# 7439-92-1 is classified as a health hazard.
24. Lead CAS# 7439-92-1 is a "hazardous chemical" within the meaning of Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e), and 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(c).
25. Lead CAS# 7664-93-9 has a minimum threshold level of 10,000 pounds, as provided in 40 C.F.R. Part 370.
26. OSHA requires Respondent to prepare, or have available, an MSDS for lead.
27. During at least one period of time in calendar year 2012 sulfuric acid and lead were present at the facility in an amount equal to or greater than the minimum threshold level.
28. Section 312 of EPCRA required Respondent to submit to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility on or

before March 1, 2013 a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form including propane for calendar year 2012.

29. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management was the SERC for Minnesota under Section 301(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11001(a).

30. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Eagan Fire Department was the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility.

31. Respondent submitted to the SERC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including sulfuric acid and lead on October 7, 2013, for calendar year 2012.

32. Each day that Respondent failed to submit to the SERC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including sulfuric acid and lead by March 1, 2013, for calendar year 2012 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

33. Respondent submitted to the Eagan Fire Department a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including sulfuric acid and lead on October 7, 2013, for calendar year 2012.

34. Each day that Respondent failed to submit to the Eagan Fire Department a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including sulfuric acid and lead by March 1, 2013, for calendar year 2012 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

### Civil Penalty

35. Complainant has determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$37,184. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations, Respondent's agreement to perform a supplemental environmental project, and with respect to Respondent, its ability to pay, prior history of violations, economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations and any other matters as justice may require. Complainant also considered U.S. EPA's Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, dated September 30, 1999 (EPCRA/CERCLA Enforcement Response Policy).

36. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must make an online payment of \$37,184 as a civil penalty for the EPCRA violations. To pay on-line, go to [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). Use the Search Public Forms option on the tool bar and enter SFO 1.1 in the search field. Open the form and complete the information requested.

37. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

38. If Respondent does not timely pay the civil penalty, or any stipulated penalties due under paragraph 40, below, U.S. EPA may bring an action to collect any unpaid portion of the penalty with interest, handling charges, nonpayment penalties and the United States enforcement expenses for the collection action. The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

39. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. §901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date the payment was due at a rate established pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Respondent must pay a \$15

handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, U.S. EPA will assess a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

#### **General Provisions**

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

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

42. Respondent certifies that it is complying with Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022.

43. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with EPCRA and CERCLA and other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

44. This CAFO is a "final order" for purposes of U.S. EPA's EPCRA/CERCLA Enforcement Response Policy.

45. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent and its successors and assigns.

46. Each person signing this consent 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.

47. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorney's fees in this action.

48. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.



**Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co., Respondent**

7/9/2015  
Date

Kirk Armstrong  
Kirk Armstrong, SVP  
Distribution Operations & Logistics  
Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant**

07/29/2015  
Date

M. Cecilia Moore  
M. Cecilia Moore, Chief  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

7-30-15  
Date

Richard C. Karl  
Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

In the Matter of: Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co., Eagan, Minnesota  
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2015-0023

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.

3 August 2015

Date



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Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

In the Matter of: Essendant Co., f/k/a United Stationers Supply Co., Eagan, Minnesota  
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2015-0023

Certificate of Service

I certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Consent Agreement and Final Order**, which was filed on August 4, 2015, this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy by Certified Mail

Return Receipt Requested: Susan M. Franzetti  
Nijman - Franzetti LLP  
10 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

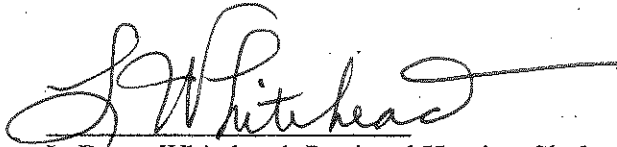
Copy by E-mail to

Attorney for Complainant: Kris Vezner  
vezner.kris@epa.gov

Copy by E-mail to

Regional Judicial Officer: Ann Coyle  
coyle.ann@epa.gov

Dated: August 4, 2015



LaDawn Whitehead, Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT NUMBER(S): 7011 1150 0000 2640 4925