

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VII
901 NORTH 5th STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION 7
2012 MAY -7 PM 1:46

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF)	Docket No. FIFRA 07-2012-0004
)	
Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
Greensboro, NC)	AND
)	FINAL ORDER
)	
Respondent)	

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII (“EPA” or “Complainant”), and Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC (Respondent) have agreed to a settlement of this action before filing of a complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2), and 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Jurisdiction and Statutory Requirements

1. This is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 14 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136l.

2. This Complaint serves as notice that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reason to believe that Respondent has violated Section 12 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j.

Parties

3. The Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of the EPA and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region VII, is the Director of the Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division, EPA, Region VII.

4. The Respondent is Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC, a limited liability corporation, located at 410 Swing Road, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), defines a “pest as any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other microorganism (except viruses, bacteria, or other living 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)”.

6. Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), defines the term “pesticide” to mean any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

7. Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), defines the term “person” to mean any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.

8. Section 2(q)(1)(F) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(F), states that 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 FIFRA, are adequate to protect health and the environment.

9. Section 2(q)(1)(G) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1)(G), states that a pesticide is “misbranded” if the label does not contain a warning or caution statement which may be necessary and if complied with, together with any requirements imposed under section 3(d) of FIFRA, is adequate to protect health or the environment.

10. Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), defines the term “to distribute or sell” to mean to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, release for shipment, or receive, and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver.

11. Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(a)(1)(E), states that it is unlawful for any person in any State to distribute or sell to any person a pesticide which is adulterated or misbranded.

General Allegations

12. Between March 4, 2011 and April 5, 2011, Respondent imported sixteen shipments of Azoxystrobin Technical, a registered pesticide, EPA Registration No. 100-1120.

13. On March 18 and April 15, 2011, EPA conducted inspections of Respondent’s facility located at 4111 Gibson Road, Omaha, Nebraska.

14. On April 12, 2011, representatives of EPA conducted an inspection at Givens Corporation, 570 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia.

15. Documentation gathered and observations made during the inspections above, indicated that each of the bags of Azoxystrobin Technical contained in the sixteen shipments received by Respondent between March 4 and April 5, 2011, were not labeled with an accepted EPA label.

16. On August 25, 2011, a representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at Duncan

Agri Service, Inc., located at 1609 West Chestnut, Savannah, Missouri.

17. During the inspection referenced in paragraphs 16, above, the inspector observed a bulk tank owned by Duncan Agri Service, Inc. containing Lumax Selective Herbicide, EPA Registration No. 100-1152, a restricted use pesticide.

18. Review of the label placed on the bulk tank located at Duncan Agri Service indicated the label was missing a required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statement "Chemical resistant headgear for overhead exposure" in the Required PPE Section and in the Agricultural Use Requirements Statement.

Violations

19. The Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated FIFRA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder as follows:

Counts 1 through 3

20. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

21. On or about March 4, 2011, Respondent imported three shipments of Azoxystrobin Technical into the United States (Airway Bill Reference Numbers 1604822042, 0160482203 and 12565997676.)

22. On or about March 4, 2011, Respondent, on three separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product Azoxystrobin Technical as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

23. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 21 was misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

24. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Count 4

25. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

26. On or about March 6, 2011, Respondent imported a shipment of Azoxystrobin Technical into the United States (Airway Bill Reference Number 01604822053).

27. On or about March 6, 2011, Respondent distributed or sold the pesticide product Azoxystrobin Technical as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

28. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 26 was misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

29. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Counts 5 and 6

30. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

31. On or about March 7, 2011, Respondent imported two additional shipments of Azoxystrobin Technical into the United States (Airway Bill Reference Numbers 12565997665 and 12565997654).

32. On or about March 7, 2011, Respondent, on two separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

33. The pesticides referenced in Paragraph 31 were misbranded in that it was distributed

by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

34. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Counts 7 through 9

35. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

36. On or about March 10, 2011, Respondent imported three additional shipments of “Azoxystrobin Technical” into the United States (Airway Bill Reference Numbers 12566297153, 12566296241 and 12566296230).

37. On or about March 10, 2011, Respondent, on three separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product “Azoxystrobin Technical” as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

38. The pesticides referenced in Paragraph 36 were misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

39. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Counts 10 and 11

40. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

41. On or about March 11, 2011, Respondent, on two separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product “Azoxystrobin Technical” as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

42. On or about March 11, 2011, Respondent, on two separate occasions, distributed or

sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

43. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 41 was misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

44. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Counts 12 and 13

45. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

46. On or about April 1, 2011, Respondent, on two separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

47. On or about April 1, 2011, Respondent, on two separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

48. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 46 was misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

49. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Counts 14 through 16

50. The facts stated in paragraphs 12 through 15 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

51. On or about April 5, 2011, Respondent, on three separate occasions, distributed or

sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

52. On or about April 5, 2011, Respondent, on three separate occasions, distributed or sold the pesticide product "Azoxystrobin Technical" as those terms are defined in 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).

53. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 51 was misbranded in that it was distributed by Respondent without the required accepted EPA labeling for the product.

54. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed a misbranded pesticide.

Count 17

55. The facts stated in paragraphs 16 through 18 are realleged and incorporated as if fully stated herein.

56. At the time of the inspection, labeling applied to the bulk tank of Lumax Selective Herbicide was missing parts of the required PPE statement.

57. The pesticide referenced in Paragraph 56 was misbranded in that it was sold or distributed by Respondent without the required complete labeling for the product.

58. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), in that it distributed or sold a misbranded pesticide.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

1. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above, and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction in this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding to enforce the terms of the Final Order.

2. Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
3. Respondent waives its right to contest any issue of fact or law set forth above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.
4. Respondent and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorney's fees.
5. Nothing contained in the Final Order portion of this CAFO shall alter or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental statutes and regulations and applicable permits.
6. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.
7. Respondent certifies that by signing this CAFO that it is presently in compliance with FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136 et. seq., and all regulations promulgated thereunder.
8. The effect of settlement as described in Paragraph 9 below is conditioned upon the accuracy of the Respondent's representations to EPA, as memorialized in Paragraph 7, above.
9. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged in this CAFO, Respondent shall pay a mitigated penalty of One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$102,000.00) as set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Final Order. Payment of this civil penalty in full shall resolve all civil and administrative claims for all violations of FIFRA alleged in this document. Complainant reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of FIFRA or any other applicable law and/or regulation administered by the EPA
10. Respondent, in settlement of this matter, consents to the issuance of the Final Order hereinafter recited and consents to the payment of a civil penalty as specified in the Final Order.

11. Late Payment Provisions: 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. Respondent understands that its failure to timely pay any portion of the civil penalty described in Paragraph 1 of the Final Order below may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall accrue thereon at the applicable statutory rate on the unpaid balance until such civil or stipulated penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. A late payment handling charge of \$15 will be imposed after thirty (30) days and an additional \$15 will be charged for each subsequent thirty (30) day period. Additionally, as provided by 31 U.S.C. ' 3717(e)(2), a six percent (6%) per annum penalty (late charge) may be assessed on any amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the due date.

Final Order

Pursuant to Section 14 of FIFRA, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §136l, and according to the terms of the Consent Agreement set forth above, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$102,000.00) within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Final Order. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and docket number and made as follows:

If by certified or cashier's check, payment should be made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to the following address:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If by wire transfer, payment should be directed to the Federal Reserve Bank of New

York as follows:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account = 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read
“D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency”

2. A copy of the check or other information confirming payment shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101;

and

Kent Johnson, Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

3. No portion of the civil penalty or interest paid by Respondent pursuant to the requirements of this CAFO shall be claimed by Respondent as a deduction for federal, state, or local income tax purposes.

4. This CAFO shall be effective upon the filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 7. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be

calculated in calendar days from such date.

COMPLAINANT:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

By: Wayne Jusikman Deputy Dir.
for Karen Flournoy
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Date: 5-9-12

By: Kent Johnson
Kent Johnson
Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel

Date: 5/2/12

RESPONDENT:

Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC

By: *J. H. P. H.*

Title: *Head, Production NA*

Date: *4/30/12*

IT IS SO ORDERED. This Order shall become effective immediately.



ROBERT L. PATRICK
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII

Date: May 7, 2012

IN THE MATTER OF Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC, Respondent
Docket No. FIFRA-07-2012-0004

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to
Attorney for Complainant:

Kent Johnson
Assistant Regional Counsel
Region 7
United States Environmental Protection Agency
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by Certified Mail Return Receipt to:

Brian Reeve
Senior Regulatory Counsel
Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC
410 Swing Road
Greensboro, NC 27409

Dated: 5/7/12



Kathy Robinson
Hearing Clerk, Region 7