



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAR 26 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert W. Bennett
Vice President
Aluminum Ladder Company
1430 West Darlington Street
Florence, South Carolina 29501

SUBJECT: Aluminum Ladder Company
Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. EPCRA-04-2008-2017(b)

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) matter (Docket No. EPCRA-04-2008-2017(b)) involving Aluminum Ladder Company. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 CFR Part 22 and became effective on the date of the filing.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If you have any questions with regards to the SEC's environmental disclosure requirements, you may refer to the contact phone number at the bottom of the SEC Notice.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Jyoti Bhushan at (404) 562-9182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caron B. Falconer".

Caron B. Falconer
Chief, EPCRA Enforcement Section

Enclosures

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
Aluminum Ladder Company)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2008-2017(b)

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EPA REGION 4
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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 CFR Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is Aluminum Ladder Company.

2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 CFR § 22.18(b) and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 CFR § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

3. The authority to take action under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under EPCRA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 22-3-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated this authority to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, by EPA Region 4 Delegation 22-3-A, dated November 8, 1994. Pursuant to that delegation, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

4. Respondent is Aluminum Ladder Company, a corporation doing business in the State of South Carolina.

5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).

6. Respondent owns and operates a "facility" as that term is defined by Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).

7. Respondent's facility is located at 1430 West Darlington Street, Florence, South Carolina.

8. Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations found at 40 CFR Part 370, provide that the owner or operator of a facility that is required to prepare or have available a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for hazardous chemicals under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) and regulations promulgated under that Act, shall submit to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, on or before March 1 annually, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier I or Tier II) as described in 40 CFR Part 370, containing the information required by that part for hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time in the calendar year in amounts equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds and containing the information required by that part for extremely hazardous substances (EHS) present at the facility at any one time in amounts equal to or greater than the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) or 500 pounds, whichever is less.

9. At some time during the calendar years of 2006, 2005, and 2004, argon was present at the facility in an amount equal to or greater than the threshold quantity of 10,000 pounds.

10. Argon is a "hazardous chemical" as defined by Section 329(5) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(5) for which Respondent is required to prepare or have available an MSDS under OSHA at its facility.

11. Respondent failed to submit a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form for argon to the SERC, the LEPC, and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility for calendar years 2006, 2005, and 2004, by March 1 of the following year.

12. Respondent violated the reporting requirements of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, at its facility for calendar years 2006, 2005, and 2004 and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

13. Pursuant to Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), and 40 CFR Part 19, EPA may assess a civil penalty of not more than \$32,500 for each violation of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022 that occurred on or after March 15, 2004. Each day a violation of Section 312 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

III. Consent Agreement

14. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.
15. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
16. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
17. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of EPCRA at the facility.
18. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States other than as expressed herein. Neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for a violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit; to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment; or to pursue criminal enforcement.
19. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public's interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of EPCRA.

IV. Final Order

20. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS (\$7,190), for the violations alleged in Section II of this CAFO. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.
21. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashiers or certified check, payable to: "Treasurer, United States of America," to the following address:

By Mail:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

Overnight:

U.S. Bank
Attn: Natalie Pearson
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

22. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Jyoti Bhushan
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Saundi Wilson
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

23. 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. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the date of entry of the CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

24. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

25. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.

26. The following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxic Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-8451

27. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

V. Effective Date

28. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date upon which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Aluminum Ladder Company

By: Ronald W. Bennett Date: 2/28/08

Name: Ronald W. Bennett (Typed or Printed)

Title: Vice President (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Carol G. Kamberger Date: 2/21/08
Beverly H. Banister

Director
Air, Pesticides & Toxics
Management Division
Region 4

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 24th day of March, 2008.

Susan B. Schub
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date shown a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of: Aluminum Ladder Company, Docket No. EPCRA-04-2008-2017(b), was filed and served to the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides, and Toxics
Management Division
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

(Respondent)

(Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt
Requested)

Ronald W. Bennett
Vice President
Aluminum Ladder Company
1430 West Darlington Street
P.O. Box 5329
Florence, SC 29502

Date: 3-25-08



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9511

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Saundi J Wilson on 3/24/08
(Name) (Date)

in the OEH at (404) 562-9500
(Office) (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required
Sent with bill

Other Receivable

Not sent with bill

This is an original debt

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is a modification

PAYEE: Aluminium Ladder Company
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ 7,190
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: EPCRA of 2008 2017(b)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: _____

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: _____ Date _____

If you have any questions, please call: _____ of the Financial Management Section at: _____

DISTRIBUTION:

A. **JUDICIAL ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer
Environmental Enforcement Section
Department of Justice RM 1647
P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD)
3. Designated Program Office |
|--|---|

B. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Originating Office
2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 3. Designated Program Office
4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |
|--|---|