

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

RECORDED  
2016 MAR 23 PM 3:01

In the Matter of: )  
)  
GBC Kitchen & Bath, LLC. )  
5601 General Washington Drive )  
Suite H )  
Alexandria, VA 22312 )  
)  
RESPONDENT. )

**Docket No.: TSCA-03-2016-0172**

Proceeding Under Section 16(a) of the  
Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C.  
Section 2615(a)

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

This Consent Agreement is entered into by the Director for the Land and Chemicals Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (“Complainant”) and GBC Kitchen & Bath, LLC. (or “Respondent”) pursuant to Sections 16(a) and 409 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615(a) and 2689, and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (with specific reference to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3)).

**I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT AND STIPULATIONS**

1. The violations cited herein pertain to the Respondent’s alleged failure, during the performance of a renovation for compensation on certain pre-1978 housing, to comply with the Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (commonly known as the “RRP Rule”), set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.
2. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b) and .18(b)(2) and (3) of the *Consolidated Rules of Practice*, Complainant hereby simultaneously commences and resolves, as part of the settlement set forth herein, EPA’s civil claims alleged in Sections IV and V of this Consent Agreement.

## II. JURISDICTION

3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has jurisdiction over the above-captioned matter pursuant to Sections 16(a) and 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615(a) and 2689, and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.1(a)(5) and 22.4 of the *Consolidated Rules of Practice*.

## III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order, hereinafter collectively referred to as the “CAFO.”
5. Except as provided in Paragraph 4, above, the Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and legal conclusions set forth in this Consent Agreement.
6. Respondent agrees not to contest the jurisdiction of EPA with respect to the execution of this Consent Agreement, the issuance of the attached Final Order, or the enforcement of this CAFO.
7. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives any right to contest any issue of law or fact set forth in this Consent Agreement and any right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
8. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions.
9. Each party to this Consent Agreement shall bear its own costs and attorney’s fees.

## IV. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b) and .18(b)(2) and (3) of the *Consolidated Rules of Practice*, Complainant alleges and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth immediately below.
11. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, the term “firm” means “a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship or individual doing business, association or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal or local government agency; or a nonprofit organization.”
12. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, the term “renovation” means “the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces,

unless that activity is performed as part of an abatement as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.223.”

13. Pursuant to Section 401(17) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, the term “target housing” means “any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities (unless any child who is less than 6 years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing) or any 0-bedroom dwelling.”
14. Respondent, at all times relevant to the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, was a “person” and a “firm,” who performed a “renovation,” as those terms are defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 at the following properties: 1) 1336 Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. (“1336 Jefferson St.”) ; 2) 300 Adams Avenue, Alexandria, VA (“300 Adams Ave.”); and 3) 16808 George Washington Drive, Rockville, MD (“16808 George Washington Drive”).
15. 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive, referred to in Paragraph 14, above, were constructed prior to 1978 and are “target housing” as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
16. Respondent entered into a contract on or around March 29, 2014, November 11, 2014, and September 13, 2014 with the owners of 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive, respectively, for the purpose of performing a “renovation for compensation” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a) at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive.
17. The “renovation performed for compensation” at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive did not involve a renovation in target housing or a child-occupied facility in which:
  - (1) “a written determination ha[d] been made by an inspector or risk assessor ... that the components affected by the renovation are free of paint or other surface coatings that contain lead equal to or in excess of 1.0 milligrams/per square centimeter . . .,” as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a)(1);
  - (2) “a certified renovator, using an EPA recognized test kit . . ., has tested each component affected by the renovation and determined that the components are free of paint or other surface coatings that contain lead equal to or in excess of 1.0 milligrams/per square centimeter . . .,” as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a)(2); or
  - (3) “a certified renovator has collected a paint chip sample from each painted component affected by the renovation and a laboratory recognized by EPA . . . has determined that the samples are free of paint or other surface coatings that contain lead equal to or in excess of 1.0 milligrams/per square centimeter . . .,” as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a)(3).

18. On May 14, 2015, Complainant conducted an inspection of Respondent's business records, to further determine Respondent's level of compliance with the RRP rule in regards to certain renovation activities performed by Respondent at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive.

V. VIOLATIONS ALLEGED

**Count 1**

19. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 18 of this Consent Agreement are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
20. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii), firms are required to obtain initial certification from EPA under § 745.89 prior to performing renovations at target housing.
21. On or about March 29, 2014, November 11, 2014, and September 13, 2014, Respondent performed a renovation at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive, respectively.
22. Respondent failed to obtain initial lead-safe firm certification from EPA prior to performing the renovations on or about March 29, 2014, November 11, 2014, and September 13, 2014, at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive, respectively.
23. **Count 1:** Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii), failure to obtain initial firm certification from EPA prior to performing the renovations at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Avenue, and 16808 George Washington Drive, referred to in Paragraph 22, above, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. §745.87(a) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

**Count 2**

24. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Consent Agreement are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
25. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1), a firm performing a renovation must provide the owner of the unit with the Renovate Right pamphlet, and either obtain the owner's written acknowledgement that the owner received the pamphlet, or obtain a certificate of mailing at least 7 days prior to the renovation.

26. At the time of the May 14, 2015 inspection, Respondent had not provided the owner of 1336 Jefferson St. the Renovate Right Pamphlet for the renovation performed on or about March 29, 2014, at 1336 Jefferson St.
27. **Count 2:** Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1), failure to provide the owner with the pamphlet during the renovation at 1336 Jefferson St., referred to in Paragraph 26, above, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(a) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

**Count 3-4**

28. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Consent Agreement are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
29. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1)(i), a firm performing a renovation must provide the owner of the unit with the Renovate Right pamphlet, and either obtain the owner's written acknowledgement that the owner received the pamphlet, or obtain a certificate of mailing at least 7 days prior to the renovation.
30. At the time of the May 14, 2015 inspection, Respondent did not have the owner's acknowledgment of receipt of the pamphlet or a certificate of mailing sent at least 7 days before the renovations performed on or about November 11, 2014, and September 13, 2014, at 300 Adams Ave. and 16808 George Washington Dr., respectively.
31. **Count 3-4:** Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1)(i), failure to either obtain the owner's written acknowledgement that the owner received the pamphlet, or obtain a certificate of mailing at least 7 days prior to the renovation, during the renovations at 300 Adams Ave. and 16808 George Washington Dr., referred to in Paragraph 30, above, constitutes two violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(b) and Sections 15 and 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2689.

**Count 5-7**

32. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Consent Agreement are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
33. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a), firms performing renovations must retain and, if requested, make available to EPA all records necessary to demonstrate compliance with this subpart, 40 C.F.R. § 745, Subpart E, for a period of 3 years following completion of the renovation.

34. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §745.86(b)(6), firms performing renovations must retain all records documenting compliance with the work practice standards of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85, including documentation that a certified renovator performed or directed workers to perform tasks described by 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a), and followed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b).
35. At the time of the May 14, 2015 inspection, Respondent had not retained records for the renovations performed on or about March 29, 2014, November 11, 2014, and September 13, 2014, at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Ave., and 16808 George Washington Dr., respectively, documenting a certified renovator performed or directed workers to perform the tasks required by 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a) and followed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b).
36. **Count 5-7:** Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.86, Respondent's failure to retain all records documenting compliance with the work practice standards of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85, including documentation that a certified renovator performed or directed workers to perform tasks described by 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a) and followed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b), during the renovations at 1336 Jefferson St., 300 Adams Ave, and 16808 George Washington Dr., referred to in Paragraph 35, above, constitutes three violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(b) and Sections 15 and 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2689.

## VI. CIVIL PENALTY

37. In settlement of EPA's claims for civil penalties assessable for the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of **Thirty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Two Dollars (\$36,862.00)** which Respondent shall be liable to pay in accordance with the terms set forth below. Such civil penalty amount shall become due and payable immediately upon Respondent's receipt of a true and correct copy of this CAFO. If Respondent pays the entire penalty of \$36,862.00 within thirty (30) calendar days of the date on which this CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to Respondent, no interest will be assessed against the Respondent pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a)(1).
38. The Parties represent that the settlement terms are reasonable and are based upon EPA's consideration of a number of factors, including the penalty criteria set forth in Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(B), *i.e.*, the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations, and with respect to the Respondent's, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, any history of prior such violations, the degree of culpability, and such other matters as justice may require. These factors were applied to the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to EPA's *Consolidated Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy for the Pre-Renovation*

*Education Rule; Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule; and Lead-Based Paint Activities Rule ("LBP Consolidated ERPP")*, dated August 2010. Complainant has also considered the appropriate *Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation*, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19, and the December 6, 2013 memorandum by EPA Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles, entitled *Amendments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Civil Penalty Policies to Account for Inflation (Effective December 6, 2013)*.

39. Respondent has asserted that it will not be able to pay the civil penalty amount in full within thirty (30) calendar days of the date on which this CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered. As a result, it is the understanding of the Parties that the Respondent will pay \$9,216.00 within 30 days of receipt of a true and correct copy of this CAFO, and the remaining civil penalty in the amount of \$27,646.00 shall be paid in nine (9) monthly installments with interest at the rate of 1% per annum on the outstanding principal balance according to the following schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> payment is due within 60 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,094.72;

2<sup>nd</sup> payment is due within 90 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,092.20;

3<sup>rd</sup> payment is due within 120 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,089.67;

4<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 150 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,088.15;

5<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 180 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,084.62;

6<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 210 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,082.10;

7<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 240 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,079.57;

8<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 270 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,077.05; and

9<sup>th</sup> payment is due within 300 days of the date on which the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent = \$3,072.

Under this proposed repayment schedule, the Respondent will pay the civil penalty of \$36,862.00 plus interest of \$113.60 as further outlined in the chart below:

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Payment Amount Due</b>
1	\$ 3,072	\$22.72	\$ 3,094.72
2	\$3,072	\$20.20	\$ 3092.20
3	\$3,072	\$17.67	\$ 3,089.67
4	\$3,072	\$15.15	\$ 3,087.15
5	\$3,072	\$12.62	\$ 3,084.62
6	\$3,072	\$10.10	\$ 3,082.10
7	\$3,072	\$7.57	\$ 3,079.57
8	\$3,072	\$5.05	\$ 3,077.05
9	\$3,072	\$2.52	\$ 3,704.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,862.00</b>	<b>\$113.60</b>	<b>\$36,975.60</b>

40. Payment of the civil penalty amount shall be made by either cashier's check, certified check or electronic wire transfer, in the following manner:
- a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action, *i.e.*, **TSCA-03-2016-0172**;
  - b. All checks shall be made payable to "**United States Treasury**";
  - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed and mailed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Cincinnati Finance Center  
 P.O. Box 979077  
 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000



Primary Contact: Craig Steffen 513-487-2091  
Secondary Contact: Molly Williams, (513) 487-2076

- d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed and mailed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979077  
1005 Convention Plaza SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: (314) 418-1028

- e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance  
US EPA, MS-NWD  
26 W. M.L. King Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

41. Respondent may also pay the amount described in Paragraph 37 above, electronically or on-line as follows:

- a. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

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 wire transfer message should read:  
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency")

- b. All electronic payments made through the automated clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver  
ABA = 051036706

Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Contact: John Schmid, (202) 874-7026 or  
Remittance Express (REX): 1-866-234-5681

c. On-Line Payment Option:

[WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV](http://WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV)

Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open and complete the form.

d. Additional payment guidance is available at:

[http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make\\_a\\_payment.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make_a_payment.htm)

A copy of Respondent's check or a copy of Respondent's electronic transfer shall be sent simultaneously to:

Regional Hearing Clerk (3RC00)  
EPA Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 - 2029, and

Louis Ramalho (3RC50)  
Senior Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029.

42. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, EPA is entitled to assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim, as more fully described below. Accordingly, Respondent's failure to make timely payment or to comply with the conditions in this Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order shall result in the assessment of late payment charges including interest, penalties, and/or administrative costs of handling delinquent debts.

43. The costs of the EPA's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Pursuant to Appendix 2 of EPA's *Resources Management Directives - Cash Management*, Chapter 9, EPA will assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) days the penalty remains unpaid.
44. A late penalty payment of six percent (6%) per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the civil penalty which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) calendar days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).
45. The Respondent agrees not to deduct for federal tax purposes the civil monetary penalty specified in this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order.

#### VII. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT

46. The settlement set forth in this CAFO shall constitute full and final satisfaction of all civil claims for penalties which Complainant may have under TSCA for the specific violations alleged in Section IV ("Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law"), above. Compliance with this CAFO shall not be a defense to any action commenced at any time for any other violation of the federal laws and regulations administered by EPA.

#### VIII. OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

47. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of the obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

#### IX. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

48. Respondent certifies to EPA, upon personal investigation and to the best of its knowledge and belief that it currently is complying with applicable provisions of TSCA and 40 C.F.R. Part 745.

#### X. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

49. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order resolve only EPA's claims for civil monetary penalties for the specific violations alleged against the Respondent in this CAFO. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the

environment. In addition, this settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Section 22.18(c) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c). Further, EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under TSCA and any other federal laws or regulations for which EPA has jurisdiction, to enforce the provisions of this CAFO following its filing with the EPA Regional Hearing Clerk.

XI. PARTIES BOUND

50. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, the Respondent and the Respondent's successors, agents and assigns.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

51. The effective date of this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order (which is signed by the Regional Administrator of EPA Region III, or his designee, the Regional Judicial Officer), shall be the date the CAFO is filed with the EPA Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

XIII. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

52. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order constitute the entire agreement and understanding of the parties regarding settlement of all claims pertaining to the specific violations alleged herein and there are no representations, warranties, covenants, terms, or conditions agreed upon between the parties other than those expressed in this CAFO.

XIV. EXECUTION

53. The person signing this Consent Agreement on behalf of the Respondent acknowledges and certifies by his signature that he is fully authorized to enter into this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order.

**For Respondent:**

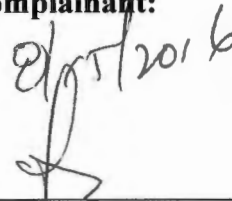
Date: 08/06/2016



GBC Kitchen & Bath, LLC.  
Sevket Serkan Keskin  
(703) 750-1188

**For Complainant:**

Date: 8/15/2016



US EPA, Region III  
Louis Ramalho, 3RC50  
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel  
(215) 814-2603

After reviewing the foregoing Consent Agreement and other pertinent information, the Land and Chemicals Division, EPA Region III, recommends that the Regional Administrator or the Regional Judicial Officer issue the Final Order attached hereto.

Date: 8.18.16

By:



John A. Armstead, Director  
Land and Chemicals Division,  
U.S. EPA, Region III




**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on the date listed below, a true and correct copy of the attached Consent Agreement and Final Order, Docket No. TSCA-03-2016-0172, was sent by electronic e-mail and a hard copy mailed overnight via UPS, confirmation of receipt requested to:

Sevket Serkan Keskin  
Principal  
GBC Kitchen & Bath, LLC.  
(703) 750-1188  
[serkanmetal@gmail.com](mailto:serkanmetal@gmail.com)

Date

8/23/16

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louis F. Ramalho  
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA - Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

REGIONAL HEARING CLERK  
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