



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
www.epa.gov/region8

FILED

Mar 15, 2024

10:44 am

U.S. EPA REGION 8  
HEARING CLERK

Ref: 8ENF-AT-P

**SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**  
**DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED**

From: David Cobb  
Supervisor, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Section  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

To: U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection  
Port of Denver, Colorado 3307

Subject: Requested action to be taken regarding the products in shipment with entry number AY0-0128558-6 FIFRA-08-2024-0019

By this memorandum, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, is informing the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (CBP) that the products in the import shipment described below should be **Denied Entry-Refused Delivery** into the United States pursuant to the authority of section 17(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136o(c), and the implementing regulations at 19 C.F.R. §12.114. On March 13, 2024, the EPA marked the entry “Hold Intact,” “Refused,” and “Re-Export” in ACE.

The following information pertains to the shipment:

- The manufacturer is Dongguan Filba Water Purification, NO.5 Lian, Xin Road, Shang Jiao District, Dongguan City, China, 523000.
- The importer and consignee is Flowater Inc., 6200 Washington Street, Unit 10, Denver, Colorado 80216-1145.
- The broker is Alfa International Logistics Inc., Eddie Liu / ALFA USA  
[eddie@alfainternationallogistics.com](mailto:eddie@alfainternationallogistics.com)
- The bill number is HDMUSZPM24210700.
- The file date was March 5, 2024.
- The quantity is 160 Cartons of BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers, weighing 7017.8 pounds.
- The port of entry is Denver, Colorado 3307.
- The country of origin, as entered in ACE, is Sweden.

Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t) defines “pest” as “(1) any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or (2) any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other micro-organisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under section 136w(c)(1) of this title.”

Section 2(p) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(p), defines “label” as “the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to, the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers” and defines “labeling” in part, as “all labels and all other written, printed, or graphic matter – (A) accompanying the pesticide or device at any time; or (B) to which reference is made on the label or in literature accompanying the pesticide....”

Section 2(h) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(h), defines “device” as “any instrument or contrivance (other than a firearm) which is intended for trapping, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest or any other form of plant or animal life (other than man and other than bacteria, virus, or other microorganism on or in living man or other living animals); but not including equipment used for the application of pesticides when sold separately therefrom.” See also 40 C.F.R. § 152.500(a).

Under FIFRA section 2(q)(1), 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1), a device is misbranded and subject to enforcement action if, among other reasons:

- the labeling bears any statements, designs, or graphic representations that are false or misleading (see also 40 CFR 156.10(a)(5));
- its packaging or wrapping does not conform to standards established pursuant to FIFRA section 25(c)(3) (as of 2010, such standards have yet to be established for devices);
- it is an imitation of, or is offered for sale under the name of another device;
- the label fails to bear the establishment number of the establishment where it was produced;
- any required information is not prominently displayed on the label;
- it lacks adequate directions for use; or
- it lacks an adequate warning or caution statement.

The labels for the BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers had the following language:

- “Premium Purification”
- “bluewatergroup.com”

The manuals that accompanied the BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers had the following language:

- “Bluewater is a world leading water purification company Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, the company helps people and businesses globally enjoy the health and wellbeing of cleaner, healthier tap water.”
- “Bluewater innovates, makes and sells compact water purifiers that harness the company’s patented reverse osmosis technology to remove virtually all pollutants from tap water, including lead, bacteria, pesticides, medical residues, chlorine, and limescale.”

These statements demonstrates a pesticidal intent pursuant to the definitions above. The BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers are devices under FIFRA section 2(h), 7 U.S.C. § 136(h), and 40 C.F.R. § 152.500(a) because they fall within the definition of “any instrument or contrivance (other than a firearm) which is intended for trapping, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, [which includes virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism,] or any other form of plant or animal life (other than man and other than bacteria, virus, or other microorganism on or in living man or other living animals); but not including equipment used for the application of pesticides when sold separately therefrom.”

In addition, the BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers are misbranded pursuant to FIFRA section 2(q)(1), 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1) because there is no EPA Establishment Number, no directions for use, and no caution or warning statements on the labels.

Finally, the shipment that arrived at the border for import is also in violation of FIFRA section 12(a)(2)(N), 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(N), because a registrant, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor failed to file reports required by FIFRA. As required by 19 C.F.R. §12.113, a Notice of Arrival of Pesticides and Devices, EPA form 3540-1, and a copy of one product label must be submitted.

The EPA hereby notifies CBP that BlueWater Cleone Water Purifiers shipment should be refused admission pursuant to the authority of FIFRA § 17(c), 7 U.S.C. § 136o(c), and the implementing regulations at 19 C.F.R. § 12.114. The importer should export this merchandise or dispose of the products under supervision of the CBP within ninety calendar days from the date of this memorandum or within such additional time as the District Director of CBP specifies. Failure to do so may result in either the destruction of the merchandise as authorized by the FIFRA or in any action necessary to enforce the terms of any bond under which the shipment has been released to the consignee. Alternatively, CBP may elect to seize the products as a prohibited importation pursuant to their authorities as set out at 19 U.S.C. § 1595a(c)(2)(A).

On March 13, 2024, the EPA informed the CBP Cargo Chief in Denver, Colorado, that it would deny entry of this shipment.

Please contact Christine Tokarz, the import enforcement coordinator, by phone at (303) 312-6147, or by email at [tokarz.christine@epa.gov](mailto:tokarz.christine@epa.gov), if you have any questions concerning this matter.