



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
www.epa.gov/region8

Ref: 8ENF-AT-P

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED

From: David Cobb
Section Chief, Toxics Enforcement Unit
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

To: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection
Port of Los Angeles International Airport,
California 2720

Subject: Requested action to be taken regarding the PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices
in shipment with entry number 799-20351169 **FIFRA-08-2021-0044**

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 that the PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices 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, 7 U.S.C. § 136o(c), and the implementing regulations at 19 C.F.R. section 12.114. The entry was marked "Hold Intact," "Refused," and "Re-Export" in ACE by the EPA on April 5, 2021.

The following information pertains to the shipment of the PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices:

- The importer and consignee is Otter Products LLC, 760 SE Frontage Road, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80524-8315, email contact Casey Grace, casey.grace@otterproducts.com.
- The manufacturer is Xigang, Technologies (Shanghai) Room 123 Building B Number 139, Fanghua Road Shanghai, China.
- The broker is Fedex Trade Networks, email contact, DEN_Brokerage@ftn.fedex.com.
- The bill number is 11285615261-NGA000005762.
- The entry number is 799-20351169.
- The ship date was March 26, 2021.
- The quantity is 200 units of PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices, 300 pounds.
- The port of entry is Los Angeles International Airport, California 2720.
- The country of origin as entered in ACE is China.

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(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.

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(q)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1), provides that, “a pesticide is misbranded if –

- (A) its labeling bears any statement, design, or graphic representation relative thereto or to its ingredients which is false or misleading in any particular;
- (B) it is contained in a package or other container or wrapping which does not conform to the standards established by the Administrator pursuant to section 136w(c)(3) of this title;
- (C) it is an imitation of, or is offered for sale under the name of, another pesticide;
- (D) its label does not bear the registration number assigned under section 7 to each establishment in which it was produced;
- (E) any word, statement, or other information required by or under the authority of this Act to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed thereon with such conspicuousness (as compared to other words, statements, designs, or graphic matter in the labeling) and in such terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;
- (F) 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 this Act, are adequate to protect health and the environment; [or]
- (G) 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 this Act, is adequate to protect health and the environment[.]”

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5), a pesticide or a device is misbranded if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular including both pesticidal and non-pesticidal claims. Examples of statements or representations in the labeling which constitute misbranding include:

- A false or misleading statement concerning the effectiveness of the product as a pesticide or device. 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5)(ii).
- A false or misleading comparison with other pesticides or devices. 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5)(iv).

- Any statement directly or indirectly implying that the pesticide or device is recommended or endorsed by any agency of the Federal Government. 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5)(v).
- A true statement used in such a way as to give a false or misleading impression to the purchaser. 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5)(vii).
- Claims as to the safety of the pesticide or its ingredients, including statements such as “safe,” “nonpoisonous,” “noninjurious,” “harmless” or “nontoxic to humans and pets” with or without such a qualifying phrase as “when used as directed”. 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5)(ix).

40 C.F.R § 152.500 provides requirements for devices, stating:

(a) A device is defined as any instrument or contrivance (other than a firearm) intended for trapping, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest or any other form of plant or animal life (other than man and other than a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism on or in living man or living animals) but not including equipment used for the application of pesticides (such as tamper-resistant bait boxes for rodenticides) when sold separately therefrom.

(b) A device is not required to be registered under FIFRA sec. 3. The Agency has issued a policy statement concerning its authority and activities with respect to devices, which was published in the Federal Register of November 19, 1976 (41 FR 51065). A device is subject to the requirements set forth in:

- (1) FIFRA sec. 2(q)(1) and part 156 of this chapter, with respect to labeling;
- (2) FIFRA sec. 7 and part 167 of this chapter, with respect to establishment registration and reporting;
- (3) FIFRA sec. 8 and part 169 of this chapter, with respect to books and records;
- (4) FIFRA sec. 9, with respect to inspection of establishments;
- (5) FIFRA sec. 12, 13, and 14, with respect to violations, enforcement activities, and penalties;
- (6) FIFRA sec. 17, with respect to import and export of devices;
- (7) FIFRA sec. 25(c)(3), with respect to child-resistant packaging; and
- (8) FIFRA sec. 25(c)(4), with respect to the Agency's authority to declare devices subject to certain provisions of the Act.

Section 12(a)(1)(F) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136j(a)(1)(F) provides that it shall be unlawful for any person in any State to distribute or sell to any person any device which is misbranded.

The shipment of the PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices that arrived at the border for import had labeling with the following language:

- “Safely achieve a 99.99% disinfection in just 10 minutes by using chemical and heat free UV-C light.”
- “No Germ Left behind.”

These PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices are misbranded pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 136(q)(1) and 40 C.F.R. § 156.10(a)(5), because they contain statements that are false or misleading as defined by the regulation.

Importing the shipment referenced above is a violation of FIFRA section 12(a)(1)(F), 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(F), as a distribution or sale of a misbranded device.

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 the Act. As required by 19 C.F.R. section 12.114, a Notice of Arrival of Pesticides and Devices, EPA form 3540-1, and a copy of one product label must be submitted. Neither a Notice of Arrival nor an image of the label was submitted either electronically or via the CBP authorized electronic data interchange system.

Therefore, the PhoneSoap Wireless Pesticide Devices products in the shipment referenced above cannot be allowed entry into the United States.

The Agency hereby notifies U.S. Customs and Border Protection that this merchandise has been refused admission and recommends that this merchandise be re-exported or destroyed within 90 calendar days from the date of this Notice.

On April 5, 2021 the Customs and Border Patrol unit chief at the Los Angeles International Airport, California, was informed by the EPA 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 if you have any questions concerning this matter.