

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

FILED

Sep 30, 2025

11:10 am

**U.S. EPA REGION 3
HEARING CLERK**

In the Matter of: :
: :
General Partitions Manufacturing Corp. : U.S. EPA Docket No. EPCRA-03-2025-0129
1702 Peninsula Drive :
Erie, PA 16505 : Proceeding under EPCRA §§ 313 and 325(c),
: 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023 and 11045(c)
Respondent. :
: :
General Partitions Manufacturing Corp. :
1702 Peninsula Drive :
Erie, PA 16505, :
: :
Facility. :

CONSENT AGREEMENT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This Consent Agreement is entered into by the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 ("Complainant") and General Partitions Manufacturing Corp. ("Respondent") (collectively the "Parties"), pursuant to Sections 313 and 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 ("EPCRA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023 and 11045(c), the regulations implementing EPCRA § 313, as set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 372, 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. EPCRA authorizes the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess penalties and undertake other actions required by this Consent Agreement. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Regional Administrator who, in turn, has delegated the authority to enter into agreements concerning administrative penalties to the Complainant. This Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Consent Agreement and Final Order") resolve Complainant's civil penalty claims against Respondent under EPCRA § 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, and implementing regulations promulgated thereunder (or the "Act") for the violations alleged herein.

2. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, Complainant hereby simultaneously commences and resolves this administrative proceeding.

JURISDICTION

3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has jurisdiction over the above-captioned matter, as described in Paragraph 1, above.
4. The Consolidated Rules of Practice govern this administrative adjudicatory proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.1(a)(8).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

5. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
6. Except as provided in Paragraph 6, above, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement.
7. Respondent agrees not to contest the jurisdiction of the EPA with respect to the execution of this Consent Agreement, the issuance of the attached Final Order, or the enforcement of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
8. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives its right to contest the allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement and Final Order and waives its right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
9. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty stated herein, to the issuance of any specified compliance order herein, and to any conditions specified herein.
10. Respondent shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees in connection with this proceeding.
11. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(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.
13. EPCRA Section 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), requires the owner or operator of any facility that, in any calendar year, manufactures, processes or otherwise uses a toxic chemical listed under EPCRA Section 313(c), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(c), in quantities exceeding a regulatory threshold established under EPCRA Section 313(f), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f), to complete and submit a toxic chemical release inventory report (i.e., "Form R" or "Form A") for each such listed toxic chemical. Pursuant to EPCRA Section 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), each required Form R or Form A must include the information required under Section 313(g) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(g), and must be submitted to EPA and to the designated State agency by July 1 of the year following the year for which such toxic inventory report is required.
14. EPCRA Section 313(b), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.22 provide, in relevant and applicable part, that a facility which meets the following criteria for a calendar year is a "covered facility" for that calendar year and must report under 40 C.F.R. § 372.30: [a] the facility has 10 or more full-time employees; [b] the facility is in a Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") (as in effect on January 1, 1987) major group or industrial code listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.23(a), for which the corresponding North American Industrial Classification System ("NAICS") (as in effect on January 1, 2017, for reporting year 2018 and thereafter) subsector and industry codes are listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.23(b) and (c) by virtue of the fact that the facility is an establishment with a primary SIC major group or industry code listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.23(a), or a primary NAICS subsector or industry code listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.23(b) or 40 C.F.R. § 372.23(c); and [c] the facility manufactured (including imported), processed, or otherwise used a toxic chemical in excess of an applicable threshold quantity of that chemical set forth in 40 C.F.R. §§ 372.25, 372.27, or 375.28.
15. 40 C.F.R. § 372.30(a) provides, in relevant part, that for each toxic chemical known by the owner or operator to be manufactured (including imported), processed, or otherwise used in excess of an applicable threshold quantity in 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, § 372.27, or § 372.28 at its covered facility for a calendar year, the owner or operator must submit to EPA and to the State in which the facility is located a completed EPA Form R (EPA Form 9350-1) or Form A (EPA Form 9350-2) in accordance with the instructions referred to in 40 C.F.R. Part 372, Subpart E.
16. 40 C.F.R. § 372.30(d) provides, in relevant part, that: "[e]ach report under this section for activities involving a toxic chemical that occurred during a calendar year at a covered facility must be submitted on or before July 1 of the next year."

17. Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.3 define “facility” to mean, in relevant part, all buildings, equipment, structures, and other stationary items which are located on a single site and are owned or operated by the same person.
18. Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), defines “person” to include any corporation.
19. Respondent is a C corporation formed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is a “person” as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).
20. Respondent owns and operates, and at the time of the violations alleged herein, owned and operated a manufacturing plant located at 1702 Peninsula Drive, Erie, Pennsylvania 16505 (“Facility”).
21. Respondent’s Facility is a “facility” as defined in Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.3.
22. During calendar years 2020 through 2022, Respondent employed 10 or more full-time employees at the Facility.
23. During calendar years 2020 through 2022, the Facility had an SIC code of 3499 for the manufacture of metal products used as toilet partitions, urinal screens, privacy panels, and lockers.
24. On June 12, 2024, a representative of EPA Region 3 conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (“CEI”) of the operations and activities of the Respondent at the Facility.

Count I

Failure to File Form for Chromium Processed at the Facility 2020

25. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
26. Chromium is a “toxic chemical” as defined in EPCRA §§ 313(c) and 329(10), 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023(c) and 11049(10), 40 C.F.R. § 372.3, and listed as a “toxic chemical” in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65(a).
27. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for chromium processed at a facility during calendar year 2020 was 25,000 pounds.

28. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of chromium at the Facility during calendar year 2020.
29. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2021, a completed Form R or Form A for the chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020.
30. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
31. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020, by July 1, 2021, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Count II

Failure to File Form for Chromium Processed at the Facility 2021

32. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
33. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for chromium processed at a facility during calendar year 2021 was 25,000 pounds.
34. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of chromium at the Facility during calendar year 2021.
35. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2022, a completed Form R or Form A for the chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021.
36. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
37. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021, by July 1, 2022, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Count III

Failure to File Form for Chromium Processed at the Facility 2022

38. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
39. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for chromium processed at a facility during calendar year 2022 was 25,000 pounds.
40. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of chromium at the Facility during calendar year 2022.
41. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2023, a completed Form R or Form A for the chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022.
42. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
43. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, chromium, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022, by July 1, 2023, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Count IV

Failure to File Form for Nickel Processed at the Facility 2020

44. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
45. Nickel is a "toxic chemical" as defined in EPCRA §§ 313(c) and 329(10), 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023(c) and 11049(10), 40 C.F.R. § 372.3, and listed as a "toxic chemical" in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65(a).
46. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for nickel processed at a facility during calendar year 2020 was 25,000 pounds.

47. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of nickel at the Facility during calendar year 2020.
48. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2021, a completed Form R or Form A for the nickel processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020.
49. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
50. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2020, by July 1, 2021, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Count V

Failure to File Form for Nickel Processed at the Facility 2021

51. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
52. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for nickel processed at a facility during calendar year 2021 was 25,000 pounds.
53. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of nickel at the Facility during calendar year 2021.
54. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2022, a completed Form R or Form A for the nickel processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021.
55. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
56. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2021, by July 1, 2022, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Count VI
Failure to File Form for Nickel Processed at the Facility 2022

57. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
58. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for nickel processed at a facility during calendar year 2022 was 25,000 pounds.
59. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of nickel at the Facility during calendar year 2022.
60. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by July 1 of 2023, a completed Form R or Form A for the nickel processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022.
61. Respondent filed a complete Form R for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022 with the Administrator of EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on or about June 30, 2024.
62. Respondent's failure to timely file a complete Form R or Form A to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the toxic chemical, nickel, processed at the Facility during calendar year 2022, by July 1, 2023, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

CIVIL PENALTY

63. In settlement of the EPA's claims for civil penalties for the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN DOLLARS (\$44,314), which Respondent shall be liable to pay in accordance with the terms set forth below.
64. In determining the amount of the civil penalty to be assessed, EPA has taken into account the factors specified in EPCRA § 325(b)(1)(C), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b)(1)(C), which include the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements. These factors were applied to the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to the *Enforcement Response Policy for Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1986)* (April 12, 2001), the appropriate *Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation*,

pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19, and the applicable EPA memoranda addressing EPA's civil penalty policies to account for inflation. After considering these factors, EPA has determined that an appropriate penalty to settle this action is \$44,314.

65. Respondent agrees to pay the civil penalty in the amount of \$44,314 ("Assessed Penalty") within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
66. Respondent shall pay the Assessed Penalty and any interest, fees, and other charges due using any method, or combination of appropriate methods, as provided on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For additional instructions see: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>. Any checks should be made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America." However, for any payments made after September 30, 2025, and in accordance with the March 25, 2025 Executive Order on Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account, Respondent shall pay using one of the electronic payments methods listed on EPA's How to Make a Payment website and will not pay with a paper check.
67. When making a payment, Respondent shall:
 - a. Identify every payment with Respondent's name and the docket number of this Consent Agreement, *i.e.*, EPCRA-03-2025-0129,
 - b. Concurrently with any payment or within 24 hours of any payment, Respondent shall serve Proof of Payment simultaneously **by email** to the following person(s):

T. Chris Minshall
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel
minshall.chris@epa.gov,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
CINWD_AcctsReceivable@epa.gov,

and

U.S. EPA Region 3 Regional Hearing Clerk
R3_Hearing_Clerk@epa.gov.

"Proof of Payment" means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, or confirmation of wire or automated clearinghouse transfer, and any other information required to demonstrate that payment has been

made according to the EPA requirements, in the amount due, and identified with the appropriate docket number and Respondent's name.

68. Interest, Charges, and Penalties on Late Payments. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, if Respondent fails to timely pay the full amount of the Assessed Penalty per this Consent Agreement, the EPA is authorized to recover, in addition to the amount of the unpaid Assessed Penalty, the following amounts.

a. Interest. Interest begins to accrue from the Effective Date of this Consent Agreement. If the Assessed Penalty is paid in full within thirty (30) days, interest accrued is waived. If the Assessed Penalty is not paid in full within thirty (30) days, interest will continue to accrue until any unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty as well as any interest, penalties, and other charges are paid in full. To protect the interests of the United States, the rate of interest is set at the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") standard underpayment rate, any lower rate would fail to provide Respondent adequate incentive for timely payment.

b. Handling Charges. Respondent will be assessed monthly a charge to cover the EPA's costs of processing and handling overdue debts. If Respondent fails to pay the Assessed Penalty in accordance with this Consent Agreement, the EPA will assess a charge to cover the costs of handling any unpaid amounts for the first thirty (30) day period after the Effective Date. Additional handling charges will be assessed every thirty (30) days, or any portion thereof, until the unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty as well as any accrued interest, penalties, and other charges are paid in full.

c. Late Payment Penalty. A late payment penalty of six percent (6%) per annum, will be assessed monthly on all debts, including any unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty, interest, penalties, and other charges, that remain delinquent more than ninety (90) days. Any such amounts will accrue from the Effective Date.

69. Late Penalty Actions. In addition to the amounts described in the prior Paragraph, if Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the Assessed Penalty, interest, or other charges and penalties per this Consent Agreement, the EPA may take additional actions. Such actions the EPA may take include, but are not limited to, the following.

a. Refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency, per 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13 and 13.14.

b. Collect the debt by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States government to, or held by the United States government for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the United States government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds, per 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H.

c. Suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges, or suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with the EPA or engaging in programs the EPA sponsors or funds, per 40 C.F.R. § 13.17.

d. Refer this matter to the United States Department of Justice for litigation and collection, per 40 C.F.R. § 13.33.

70. Allocation of Payments. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(f) and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(d), a partial payment of debt will be applied first to outstanding handling charges, second to late penalty charges, third to accrued interest, and last to the principal that is the outstanding Assessed Penalty amount.
71. Tax Treatment of Penalties. Penalties, interest, and other charges paid pursuant to this Consent Agreement shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.
72. Payment of the civil penalty is due and payable immediately upon receipt by Respondent of a true and correct copy of the fully executed and filed Consent Agreement and Final Order. Receipt by Respondent or Respondent's legal counsel of such copy of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, with a date stamp indicating the date on which the Consent Agreement and Final Order was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, shall constitute receipt of written initial notice that a debt is owed the EPA by Respondent in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.9(a).
73. The Parties consent to service of the Final Order by e-mail at the following valid email addresses: [minshall.chris@epa.gov] (for Complainant), and [scott@generalpartitions.com] (for Respondent).

GENERAL SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS

74. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Final Order will be available to the public and represents that, to the best of Respondent's knowledge and belief, this Consent Agreement and Final Order does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information from Respondent.
75. Respondent certifies that any information or representation it has supplied or made to the EPA concerning this matter was, at the time of submission true, accurate, and complete and that there has been no material change regarding the truthfulness, accuracy or completeness of such information or representation. The EPA shall have the right to institute further actions to recover appropriate relief if the EPA obtains evidence that any information provided and/or representations made by Respondent to the EPA regarding matters relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, including

information about Respondent's ability to pay a penalty, are false or, in any material respect, inaccurate. This right shall be in addition to all other rights and causes of action that the EPA may have, civil or criminal, under law or equity in such event. Respondent and its officers, directors and agents are aware that the submission of false or misleading information to the United States government may subject a person to separate civil and/or criminal liability.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

76. Respondent certifies to the EPA, upon personal investigation and to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it currently is in compliance with regard to the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement.

OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

77. Nothing in this Consent Agreement and Final Order shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, nor shall it restrict the EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on the validity of any federal, state or local permit. This Consent Agreement and Final Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of the EPCRA, or any regulations promulgated thereunder.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

78. This Consent Agreement and Final Order resolves only the EPA's claims for civil penalties for the specific violation[s] alleged against Respondent in this Consent Agreement and Final Order. The EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which the EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. 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). The EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under EPCRA, the regulations promulgated thereunder and any other federal law or regulation to enforce the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order after its effective date.

EXECUTION /PARTIES BOUND

79. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, the Respondent and the officers, directors, employees, contractors, successors, agents and assigns of Respondent. By providing the signature below, the person who signs this Consent Agreement on behalf of Respondent is acknowledging that the person signing is

fully authorized by the Respondent to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

EFFECTIVE DATE

80. The effective date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("Effective Date") is the date on which the Final Order, signed by the Regional Administrator of the EPA, Region 3, or the Regional Administrator's designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed along with the Consent Agreement with the Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

81. This Consent Agreement and Final Order constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties regarding settlement of all claims for civil penalties 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 Consent Agreement and Final Order.

82. Failure by the Respondent to pay the EPCRA civil penalty assessed by the Final Order in accordance with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalties, plus interest, pursuant to Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045. In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

For Respondent: General Partitions Manufacturing Corp.

Date: 9/17/25

By:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the respondent.

Scott Hawkins
President

For the Complainant:

After reviewing the Consent Agreement and other pertinent matters, I, the undersigned Acting Director of the Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, agree to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and recommend that the Regional Administrator, or the Regional Administrator's designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, issue the attached Final Order.

By: **ANDREA BAIN** Digitally signed by
ANDREA BAIN
Date: 2025.09.30
09:25:46 -04'00'

[Digital Signature and Date]
Andrea Bain, Acting Director
Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA – Region 3
Complainant

Attorney for Complainant:

By: **THOMAS MINSHALL** Digitally signed by
THOMAS MINSHALL
Date: 2025.09.30
07:56:35 -04'00'

[Digital Signature and Date]
T. Chris Minshall
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA – Region 3

FILED

Sep 30, 2025

11:10 am

U.S. EPA REGION 3
HEARING CLERK

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Facility. :

FINAL ORDER

Complainant, the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, and Respondent, General Partitions Manufacturing Corp., have executed a document entitled "Consent Agreement," which I hereby ratify as a Consent Agreement in accordance with 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 [Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) (*for Super Consent Agreement/Final Orders*) or Sections 22.18(b)(2) and (3) (*for Consent Agreement/Final Orders*)]. The terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement are accepted by the undersigned and incorporated into this Final Order as if fully set forth at length herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Section 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. Section 11045(c), and Section 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of **FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN DOLLARS (\$44,314.00)**, in accordance with the payment provisions set forth in the Consent Agreement and in 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(c), and comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement.

This Final Order constitutes the final Agency action in this proceeding. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive

or other equitable relief, or criminal sanctions for any violations of the law. This Final Order resolves only those causes of action alleged in the Consent Agreement and does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

The effective date of the foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

By: **JEFFREY
NAST**
Regionally signed by
JEFFREY NAST
Date: 2025.09.30
10:09:11 -04'00'

Regional Judicial and Presiding Officer
U.S. EPA Region 3

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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	:
General Partitions Manufacturing Corp.	:
1702 Peninsula Drive	:
Erie, PA 16505,	:
	:
Facility.	:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing ***Consent Agreement and Final Order*** was filed with the EPA Region 3 Regional Hearing Clerk on the date that has been electronically stamped on the ***Consent Agreement and Final Order***. I further certify that on the date set forth below, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing to each of the following persons, in the manner specified below, at the following addresses:

Copies served via email to:

Scott Hawkins, President
General Partitions Manufacturing Corp.
scott@generalpartitions.com
1702 Peninsula Drive
Erie, PA 16505

T. Chris Minshall
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 3
minshall.chris@epa.gov

Christine Convery
Compliance and Enforcement Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 3
convery.christine@epa.gov

In Re: General Partitions Manufacturing Corp.

EPA Docket No. EPCRA-03-2025-0129

**BEVIN
ESPOSITO**

Digitally signed by BEVIN ESPOSITO
Date: 2025.09.30 11:11:21 -0400

[Digital Signature and Date]

Regional Hearing Clerk

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3