



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAR 10 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Cray Weeks
Carolina Furniture Works Inc.
406 Brooklyn Street
Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Re: Carolina Furniture Works Inc.
Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. EPCRA-04-2016-2005(b)

Dear Mr. Weeks:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

To ensure proper processing, the Respondent's Name and Docket Number for this case, identified above and in the CAFO, should be noted on any cashier's or certified check submitted in payment of the penalty.

Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts Carolina Furniture Works Inc., of South Carolina on notice of its potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4. Where used in the document "SEC" refers to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter or Carolina Furniture Works Inc.'s compliance status in the future, please contact Mr. Eddie Chow of the EPA staff at (404) 562-8989.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KLB", written over a blue horizontal line.

Kimberly L. Bingham
Acting Chief
Chemical Safety & Enforcement Branch

Enclosures

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
 Carolina Furniture Works Inc.)
)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2016-2005(b)

2016 MAR 10 AM 7:54
HEARING CLERK
USEPA REGION 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL
COUNSEL

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 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is Carolina Furniture Works Inc.

2. 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 redelegate 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.

3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 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 C.F.R. § 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

4. Respondent is Carolina Furniture Works Inc., a company doing business in the State of South Carolina.

5. Respondent is a "person" and is the owner and operator of a "facility" as those terms are defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), and Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).

6. Respondent's facility is located at 406 Brooklyn Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

III. EPA's Allegations of Violations

7. Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. 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 C.F.R. 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.

8. At some time during the calendar years 2014, 2013 and 2012, fuel oil and mineral spirits were present at the facility in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds.

9. Fuel oil and mineral spirits are "hazardous chemicals" as defined under Section 329(5) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(5) and 40 C.F.R. § 355.61, for which Respondent is required to prepare or have available an MSDS under OSHA at its facility.

10. Respondent failed to submit a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form for fuel oil and mineral spirits to the SERC, the LEPC, and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility for calendar years 2014, 2013 and 2012 by March 1 of the following year.

11. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the reporting requirements of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, at its facility for calendar years 2014, 2013 and 2012, and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

12. Pursuant to Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA may assess a civil penalty of not more than **\$37,500** for each violation of Section 312 that occurred after January 12, 2009 and December 6, 2013. 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.

IV. Consent Agreement

13. 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.

14. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

15. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

16. 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.

17. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), compliance with this CAFO only resolves Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the allegations in Section III of this CAFO and does not affect the right of the EPA or U.S. to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law. This CAFO does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of EPCRA, CERCLA or other applicable laws and regulations.

18. 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 interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of EPCRA.

V. Final Order

19. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of **FOUR THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$4,760)**, for the EPCRA violation alleged in Section III. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

20. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to one of the following addresses:

BY MAIL

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

BY OVERNIGHT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Government Lockbox 979077
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
(513) 487-2091

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

21. 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:

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

Eddie Chow
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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

22. For the purposes of state and federal income taxes, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

VI. Other Provisions

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 effective date of this 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 is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Robert W. Bookman
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9169

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.

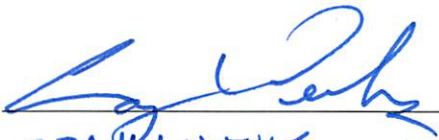
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VII. Effective Date


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:

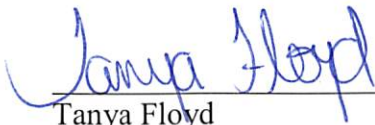
Carolina Furniture Works Inc.

By:  Date: 2/11/16
Name: CRAY WEEKS (Typed or Printed)
Title: PRESIDENT + CEO (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By:  Date: 2/29/16
Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 9th day of March, 2016


Tanya Floyd
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing
Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of Carolina Furniture Works Inc., Docket
Number: EPCRA-04-2016-2005(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Robert W. Bookman (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Robert Caplan (Via EPA's internal mail)
Senior Attorney
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Regional Counsel
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Cray Weeks (Via Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested)
Carolina Furniture Works Inc.
406 Brooklyn Street
Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Date: 3-10-16



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