

**BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, D.C. 20585**

In the Matter of:

Marey International LLC
Respondent

)
)
)
)
)

Case Number: 2016-CE-17046

ORDER

By the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy:

1. In this Order, I adopt the attached Compromise Agreement entered into by the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) and Marey International LLC (“Respondent”). The Compromise Agreement resolves the case initiated to pursue a civil penalty for violations of the compliance certification requirements located at 10 C.F.R. Part 429.
2. DOE and Respondent have negotiated the terms of the Compromise Agreement that resolves this matter. A copy of the Compromise Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
3. After reviewing the terms of the Compromise Agreement and evaluating the facts before me, I find that the public interest would be served by adopting the Compromise Agreement, which would complete the adjudication of the case.
4. Based on the information in the case file and Respondent’s admission of facts establishing violations, I find that Respondent committed Prohibited Acts by failing to comply with 10 C.F.R. § 429.12. *See* 10 C.F.R. § 429.102(a)(1); 42 U.S.C. § 6302.
5. Accordingly, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.120 and 42 U.S.C. § 6303, **I HEREBY ASSESS** a civil penalty of \$8,000 **AND ORDER** that the Compromise Agreement attached to this Order is adopted.

Steven P. Croley
General Counsel

Date

10/27/16

**BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, D.C. 20585**

In the Matter of:)

Marey International LLC)
(water heaters))

Case Number: 2016-CE-17046

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Date issued: September 30, 2016

Number of alleged violations: 1095 (3 basic models, 365 days each)

Maximum possible assessment: \$ 474,135

Proposed civil penalty: \$ 109,500

The U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Office of the General Counsel, Office of Enforcement, alleges that Marey International LLC ("Marey") has violated certain provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6291 *et seq.* ("the Act"), and 10 C.F.R. Part 429.

Legal Requirements

Water heaters are covered products subject to energy conservation standards set forth at 42 U.S.C. § 6295(e). *See* 42 U.S.C. § 6292(a)(4); 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(d).

Before distributing in commerce any basic model of a covered product subject to an applicable energy conservation standard, and annually thereafter, manufacturers shall submit a certification report to DOE certifying that each basic model meets the applicable energy conservation standard(s). 10 C.F.R. § 429.12(a).

Failure to submit a certification report for each basic model of a covered product as required by 10 C.F.R. Part 429 is a prohibited act pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.102(a)(1) and subject to civil penalty as described in 10 C.F.R. § 429.120.

Allegations

DOE alleges:

1. Marey manufactures¹ water heaters, including but not limited to basic models ECO085, Gas 16L ETL LPG, and Gas 10L LPG DP.
2. Marey has distributed these basic models in the U.S. for at least 365 days prior to July 13, 2015.
3. Marey failed to submit a certification report for these basic models before distributing them in commerce in the U.S.

The following information is provided in question and answer format to help explain your legal obligations and options.

What do I do now?

DOE is offering to settle this enforcement action. To accept this settlement offer, you must submit the signed Compromise Agreement and then pay the fine within thirty (30) days of the date of an Adopting Order adopting the Compromise Agreement.

If you do not choose to settle the case, DOE may seek the maximum penalty authorized by law. You have other options as described below.

What are my other options?

If you do *not* agree to DOE's settlement offer, then you must select Option 1 or Option 2 below within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this Notice.

Option 1: You may elect to have DOE issue an order assessing a civil penalty. Failure to pay the assessed penalty within sixty (60) calendar days of the order assessing such penalty will result in referral of the case to a U.S. District Court for an order affirming the assessment of the civil penalty. The District Court has the authority to review the law and the facts de novo.

Option 2: You may elect to have DOE refer this matter to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for an agency hearing on the record. Upon a finding of violation by the ALJ, DOE will issue an order assessing a civil penalty. This order may be appealed to the appropriate U.S. Court of Appeals.

When must I respond?

You must submit a signed compromise agreement within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this notice to pay the amount indicated in the Compromise Agreement. If you do not wish to settle AND you wish to choose Option 1 as described above, you must notify DOE within thirty (30) calendar days of the date you received this notice of your selection of Option 1. Otherwise, if you do not settle the case, DOE will refer to the case to an ALJ as described in Option 2.

¹ "Manufacture" means to manufacture, produce, assemble, or import. 42 U.S.C. § 6291(10).

How should I submit my response?

To assure timely receipt, DOE strongly encourages you to submit your response by e-mail, fax, or an express delivery service. DOE accepts scanned images of signed documents (such as PDFs). Responses may be sent by any of the following methods:

By email to: mohammad.aslami@hq.doe.gov

By fax to: (202) 586-3274

By mail to: Mohammad Aslami
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the General Counsel (GC-32)
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

What happens if I fail to respond?

If you fail to respond within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving this notice, or by the time of any extension granted by DOE, DOE will refer the case to an ALJ for a full administrative hearing (Option 2, above).

What should I include in my response?

- 1) If you wish to accept DOE's settlement offer, you should submit the signed compromise agreement. If you do not wish to accept DOE's settlement offer, you should specify if you wish to elect Option 1; otherwise, DOE will proceed with Option 2, as described above.
- 2) Provide your Taxpayer Identification Number ("TIN"). The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal agencies to obtain the TIN in any case which may give rise to a debt to the government.

How did you calculate the maximum possible assessment?

Federal law sets a maximum civil penalty for each day you fail to submit to DOE the required information for a covered product. By regulation, you must submit a certification report for each basic model. Therefore, your maximum penalty is calculated based on each day you distributed each basic model in commerce in the U.S. without having submitted a valid certification report. The current maximum penalty is \$433 per basic model per day. 10 C.F.R. § 429.120.

If you have any questions, please contact Mohammad Aslami by email at mohammad.aslami@hq.doe.gov.

Issued by:

Laura L. Barhydt
Assistant General Counsel for
Enforcement

Certificate of Service

I certify that on September 30, 2016, I served the designated copies of the Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty and Compromise Agreement in case number 2016-CE-17046 on the parties listed below in the manner indicated.

Victor Yanguas
Vice President
Marey International LLC
1924 Highway 95 North
Bastrop, TX 78602

Original by Certified Mail

customerservice@marey.com

PDF by email

Mohammad Asfami _____

**BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, D.C. 20585**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Marey International LLC)	Case Number: 2016-CE-17046
Respondent)	
)	

COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Office of the General Counsel, Office of Enforcement, initiated this action against Marey International LLC (“Respondent”) pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.122 by Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty, alleging that Respondent had failed to submit a certification report for at least three basic models of water heaters. Respondent, on behalf of itself and any parent, subsidiary, division or other related entity, and DOE, by their authorized representatives, hereby enter into this Compromise Agreement for the purpose of settling this specific enforcement action.

I. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Compromise Agreement, the following definitions apply:

- (a) “Act” means the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6291 *et seq.*
- (b) “Adopting Order” means an Order of the General Counsel adopting the terms of this Compromise Agreement without change, addition, deletion, or modification.
- (c) “Distribute in commerce” or “distribution in commerce” means to sell in commerce, to import, to introduce or deliver for introduction into commerce, or to hold for sale or distribution after introduction into commerce;
- (d) “DOE” means the U.S. Department of Energy.
- (e) “DOE Rules” means DOE’s energy conservation regulations found in Title 10, Parts 429, 430, and 431 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (f) “Manufacture” means to manufacture, produce, assemble, or import.
- (g) “Notice” means the Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty issued by DOE to Respondent on September 16, 2016, and captioned as case number 2016-CE-17046
- (h) “Parties” means DOE and Respondent.
- (i) “Respondent” means Marey International LLC and any parent, subsidiary, division or other related entity.

The Agreement further incorporates by reference all of the definitions found within 42 U.S.C. §§ 6291 and 6311 and 10 C.F.R. Parts 429, 430, and 431.

II. RECITALS

WHEREAS, DOE, pursuant to the Act, is responsible for promulgating and enforcing the energy conservation requirements set forth in DOE Rules; and

WHEREAS, DOE has promulgated energy conservation standards for water heaters at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(d) and requires manufacturers to submit information and reports to ensure compliance with those standards pursuant to 10 C.F.R. §§ 429.12 and 429.17; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 6296, 6302, and 6303 and 10 C.F.R. Part 429, Subpart C, DOE is authorized to assess civil monetary penalties for knowingly committing a prohibited act, including failing to make reports or provide other required information; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2016, DOE initiated an action to assess a civil penalty for failing to certify compliance and submit a certification report for at least three basic models of water heaters; and

WHEREAS, Respondent admits:

1. Respondent has manufactured various models of water heaters, including basic models ECO085, Gas 16L ETL LPG, and Gas 10L LPG DP;
2. These basic models are "covered products";
3. Respondent knowingly failed to submit a certification report for these basic models;
4. Respondent distributed these basic models in commerce in the U.S. for at least 365 days prior to July 13, 2015.

WHEREAS, failure to submit a certification report for a covered product as required by 10 C.F.R. Part 429 is a prohibited act pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.102(a)(1) and subject to civil penalty as described in 10 C.F.R. § 429.120.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual agreements set forth below, the sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

III. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. **Adopting Order.** The Parties agree that the provisions of this Compromise Agreement shall be subject to final approval by the General Counsel by incorporation of such provisions by reference in the Adopting Order without change, addition, modification, or deletion.
2. **Obligations of Respondent.**
 - a. If Respondent executes this Compromise Agreement and returns it to DOE within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the Notice, Respondent agrees to pay the sum of \$8,000 as full satisfaction of the civil penalty proposed in the Notice within thirty (30) calendar days after DOE issues the Adopting Order. If Respondent executes this Compromise Agreement and returns it to DOE between thirty-one (31) and sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the Notice, Respondent agrees to pay the sum of \$16,000 as full satisfaction of the civil penalty proposed in the Notice within thirty (30) calendar days after DOE issues the Adopting Order.

- b. Within ten calendar days following the issuance of the final rule in the RIN1904-AC91 rulemaking or ten calendar days following DOE's release of a UEF certification report template, whichever is later, Respondent will, in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 429, certify all basic models of all consumer water heaters and residential duty commercial water heaters that Respondent manufactures and distributes in commerce in the United States.
- c. Within sixty calendar days following issuance of the Adopting Order, Respondent will, in accordance with 10 C.F.R Part 429, certify all basic models of all covered products and covered equipment (other than consumer water heaters and residential duty commercial water heaters) that Respondent manufactures and distributes in commerce in the United States.

3. **Obligations of DOE.**

- a. In express reliance on the covenants and representations in this Compromise Agreement and to avoid further expenditure of public resources, DOE agrees to accept Respondent's payment pursuant to section III.2.a in full satisfaction of the penalty authorized by the Act.
- b. DOE agrees to issue promptly an Adopting Order adopting this Agreement.
- c. DOE agrees to terminate this enforcement action with prejudice upon Respondent's completion of its Obligations in accordance with section III.2, above. If Respondent fails to complete its Obligations in accordance with section III.2, above, DOE may notify Respondent that the Agreement is null and void and may seek the maximum penalty in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 429.120.

4. **Jurisdiction.** This Compromise Agreement is entered into pursuant to DOE's authority to interpret and enforce its rules for energy efficiency and to enter into its own agreements interpreting and applying those rules. The Parties agree that DOE has jurisdiction over Respondent and primary jurisdiction over the matters contained in this Compromise Agreement and has the authority to enter into this Compromise Agreement.

5. **Effective Date.** The Parties agree that this Compromise Agreement shall become effective on the date on which the General Counsel issues the Adopting Order. Upon release, the Adopting Order and this Compromise Agreement shall have the same force and effect as any other Order of the General Counsel. Any violation of the Adopting Order or of the terms of this Compromise Agreement shall constitute a separate violation of an Agency Order, entitling DOE to exercise any rights and remedies attendant to the enforcement of an Agency Order.

6. **Payment Instructions and Late Payments.** The Parties agree that all payments shall be made in a timely manner and in a method set forth in the attached "Payment Instructions." Respondent acknowledges and agrees to comply with the "Late Payment" provisions provided therein.

7. **Limitations.** Nothing in this agreement binds any other agency of the United States government beyond DOE.

8. **Waivers.** Respondent agrees not to seek judicial review or otherwise contest or challenge the validity of the terms and penalties set out in this Compromise Agreement or the Notice associated with this case. If either Party (or the United States on behalf of DOE) brings a judicial action to enforce the terms of this Compromise Agreement, neither Respondent nor DOE shall contest the validity of the Compromise Agreement, and Respondent waives any statutory right to a trial *de novo*. Respondent hereby agrees to waive any claims it may otherwise have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504, relating to the matters addressed in this Compromise Agreement.
9. **Final Settlement.** The Parties agree and acknowledge that this Compromise Agreement constitutes a final settlement between the Parties. This Compromise Agreement resolves only issues addressed in the Compromise Agreement.
10. **Merger.** This Compromise Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the Parties, whether oral or written.
11. **Modifications.** This Compromise Agreement cannot be modified without the advance written consent of both Parties.
12. **Severability.** If any provision of this agreement is held to be invalid, illegal, void, or unenforceable, then that provision is to be construed by modifying it to the minimum extent necessary to make it enforceable.
13. **Authorized Representative.** Each party represents and warrants to the other that it has full power and authority to enter into this Compromise Agreement.
14. **Counterparts.** This Compromise Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts (including by facsimile or electronic mail), each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be an original, and all of which counterparts together shall constitute one and the same fully executed instrument.

Laura L. Barhydt
Assistant General Counsel for
Enforcement
U.S. Department of Energy

October 27, 2016
Date

(Signature)
Typed Name: Victor Yanguas
Title: VPO
Company Name: Marex Heater Corp

October 27, 2016
Date