

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

In the Matter of: )  
)  
)  
**Leader Refrigeration Manufacturing,** ) Case Number: 2017-CE-42036  
**Inc.** )  
(commercial refrigeration equipment) )

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY**

Date issued: July 14, 2017

Number of alleged violations: 730 (2 basic models; 365 days)

Maximum possible assessment: **\$321,200**

Proposed civil penalty: **\$73,000**

The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Office of the General Counsel, Office of Enforcement, alleges that Leader Refrigeration Manufacturing, Inc. (“Leader”) 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, Subpart B.

Specifically, DOE alleges:

1. Leader has manufactured<sup>1</sup> and distributed in commerce and continues to distribute in commerce commercial refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers (commercial refrigeration equipment), including models ESLR54 and ESPF79.
2. Leader has distributed for at least 365 days, and continues to distribute, models ESLR54 and ESPF79 in commerce in the U.S.
3. Commercial refrigeration equipment, including models ESLR54 and ESPF79, is “covered equipment.” *See* 42 U.S.C. § 6311; 10 C.F.R. § 431.2.
4. Leader knowingly failed to submit a certification report and compliance statement for models ESLR54 and ESPF79 before distributing these models in commerce in the U.S., as required by 10 C.F.R. §§ 429.12 and 429.42.

A manufacturer must submit a certification report to DOE for each basic model of a covered product or covered equipment prior to distributing that basic model in commerce in the U.S. 10 C.F.R. § 429.12. Failure to submit a certification report for each basic model of a covered product

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<sup>1</sup> “Manufacture” means to manufacture, produce, assemble, or import. 42 U.S.C. § 6291(10).

and/or covered equipment 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.

**The following information is provided in question and answer format to help explain Leader's legal obligations and options.**

*What do I do now?*

DOE is offering a settlement of \$8,000 if you submit the signed Compromise Agreement within thirty (30) days of the date of this Notice. As part of that settlement, you must pay the fine within thirty (30) days of the date of issuance of an order adopting the Agreement (“Adopting Order”) and within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of the Adopting Order properly certify all models that you manufacture and distribute in commerce in the U.S. If you do not submit the required certification documents within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of the Adopting Order, you will be subject to the maximum penalty of \$440 per day per basic model for every day you do not certify each basic model.

If you do not choose to settle the case, DOE may seek the maximum penalty (\$321,200) 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, you must select Option 1 or Option 2, below, within thirty (30) calendar days.

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 date 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 the signed Compromise Agreement within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this Notice to pay the lowest fine (\$8,000). If you do not wish to settle AND you wish to choose Option 1 as described above, you must notify DOE of your selection of Option 1 within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this Notice. Otherwise, if you do not settle the case, DOE will refer the case to an ALJ as described in Option 2.

*How should I submit my response?*

To assure timely receipt, DOE strongly encourages you to submit your response by e-mail. DOE accepts scanned images of signed documents (such as PDFs). You may respond by any of the following methods:

By email to:                    smitha.vemuri@hq.doe.gov

