

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

In the Matter of:

Ningbo Hicon International Industry  
Company, Ltd.,  
Respondent

)  
)  
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)  
)

Case Number: 2013-SE-1426

**ORDER**

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

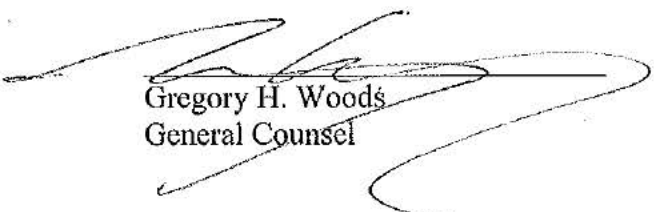
1. In this Order, I adopt the attached Compromise Agreement entered into between the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") and Ningbo Hicon International Industry Company, Ltd. ("Respondent"). The Compromise Agreement resolves the case initiated against Respondent pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.122 by Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty, alleging that Respondent distributed in commerce in the United States freezer basic model BD-200, which failed to meet the applicable standard for energy usage. *See* 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a).

2. The 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 completes the adjudication of the case.

4. Based on the information in the case file and Respondent's admission of violation in the Compromise Agreement, I find that Respondent committed Prohibited Acts by failing to comply with 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a). *See also* 42 U.S.C. § 6295(b).

5. Accordingly, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.120 and 42 U.S.C. § 6303, **I HEREBY ASSESS** a civil penalty of \$1,912,714.00, to be paid, with interest, as set forth in the Compromise Agreement, **AND ORDER** that the Compromise Agreement attached to this Order is adopted.

  
Gregory H. Woods  
General Counsel

Date

September 23, 2013

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

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
Ningbo Hicon International Industry ) Case Number: 2013-SE-1426  
Company, Ltd. )  
(freezers) )  
 )

**COMPROMISE AGREEMENT**

The U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Office of the General Counsel, Office of Enforcement, initiated this action against Ningbo Hicon International Industry Company, Ltd. ("Hicon" or "Respondent") pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 429.122 by Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty, alleging that Respondent distributed in commerce in the United States Hicon freezer basic model BD-200, which failed to meet the applicable standard for energy usage. See 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a). 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 civil penalty action.

**I. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Compromise Agreement, the following definitions shall 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) "Basic model BD-200" means all units of all freezer models manufactured by Hicon that have the same primary energy source and have essentially identical electrical, physical, and functional characteristics that affect energy consumption as Hicon basic model BD-200, regardless of private label or brand;
- (d) "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;
- (e) "DOE" means the U.S. Department of Energy.
- (f) "DOE Rules" means DOE's energy conservation regulations found in Title 10, Parts 429 and 430 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (g) "Manufacture" means to manufacture, produce, assemble, or import.

/s/ Chen Yue Peng



- (h) "Notice" means the Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty issued by DOE to Respondent on July 8, 2013, and captioned as case number 2013-SE-1426.
- (i) "Parties" means DOE and Respondent.
- (j) "Respondent" means Ningbo Hicon International Industry Company, Ltd., 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 10 C.F.R. § 430.2.

## II. RECITALS

WHEREAS, DOE, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 6291 *et seq.*, is responsible for promulgating and enforcing the energy and water conservation requirements set forth in DOE Rules; and

WHEREAS, DOE has promulgated energy conservation standards for freezers at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a); and

WHEREAS, DOE, on February 14, 2013, issued a Notice of Noncompliance Determination finding that basic model BD-200, manufactured by Respondent, was not in conformity with the applicable energy conservation standard; and

WHEREAS, basic model BD-200 is a "covered product" as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 6292(a)(1) and 10 C.F.R. § 430.2; and

WHEREAS, DOE, on July 8, 2013, initiated an action to assess a civil penalty for distributing noncompliant basic model BD-200 in commerce in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Respondent admits:

1. Hicon has manufactured and distributed in commerce in the United States basic model BD-200;
2. Since February 14, 2010, Hicon has distributed in commerce in the United States 115,126 privately labeled units of basic model BD-200;
3. Basic model BD-200 is subject to the conservation standards set forth at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a); and
4. Testing of basic model BD-200 demonstrates that it does not meet the federal energy conservation standards set forth at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a); and

WHEREAS, Respondent claims that, as of November 15, 2010, after it had manufactured 34,550 units of basic model BD-200, it identified and corrected the manufacturing problem that led to basic model BD-200's increased energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, Respondent has cooperated fully with DOE in connection with this investigation; and

WHEREAS, DOE, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 6296, 6302, and 6303, and 10 C.F.R. Part 429, Subpart C, is authorized to assess civil monetary penalties against any manufacturer that distributes in commerce any new covered product that is not in conformity with an applicable energy or water conservation standard; and

WHEREAS, DOE, as the agency charged with developing and administering a balanced and coordinated national energy policy, concludes that this Compromise Agreement properly balances the policies recognized in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act and is the appropriate way to resolve this matter;

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. Respondent agrees to pay the sum of \$1,912,714, plus one percent (1%) interest as described below, over the course of eighteen (18) months as full satisfaction of the civil penalty proposed in the Notice. Specifically, Respondent agrees to pay a total of \$1,927,097 in seven (7) payments according to the following schedule:
    - a. Payment 1: \$273,244 within thirty (30) calendar days of the issuance of the Adopting Order;
    - b. Payment 2: \$273,935 within three (3) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order;
    - c. Payment 3: \$274,610 within six (6) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order;
    - d. Payment 4: \$275,293 within nine (9) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order;
    - e. Payment 5: \$275,984 within twelve (12) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order;
    - f. Payment 6: \$276,675 within fifteen (15) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order; and
    - g. Payment 7: \$277,356 within eighteen (18) months of the issuance of the Adopting Order.
  - b. Respondent agrees to abide by the terms of the Notice of Noncompliance Determination, issued on February 14, 2013, captioned under case number 2013-SE-1426.
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 paragraph III.2.a in full satisfaction of the civil penalty authorized by the Act.
  - b. DOE agrees to issue promptly an Adopting Order adopting this Agreement.

- e. DOE agrees to terminate this civil penalty action with prejudice upon Respondent's completion of its Obligations in accordance with section III.2, above.
4. **Jurisdiction.** This Compromise Agreement is entered pursuant to DOE's authority to interpret and enforce its rules for energy conservation 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. As of that date, the Adopting Order and this Compromise Agreement shall have the same force and effect as any other Order of the General Counsel.
  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 shall constitute 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. **Sovereignty.** 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.

/s/

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

September 23, 2013  
Date

/s/

(Signature)

Typed Name: CHEN YUE PENG

Title: CEO

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NINGBO HICON INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY CO., LT.

Date Sep 19th, 2013