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[What's New](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Search](#)

About BIS [Home](#) > [News](#) > 2003 - Cook Composites Settles Allegations

News

[Press Releases](#)

[Speeches](#)

[Testimony](#)

[Archives](#)

[Policies And Regulations](#)

[Licensing](#)

[Compliance And Enforcement](#)

[Seminars And Training](#)

[International Programs](#)

[Defense Industrial Base Programs](#)

For Immediate Release - June 20, 2003

Contact: BIS Public Affairs - (202) 482-2721

Missouri Manufacturer Settles Antiboycott Allegations

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced today that Cook Composites and Polymers Company (Cook Composites), of North Kansas City, Missouri, has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$6,000 to settle allegations that the company violated the antiboycott provisions of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR).

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) charged that Cook Composites furnished information about its business relationships with Israel when, in January 1998, in connection with a shipment to a customer in Bahrain, it provided a certificate to a bank stating that the goods being shipped were not of Israeli origin and did not contain Israeli materials. BIS also alleged that Cook Composites failed to report its receipt of the request for the information as required by the EAR.

The antiboycott provisions of the EAR prohibit U.S. persons from furnishing information about their, or any person's, business relationships with Israel. Additionally, the EAR requires that persons report their receipt of certain boycott requests. BIS investigates alleged violations of the antiboycott provisions, provides support in administrative or criminal litigation of cases involving the antiboycott provisions, and prepares cases for settlement.

While neither admitting nor denying the allegations, Cook Composites agreed to pay the civil penalty for the two alleged violations.

Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Lisa A. Prager commended Senior Compliance Officer Shirley Rockenbaugh, who conducted the investigation of this case.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of)
Cook Composites and Polymers Company) Case No. 01-09
_____)

ORDER

The Office of Antiboycott Compliance, Bureau of Industry and Security,¹ U.S. Department of Commerce (“Department”), having determined to initiate an administrative proceeding pursuant to Section 11(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (1994 & Supp. V 1999)) (the “Act”) and the Export Administration Regulations (currently codified at 15 C.F.R Parts 730-774 (2002)) (the “Regulations”), against Cook Composites and Polymers Company (“CCP”), a domestic concern, resident in the State of

¹ On April 18, 2002, the Department of Commerce announced that the name of the Bureau of Export Administration (“BXA”) had been changed to the Bureau of Industry and Security (“BIS”) and made conforming changes in the Export Administration Regulations. *Fed Reg.* 20630-32 (April 26, 2002). This change does not affect the substantive activities or responsibilities of BIS. All actions taken before, on or after April 18 under the name of BXA will be deemed to have been taken under the name BIS and all references to BXA are deemed to be to BIS.

² The Act expired on August 20, 2001. Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001 (3 C.F.R., 2001 Comp. 783 (2002)), as extended by the Notice of August 14, 2002 (67 *Fed Reg.* 53721 (August 16, 2002)), continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.A. §§ 1701-1706 (1994 & supp. v 1999)).

Missouri, based on allegations set forth in the Proposed Charging Letter, dated March 27, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, for alleged violations of the Regulations committed by CCP;

The Department and CCP having entered into a Settlement Agreement, incorporated herein by this reference, whereby the parties have agreed to settle this matter; and

I, the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, having approved the terms of the Settlement Agreement:

IT IS ORDERED THAT,

FIRST, a civil penalty of \$6,000 is assessed against CCP;

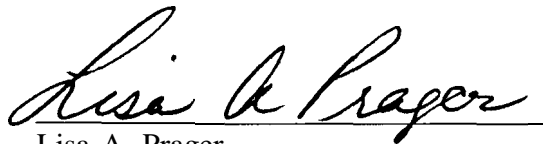
SECOND, CCP shall pay to the Department the sum of \$6,000 within thirty days of service of this Order, as specified in the attached instructions;

THIRD, pursuant to the Debt Collections Act of 1982, as amended (31 U.S.C.A. §§ 3701-3720E (1983 and Supp. 2001)), the civil penalty owed under this Order accrues interest as more fully described in the attached Notice, and, if payment is not made by the due date specified herein, CCP may be assessed, in addition to interest, a penalty charge and an administrative charge, as more fully described in the attached Notice.

FOURTH, as authorized by Section 11(d) of the Act, the timely payment of the sum of \$6,000 is hereby made a condition to the granting, restoration or continuing validity of any export license, permission, or privilege granted, or to be granted, to CCP. Accordingly, if CCP should fail to pay the sum of \$6,000 in the manner prescribed by this Order, I will enter an Order under the authority of Section 11(d) of the Act denying all of CCP's export privileges for a period of one year from the date of the entry of this Order; and

FIFTH, the Proposed Charging Letter, the Settlement Agreement and this Order shall be made available to the public, and a copy of this Order shall be served upon CCP.

This Order is effective immediately.



Lisa A. Prager
Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement

Entered this 17 day of June, 2003

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

1. The check should be made payable to:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

2. The check should be mailed to:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Industry and Security
Room 6881 - Attention: Sharon Gardner
14th & Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

NOTICE

The Order to which this Notice is attached describes the reasons for the assessment of the civil monetary penalty. It also specifies the amount owed and the date by which payment of the civil penalty is due and payable.

Under the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended (31 U.S.C.A. §§ 3701-3702E (1983 and Supp. 2001)), and the Federal Claims Collection Standards (65 Fed. Reg. 70390-70406, November 22, 2000, to be codified at 31 C.F.R. Parts 900-904), interest accrues on any and all civil monetary penalties owed and unpaid under the Order, from the date of the Order until paid in full. The rate of interest assessed respondent is the rate of the current value of funds to the U.S. Treasury on the date that the Order was entered. However, interest is waived on any portion paid within 30 days of the date of the Order. See 31 U.S.C.A. § 3717 and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9.

The civil monetary penalty will be delinquent if not paid by the due date specified in the Order. If the penalty becomes delinquent, interest will continue to accrue on the balance remaining due and unpaid, and respondent will also be assessed both an administrative charge to cover the cost of processing and handling the delinquent claim and a penalty charge of six percent per year. However, although the penalty charge will be computed from the date that the civil penalty becomes delinquent, it will be assessed only on sums due and unpaid for over 90 days after that date. See 31 U.S.C.A. § 3717 and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9.

The foregoing constitutes the initial written notice and demand to respondent in accordance with Section 901.2(b) of the Federal Claims Collection Standards (31 C.F.R. § 901.2(b)).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

)
)
In the Matter of)
)
) Case No. 01-09
Cook Composites and Polymers Company)
)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement is made by and between Cook Composites and Polymers Company (“CCP”), a domestic concern, resident in the State of Missouri, and the Office of Antiboycott Compliance, Bureau of Industry and Security, United States Department of Commerce (“Department”), pursuant to Section 766.18(a) of the Export Administration Regulations (currently codified at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2002)) (the “Regulations”), issued pursuant to the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (1994 & Supp. V. 1999)) (the “Act”).’ -

¹ On April 18, 2002, the Department of Commerce announced that the name of the Bureau of Export Administration (“BXA”) had been changed to the Bureau of Industry and Security (“BIS”) and made conforming changes in the Export Administration Regulations. *Fed. Reg.* 20630-32 (April 26, 2002). This change does not affect the substantive activities or responsibilities of BIS. All actions taken before, on or after April 18 under the name of BXA will be deemed to have been taken under the name BIS and all references to BXA are deemed to be to BIS.

² The Act expired on August 20, 2001. Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001 (3 C.F.R. 2001 Comp. 783 (2002)), as extended by the Notice of August 14, 2002 (67 *Fed. Reg.* 53721 (August 16, 2002)), continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.A. §§ 1701-1706 (1994 & supp. v. 1999)).

WHEREAS, the Department has notified CCP of its intention to initiate an administrative proceeding against CCP pursuant to Section 1 l(c) of the Act by issuing the Proposed Charging Letter dated March 27, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, for alleged violations of the Regulations committed by CCP; and

WHEREAS, CCP has reviewed the Proposed Charging Letter and is aware of the allegations against it and the administrative sanctions which could be imposed against it if the allegations are found to be true; CCP fully understands the terms of this Settlement Agreement, and enters into this Settlement Agreement voluntarily and with full knowledge of its rights; and CCP states that no promises or representations have been made to it other than the agreements and considerations herein expressed; and

WHEREAS, CCP neither admits nor denies the truth of the allegations, but wishes to settle and dispose of the allegations made in the Proposed Charging Letter by entering into this Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, CCP agrees to be bound by the appropriate Order ("Order") when entered;

NOW. THEREFORE, CCP and the Department agree as follows:

1. Under the Act and the Regulations, the Department has jurisdiction over CCP with respect to the matters alleged in the Proposed Charging Letter.
2. In complete settlement of all matters set forth in the Proposed Charging Letter, CCP will pay to the Department the amount of \$6,000 within 30 days of service of the Order, when entered.
3. As authorized by Section 1 l(d) of the Act, timely payment of the amount agreed to in paragraph 2 is hereby made a condition of the granting, restoration, or continuing validity of any export license, permission, or privilege granted, or to be granted, to CCP. Failure to make payment of this amount shall result in the denial of all of CCP's export privileges for a period of one year from the date of entry of the Order.
4. Subject to the approval of this Settlement Agreement pursuant to paragraph 9 hereof, CCP hereby waives all rights to further procedural steps in this matter

(except with respect to any alleged violation of this Settlement Agreement or the Order, when entered) including, without limitation, any right to:

- A. An administrative hearing regarding the allegations in the Proposed Charging Letter;
 - B. Request a refund of the funds paid by CCP pursuant to this Settlement Agreement and the Order, when entered; or
 - C. Seek judicial review or otherwise contest the validity of this Settlement Agreement or the Order, when entered.
5. The Department, upon entry of the Order, will not initiate any administrative or judicial proceeding, or make a referral to the Department of Justice or to any other agency of the United States Government for possible enforcement action, against CCP, its affiliated companies, or any of the officers, directors or employees of CCP or its affiliated companies, with respect to any violation of Section 8 of the Act or Part 760 of the Regulations arising out of the transactions set forth in the Proposed Charging Letter or any other transaction that was disclosed to or reviewed by the Department in the course of its investigation.

6. CCP understands that the Department will disclose publicly the Proposed Charging Letter, this Settlement Agreement, and the Order, when entered.

7. This Settlement Agreement is for settlement purposes only, and does not constitute an admission by CCP that it has violated the Regulations or an admission of the truth of any allegation contained in the Proposed Charging Letter or referred to in this Settlement Agreement. Therefore, if this Settlement Agreement is not accepted and the Order not entered by the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, the Department may not use this Settlement Agreement against CCP in any administrative or judicial proceeding.

8. No agreement, understanding, representation or interpretation not contained in this Settlement Agreement may be used to vary or otherwise affect the terms of this Settlement Agreement or the Order, when entered, nor shall this Settlement Agreement bind, constrain or otherwise limit any action by any other agency or department of the United States Government with respect to the facts and circumstances herein addressed.

9. This Settlement Agreement will, become binding on the Department only when approved by the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement by entering the Order.

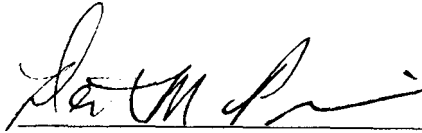
COOK COMPOSITES AND POLYMERS COMPANY



DATE: 5/1/03

Charles E. Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



D A T E : 6/4/03

Dexter M. Price
Director
Office of Antiboycott Compliance
Bureau of Industry and Security



PROPOSED CHARGING LETTER

March 27, 2003

Cook Composites and Polymers Company
820 East 14th Avenue
N. Kansas City, Missouri 6414 1

Attention: Mr. Charles E. Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Case No. 01-09

Gentlemen\Ladies:

We, the Bureau of Industry and Security, United States Department of Commerce (“BIS”), have reason to believe that you, Cook Composites and Polymers Company, have violated the Export Administration Regulations,¹ which are issued under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (the “Act”),² on two occasions.

¹ The Regulations are currently codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2002). The violations charged occurred in 1998. The Regulations governing the violations at issue are found in the 1997 and 1998 versions of the Code of Federal Regulations (15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (1997 and 1998)). They are substantially the same as the 2002 version of the Regulations which govern the procedural aspects of this case.

² 50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (1994 & Supp. V 1999). From August 21, 1994 through November 12, 2000, the Act was in lapse. During that period, the President, through Executive Order 12924, which had been extended by successive Presidential Notices, the last of which was August 3, 2000 (3 C.F.R., 2000 Comp. 397 (2001)), continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1706 (1994 & Supp. V 1999)) (“IEEPA”). On November 13, 2000, the Act was reauthorized by Pub. L. No. 106-508 and it remained in effect through August 20, 2001. Since August 21, 2001, the Act has been in lapse and the President, through Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001 (3 C.F.R., 2001 Comp. 783 (2002)), as extended by the Notice of August 14, 2002 (67 Fed. Reg. 53721, August 16, 2002)), has continued the Regulations in effect under IEEPA. The Act and Regulations are available on the Government Printing Office website at: <http://w3.access.gpo.gov/bis/>.



We charge that, with intent to comply with, further or support an unsanctioned foreign boycott, you committed one violation of Section 760.2(d) of the Regulations, in that, on one occasion you furnished information about your business relationships with or in a boycotted country. We also charge that you committed one violation of Section 760.5, in that, on one occasion you failed to report to the Department of Commerce your receipt of a request to engage in a restrictive trade practice or boycott, as required by the Regulations.

We allege that:

You are a domestic concern resident in the State of Missouri. As such, you are a United States person as defined in Section 760.1(b) of the Regulations.

During the period November 1997 through February 1998, you engaged in activities involving the sale and transfer of U.S. goods from the United States to Bahrain. Those activities were in the interstate and foreign commerce of the United States, as defined in Section 760.1(d) of the Regulations.

Charge 1 (Failing to Report, as Required by Section 760.5 of the Regulations, a Request to Engage in a Restrictive Trade Practice or Foreign Boycott of a Country Friendly to the United States)

In connection with the activities referred to above, on or about December 1, 1997, you received a copy of a letter of credit, number 1970607, issued by ABN AMRO Bank in Manama, Bahrain. Paragraph 46B of the letter of credit contained a request to take an action which would have the effect of furthering or supporting a restrictive trade practice or unsanctioned foreign boycott. The boycott request in paragraph 46B read as follows:

COMMERCIAL INVOICE IN THREE COPIES IN ARABIC OR ENGLISH
DULY SIGNED BY BENEFICIARIES ON C.I.F. BASIS CONFIRMING THAT
THE GOODS ARE NOT OF ISRAELI ORIGIN NOR DO THEY CONTAIN
ANY ISRAELI METERIAL [sic].

Section 760.5(b) of the Regulations requires United States persons to report to the Department their receipts of such requests.

You failed to report your receipt of the request described above. By failing to report your receipt of the request as directed by Section 760.5(b) of the Regulations, you are in violation of Section 760.5. Therefore, we charge you with one (1) violation of Section 760.5 of the Regulations.

Charge 2 (Furnishing Information about Business Relationships with Boycotted Countries in Violation of Section 760.2(d) of the Regulations)

In connection with the letter of credit transaction described above, on or about January 20, 1998, you, through your freight forwarder, provided a United States bank with a copy of a commercial invoice, which contained the following information:

WE CONFIRMED THAT THE GOODS ARE NOT OF ISRAELI ORIGIN NOR DO THEY CONTAIN ANY ISRAELI MATERIAL.

Section 760.2(d) of the Regulations prohibits U.S. persons from furnishing information about business relationships with or in a boycotted country. By providing the information described above, with intent to comply with, further or support an unsanctioned foreign boycott, you violated Section 760.2(d) on one occasion. Therefore, we charge you with one violation of Section 760.2(d).

Accordingly, administrative proceedings are instituted against you pursuant to Part 766 of the Regulations for the purpose of obtaining an order imposing administrative sanctions.³

You are entitled to a hearing on the record as provided in Section 766.6 of the Regulations. If you wish to have a hearing on the record, you must file a written demand for it with your answer. You are entitled to be represented by counsel, and under Section 766.18 of the Regulations, to seek a settlement agreement.

If you fail to answer the allegations contained in this letter within thirty (30) days after service as provided in Section 766.6, such failure will be treated as a default under Section 766.7.

As provided in Section 766.3 of the Regulations, I am referring this matter to the Administrative Law Judge. Pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between BIS and the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard is providing administrative law judge services, to the extent that such services

³ Administrative sanctions may include any or all of the following:

- a. A civil penalty of \$11,000 per violation (see Section 764.3(a)(1) of the Regulations and 15 C.F.R. § 6.4(a)(3), 2002);
- b. Denial of export privileges (see Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations); and/or
- c. Exclusion from practice before BIS (see Section 764.3(a)(3) of the Regulations).

are required under the Regulations, in connection with matters set forth in this letter. Therefore, in accordance with the instructions in Section 766.5(a) of the Regulations, your answer should be filed with:

Attention: Administrative Law Judge
U.S. Coast Guard ALJ Docketing Center
40 South Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-4022

Also, in accordance with the instruction in Section 766.5(b) of the Regulations, a copy of your answer should also be served on BIS at:

Office of the Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Room H-3839
Bureau of Industry and Security
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Sincerely,

Dexter M. Price
Director
Office of Antiboycott Compliance