



# NEWS RELEASE

MARY BETH BUCHANAN  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

633 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse • Seventh Avenue and Grant Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15219 • (412) 644-3500

---

United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, February 14, 2003, that Louis Joseph, a resident of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc., pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of false and fraudulent claims.

Joseph, age 43, who resides at 6215 5th Avenue, Apt. 7, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232 and American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc., located at 5001 Baum Boulevard, Suite 465, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213 pleaded guilty to one count before United Statee District Judge Gary L. Lancaster.

In connection with the guilty plea, Assistant United States Attorney Dennis P. Kissane advised the court that Joseph, through the company he operated, American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc. entered into 33 separate contracts with the United States Department of Defense between November, 1999 and May, 2002. The contracts required that the products to be provided be manufactured by only approved sources, or to be certified to be in compliance with particular contract requirements. Joseph, through American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc., instead provided products from unapproved sources of supply and falsely certified

that the products were in compliance with the contract. Total losses to the government were \$106,982.67.

Judge Lancaster scheduled sentencing for May 16, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. The law provides for a total sentence of not more than five years in prison, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both for Joseph and a fine of not more than \$500,000 for American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Joseph and American Plumbing Specialties Company, Inc.