

**BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, PA 19103**



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|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In the Matter of: |) | |
| |) | DOCKET NO. TSCA-03-2025-0032 |
| |) | |
| HOME FIX CUSTOM REMODELING CORP. |) | EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT |
| 14880 SWEITZER LANE |) | AGREEMENT |
| LAUREL, MD 20707 |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. This Expedited Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 (“EPA” or “Complainant”), and Home Fix Custom Remodeling Corp. (“Respondent”), pursuant to Section 16(a) and 409 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) and 2689, and the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits* (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (with specific reference to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2), and (3)). The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Regional Administrator, who in turn, has delegated it to the Complainant.

2. The EPA has jurisdiction over the above-captioned matter pursuant to pursuant to Section 16(a) and 409 of the TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) and 2689, and 40 C.F.R. Part 22 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, including specifically, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2), and (3).

3. The EPA alleges that Respondent failed to comply with Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

4. Respondent is a “person” as defined under 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 and a “firm” as defined under 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

5. On October 19, 2023, an EPA inspector conducted an announced TSCA Lead records inspection at Respondent's office located at 14880 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 to determine compliance with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule, codified in Title 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

6. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a), Respondent was required to provide the EPA inspector with records documenting that the safe work practices and cleanup standards were followed during the renovations for compensation in housing constructed prior to 1978.

7. During the October 19, 2023, inspection, the Respondent failed to retain or make available the records required by 745.86(a) documenting that the safe work practices and cleanup standards were followed during the renovations.

8. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around March 3, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 2001 Brierhill Rd., Fort Washington, MD 20744.

9. The Property described in paragraph 8 above was constructed in 1968, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

10. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around March 28, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 4824 Avondale Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20782.

11. The Property described in paragraph 10 above was constructed in 1949, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

12. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around April 24, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 840 Jefferson Ave., Charles Town, WV 25414.

13. The Property described in paragraph 12 above was constructed in 1953, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

14. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around May 13, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 29 Cedar Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21060.

15. The Property described in paragraph 14 above was constructed in 1950, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

16. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around July 3, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 8004 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

17. The Property described in paragraph 16 above was constructed in 1938, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

18. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around August 1, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 420 Duvall Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403.

19. The Property described in paragraph 18 above was constructed in 1966, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

20. As a result of the EPA's investigation, the EPA believes that on or around September 20, 2023, Respondent conducted a renovation, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at 811 Butternut Street NW, Washington, DC 20012.

21. The Property described in paragraph 20 above was constructed in 1914, prior to 1978, and is target housing within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).

22. Respondent is a firm, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

23. Respondent failed to provide the EPA inspector with records documenting that the safe work practices and cleanup standards required by 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a) were followed during the renovations at the properties described in paragraphs 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a).

24. In failing to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a), Respondent is subject to the assessment of civil penalties under 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

25. Respondent certifies that it has not had the same, or closely-related violations, that were the subject of an enforcement action under TSCA in the past five (5) years.

26. Complainant and Respondent agree that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is **seven thousand** dollars **\$7,000** and agree that settlement of this matter for a penalty of **\$7,000** is in the public interest. In calculating this amount, Complainant considered

the statutory factors set forth in Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(B) and the EPA's Lead-Based Paint Expedited Settlement Agreement Policy (August 19, 2015).

27. Respondent agrees that, within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreement, Respondent shall make a payment of **\$7,000** to **"United States Treasury"** with the case name, address and docket number of this Agreement (TSCA-03-2025-0032), for the amount specified above. Respondent shall pay the assessed penalty and any interest, fees, and other charges due using any method, or combination of appropriate methods, as provided on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For additional instructions see: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>.

28. Within 24 hours of payment, Respondent shall send a copy of the payment to:

Annie Hoyt
Compliance Officer
EPA Region 3
Hoyt.annie@epa.gov

and

Regional Hearing Clerk (3RC00)
EPA Region 3
R3_Hearing_Clerk@epa.gov

By written notice to Respondent, EPA may change the address and/or person listed above.

29. In signing this Agreement, the Respondent: admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this Agreement; neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations set forth in this Agreement, except as provided in the jurisdictional admission above; agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction with respect to the execution of this Agreement, the issuance of the attached Final Order, or the enforcement the Agreement; expressly waives its right to a hearing on any issue of law or fact set forth in this Agreement and any right to appeal the accompanying Final Order; consents to the issuance of the Agreement and agrees to comply with its terms; and bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

30. The penalty, including interest, paid by Respondent pursuant to the requirements of this Agreement, represents civil penalties assessed by EPA, and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal, state, or local income taxes.

31. By its signature below, Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that (1) he or she has

corrected the alleged violations, and (2) any documentation or information that he or she provided to EPA was true and accurate.

32. This Agreement and the attached Final Order constitute a settlement by EPA of its claims for civil penalties for the violations alleged in this Agreement.

33. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. In addition, this settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Sections 22.18(c) and 22.31(a) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice. Further, EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under the TSCA regulations promulgated, and any other federal laws or regulations for which EPA has jurisdiction, to enforce the provisions of this Agreement, following its filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

34. Late payment of the agreed upon penalty may subject Respondent to interest, administrative costs and late payment penalties in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11.

35. This Agreement is binding on the parties signing below and is effective upon filing, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b).

36. The undersigned representative certifies that she/he is fully authorized to execute this Agreement and to legally bind Respondent.

37. As permitted under 40 C.F.R. § 22.6, the Regional Hearing Clerk will serve copies of this Agreement and Final Order by e-mail to the parties at the following valid e-mail addresses: hoyt.annie@epa.gov (for Complainant), and jvm@installservices.net (for Respondent).

38. By signing this Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this Agreement and Final Order will be available to the public and represents that, to the best of Respondent's knowledge and belief, this Agreement and Final Order does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information from Respondent.

39. By signing this Agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the final order accompanying the Agreement.

40. Failure of Respondent to remit the civil penalties provided herein will result in this matter being forwarded to the United States Department of Justice for collection of the

amount due, plus stipulated penalties and interest at the statutory judgment rate provided in 28 U.S.C. § 1961.

For Respondent: HOMEFIX CUSTOM REMODELING CORP.

Name (print): Jonathan V. Morse

Title (print): Managing Partner

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. V. Morse', is written over the signature line.

Date 12/5/24

For Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region3

After reviewing the Agreement and other pertinent matters, I, the undersigned Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and recommend that the Regional Administrator, or his/her designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, issue the attached Final Order.

(Digital Signature and Date)

Karen Melvin, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103



IN THE MATTER OF:) DOCKET NO.: TSCA-03-2025-0032
)
HOMEFIX CUSTOM REMODELING CORP.) FINAL ORDER
14880 SWEITZER LANE)
LAUREL, MD 20707)
)
Respondent.)
)

FINAL ORDER

Complainant, the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 3, and Respondent, Homefix Custom Remodeling Corp., have executed a document entitled "Expedited Settlement Agreement," which I hereby ratify as a Consent Agreement in accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits* ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. Part 22, (with specific reference to Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3)). The terms of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement are accepted by the undersigned and incorporated herein as if set forth at length.

Based upon the representations of the parties in the attached Expedited Settlement Agreement, after taking into account the statutory factors set forth in TSCA, Section 16(a), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), the penalty agreed to therein is in the public interest and has been calculated pursuant to EPA's August 19, 2015 *Lead-Based Paint Expedited Settlement Agreement Policy*.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Section 16(a)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), as amended, 15 U.S.C § 2615(a)(1), and Section 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of **SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$7,000)**, in accordance with the payment provisions set forth in the Consent Agreement, and comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement.

This Final Order constitutes the final Agency action in this proceeding. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief, or criminal sanctions for any violations of the law. This Final Order resolves only those causes of action alleged in the Expedited Settlement Agreement and does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.*, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

The effective date of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

[Digital Signature and Date]

Joseph J. Lisa
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA - Region 3

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**

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| In the Matter of: | : | |
| | : | |
| HOMEFIX CUSTOM REMODELING CORP. | : | |
| 14880 SWEITZER LANE | : | U.S. EPA Docket No. TSCA-03-2025-0032 |
| LAURLE, MD 20707 | : | |
| | : | Proceeding under Section 16(a) and 409 of |
| Respondent. | : | the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. |
| | : | § 2615(a) and 2689 |

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing ***Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order*** was filed with the EPA Region 3 Regional Hearing Clerk on the date that has been electronically stamped on the ***Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order***. I further certify that on the date set forth below, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing to each of the following persons, in the manner specified below, at the following addresses:

Copies served via email to:

Jonathan V. Morse
Homefix Custom Remodeling Corp.
14880 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707
jvm@installservices.net

Annie Hoyt
Compliance Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 3
hoyt.annie@epa.gov

[Digital Signature and Date]
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

