

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

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In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Ameri-Source, Inc.	)	08-BIS-15
5372 Enterprise Boulevard	)	
Bethel Park, PA 15102	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	
_____	)	

ORDER RELATING TO AMERI-SOURCE, INC.

The Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce (“BIS”) has initiated an administrative proceeding against Ameri-Source, Inc. (“Ameri-Source”), pursuant to Section 766.3 of the Export Administration Regulations (currently codified at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2007)) (the “Regulations”),<sup>1</sup> and Section 13(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (2000)) (the “Act”),<sup>2</sup> through issuance of a charging letter to Ameri-Source that alleged that Ameri-Source committed one violation of the Regulations. Specifically:

**Charge 1: 15 C.F.R. § 764.2(b) – Causing, Aiding or Abetting**

On or about December 2, 2003, Ameri-Source caused, aided, abetted, and permitted the doing of an act prohibited by the Regulations, by causing, aiding, abetting and permitting the making of a false representation or statement to the U.S. Government in connection with the preparation and submission of a Shipper’s Export Declaration (SED), an export

<sup>1</sup> The violations alleged to have been committed occurred in 2003. The Regulations governing the violations at issue are found in the 2003 version of the Code of Federal Regulations (15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2003)). The 2008 Regulations establish the procedures that apply to this matter.

<sup>2</sup> 50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (2000). 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 most recently by the Notice of July 23, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 43,603 (July 25, 2008)), has continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1706 (2000)).

control document. The SED falsely represented and stated that the item being exported from the United States was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In fact, an Ameri-Source employee and others created a forged mill certificate falsely indicating that the item was "UCAR" graphite. The forged certificate was then submitted to a freight forwarder. Based on this false information, the freight forwarder prepared and filed an SED falsely stating that the item was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In so doing, Ameri-Source committed one violation of Section 764.2(b) of the Regulations.

WHEREAS, BIS and Ameri-Source have entered into a Settlement Agreement pursuant to Section 766.18(b) of the Regulations whereby they agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth therein, and

WHEREAS, I have approved of the terms of such Settlement Agreement;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


FIRST, that a civil penalty of \$11,500 is assessed against Ameri-Source, which shall be paid to the U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days from the date of entry of this Order. Payment shall be made in the manner specified in the attached instructions.

SECOND, that, pursuant to the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended (31 U.S.C. §§ 3701-3720E (2000)), 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, Ameri-Source will be assessed, in addition to the full amount of the civil penalty and interest, a penalty charge and an administrative charge, as more fully described in the attached Notice.

THIRD, that the timely payment of the civil penalty set forth above is hereby made a condition to the granting, restoration, or continuing validity of any export license, license exception, permission, or privilege granted, or to be granted, to Ameri-Source. Accordingly, if Ameri-Source should fail to pay the civil penalty in a timely manner, the undersigned may enter an Order denying all of Ameri-Source's export privileges for a period of one year from the date of entry of this Order.

FOURTH, that the proposed charging letter, the Settlement Agreement, and this Order shall be made available to the public.

This Order, which constitutes the final agency action in this matter, is effective immediately.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Delli-Colli  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Export Enforcement

Entered this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY  
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In the Matter of:	)	
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Ameri-Source, Inc.	)	08-BIS-15
5372 Enterprise Boulevard	)	
Bethel Park, PA 15102	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by Ameri-Source, Inc. (“Ameri-Source”), and the Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce (“BIS”) (collectively, the “Parties”), pursuant to Section 766.18(a) of the Export Administration Regulations (currently codified at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2008)) (the “Regulations”),<sup>1</sup> issued pursuant to the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (2000)) (the “Act”),<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The violations alleged to have been committed occurred in 2003. The Regulations governing the violations at issue are found in the 2003 version of the Code of Federal Regulations (15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2003)). The 2008 Regulations establish the procedures that apply to this matter.

<sup>2</sup> 50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (2000). 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 most recently by the Notice of July 23, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 43,603 (July 25, 2008)), has continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1706 (2000)).

WHEREAS, BIS has initiated an administrative proceeding against Ameri-Source, case number 08-BIS-15, pursuant to the Act and the Regulations;

WHEREAS, BIS has issued a charging letter to Ameri-Source that alleged that Ameri-Source is liable for one violation of the Regulations, specifically:

**Charge 1: 15 C.F.R. § 764.2(b) – Causing, Aiding or Abetting**

On or about December 2, 2003, Ameri-Source caused, aided, abetted, and permitted the doing of an act prohibited by the Regulations, by causing, aiding, abetting and permitting the making of a false representation or statement to the U.S. Government in connection with the preparation and submission of a Shipper's Export Declaration (SED), an export control document. The SED falsely represented and stated that the item being exported from the United States was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In fact, an Ameri-Source employee and others created a forged mill certificate falsely indicating that the item was "UCAR" graphite. The forged certificate was then submitted to a freight forwarder. Based on this false information, the freight forwarder prepared and filed an SED falsely stating that the item was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In so doing, Ameri-Source committed one violation of Section 764.2(b) of the Regulations.

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source has reviewed the charging letter and is aware of the allegations made against it and the administrative sanctions which could be imposed against it if the allegations are found to be true;

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source fully understands the terms of this Agreement and the Order ("Order") that the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement will issue if he approves this Agreement as the final resolution of this matter;

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source enters into this Agreement voluntarily and with full knowledge of its rights;

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source states that no promises or representations have been made to it other than the agreements and considerations herein expressed;

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source neither admits nor denies the allegations contained in the charging letter;



WHEREAS, Ameri-Source wishes to settle and dispose of all matters alleged in the charging letter by entering into this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Ameri-Source agrees to be bound by the Order, if entered;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. BIS has jurisdiction over Ameri-Source, under the Regulations, in connection with the matters alleged in the charging letter.
2. The following sanction shall be imposed against Ameri-Source in complete settlement of the alleged violations of the Regulations relating to the transactions specifically detailed in the charging letter:
  - a. Ameri-Source shall be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$11,500, all of which shall be paid to the U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days from the date of entry of the Order.
  - b. The timely payment of the civil penalty agreed to in paragraph 2.a 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 Ameri-Source. Failure to make timely payment of the civil penalty set forth above may result in the denial of all of Ameri-Source's export privileges for a period of one year from the date of imposition of the penalty.
3. Subject to the approval of this Agreement pursuant to paragraph 8 hereof, Ameri-Source hereby waives all rights to further procedural steps in this matter (except with respect to any alleged violations of this Agreement or the Order, if entered), including, without limitation, any right to: (a) an administrative hearing regarding the allegations in any charging letter; (b) request a refund of any civil penalty paid pursuant

to this Agreement and the Order, if entered; and (c) seek judicial review or otherwise contest the validity of this Agreement or the Order, if entered.

4. Upon entry of the Order and timely payment of the \$11,500 civil penalty, BIS will not initiate any further administrative proceeding against Ameri-Source in connection with any violation of the Act or the Regulations arising out of the transactions identified in the charging letter.

5. BIS will make the charging letter, this Agreement, and the Order, if entered, available to the public.


6. This Agreement is for settlement purposes only. Therefore, if this Agreement is not accepted and the Order is not issued by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement pursuant to Section 766.18(a) of the Regulations, no Party may use this Agreement in any administrative or judicial proceeding and the Parties shall not be bound by the terms contained in this Agreement in any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding.

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

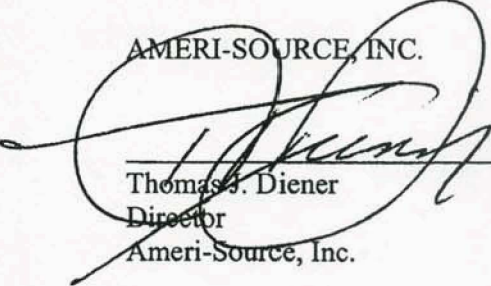
8. This Agreement shall become binding on the Parties only if the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement approves it by entering the Order, which will have the same force and effect as a decision and order issued after a full administrative hearing on the record.

9. Each signatory affirms that he has authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement and to bind his respective party to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Madigan  
Director  
Office of Export Enforcement

AMERI-SOURCE, INC.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Diener  
Director  
Ameri-Source, Inc.

Date: 2/4/09

Date: 2/3/09



COPY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Bureau of Industry and Security  
Washington, D.C. 20230

CHARGING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JEC - 2 2008

RECEIVED  
ALJ DOCKETING CENTER  
2008 DEC - 3 A 10:47  
BALTIMORE, MD

Ameri-Source, Inc.  
5372 Enterprise Boulevard  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Attn: *Thomas J. Diener*  
*Director*

Dear Mr. Diener:

The Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce ("BIS"), has reason to believe that Ameri-Source, Inc. ("Ameri-Source"), of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, has committed one (1) violation of the Export Administration Regulations (the "Regulations"),<sup>1</sup> which are issued under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (the "Act").<sup>2</sup> Specifically, BIS charges that Ameri-Source committed the following violation:

**Charge 1: 15 C.F.R. § 764.2(b) – Causing, Aiding or Abetting**

On or about December 2, 2003, Ameri-Source caused, aided, abetted, and permitted the doing of an act prohibited by the Regulations, by causing, aiding, abetting and permitting the making of a false representation or statement to the U.S. Government in connection with the preparation and submission of a Shipper's Export Declaration (SED), an export control document. The SED falsely represented and stated that the item being exported from the United States was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In fact, an Ameri-Source employee and others created a forged mill certificate falsely indicating that the item was "UCAR" graphite. The forged certificate was then submitted to a freight forwarder. Based on this false information, the freight forwarder prepared and filed

<sup>1</sup> The Regulations are currently codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2008). The violation charged occurred in 2003. The Regulations governing the violations at issue are found in the 2003 version of the Code of Federal Regulations. 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2003). The 2008 Regulations govern the procedural aspects of this case.

<sup>2</sup> 50 U.S.C. app. §§ 2401-2420 (2000). 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 most recently by the Notice of July 23, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 43,603 (July 25, 2008)), has continued the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1706 (2000)).





an SED falsely stating that the item was "UCAR-GRAPHITE." In so doing, Ameri-Source committed one violation of Section 764.2(b) of the Regulations.

\* \* \* \*

Accordingly, Ameri-Source is hereby notified that an administrative proceeding is instituted against it pursuant to Section 13(c) of the Act and Part 766 of the Regulations for the purpose of obtaining an order imposing administrative sanctions, including any or all of the following:

The maximum civil penalty allowed by law of \$250,000 per violation;<sup>3</sup>

Denial of export privileges; and/or

Exclusion from practice before BIS.

If Ameri-Source fails to answer the charges contained in this letter within 30 days after being served with notice of issuance of this letter, that failure will be treated as a default. *See* 15 C.F.R. §§ 766.6 and 766.7. If Ameri-Source defaults, the Administrative Law Judge may find the charges alleged in this letter are true without a hearing or further notice to Ameri-Source. The Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security may then impose up to the maximum penalty for the charges in this letter.

Ameri-Source is further notified that it is entitled to an agency hearing on the record if it files a written demand for one with its answer. *See* 15 C.F.R. § 766.6. Ameri-Source is also entitled to be represented by counsel or other authorized representative who has power of attorney to represent it. *See* 15 C.F.R. §§ 766.3(a) and 766.4.

The Regulations provide for settlement without a hearing. *See* 15 C.F.R. § 766.18. Should Ameri-Source have a proposal to settle this case, Ameri-Source or its representative should transmit it to the attorney representing BIS named below.

Ameri-Source is further notified that under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Flexibility Act, Ameri-Source may be eligible for assistance from the Office of the National Ombudsman of the Small Business Administration in this matter. To determine eligibility and get more information, please see: <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman/>.

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<sup>3</sup> *See* International Emergency Economic Powers Enhancement Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-96, 121 Stat. 1011 (2007).

The U.S. Coast Guard is providing administrative law judge services in connection with the matters set forth in this letter. Accordingly, Ameri-Source's answer must be filed in accordance with the instructions in Section 766.5(a) of the Regulations with:

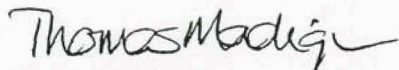
U.S. Coast Guard ALJ Docketing Center  
40 S. Gay Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-4022

In addition, a copy of Ameri-Source's answer must be served on BIS at the following address:

Chief Counsel for Industry and Security  
Attention: Adrienne Frazier, Esq.  
Room H-3839  
United States Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Adrienne Frazier is the attorney representing BIS in this case; any communications that Ameri-Source may wish to have concerning this matter should occur through her. Ms. Frazier may be contacted by telephone at (202) 482-5301.

Sincerely,



Thomas Madigan  
Director  
Office of Export Enforcement