

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENTAL APPEALS BOARD
CIVIL REMEDIES DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

In the Case of:)
)
Center for Tobacco Products,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.)
)
MFA Petroleum Company)
d/b/a Break Time 3028,)
)
Respondent.)

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT
FOR NO-TOBACCO-SALE ORDER**

FDA Docket No. FDA-2016-R-1850
CRD Docket No. T-16-1169

INTRODUCTION

1. The Center for Tobacco Products (“CTP”), Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”), United States Department of Health and Human Services, seeks to have the Secretary impose a No-Tobacco-Sale Order (“NTSO”) for a period of six (6) months on MFA Petroleum Company, d/b/a Break Time 3028 (Respondent) for repeatedly violating FDA’s tobacco regulations promulgated under Section 906(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“Act”) (21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)). As described in more detail below, FDA-commissioned inspectors observed six (6) repeated violations of FDA’s tobacco regulations over a 36-month period, as shown in the following table:¹

¹ The table identifies only Respondent’s violations of regulations promulgated under Section 906(d) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 387f(d), and excludes any repeated violations that occurred outside of the 36-month period and any violations of other Act sections that are not at issue in this case.

Charged Violation ²	Dates of Inspection					Number of Repeated Violations
	08/07/2013	01/21/2014 & 01/23/2014	12/13/2014 & 12/17/2014	06/08/2015 & 06/10/2015	02/22/2016 & 02/23/2016	
Selling cigarettes / smokeless tobacco to a minor, 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a)	OV	X	X	X	X	4
Failing to verify ID for cigarettes / smokeless tobacco sale, 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1)	OV	X		X		2
FDA Action	Warning Letter Sent 09/19/2013	First CMP Initiated 06/20/2014	Second CMP Initiated 04/08/2015	First NTSO Initiated 10/26/2015	Current Complaint	Total: 6 Repeated Violations

LEGAL AUTHORITY

2. FDA has the authority to impose an NTSO prohibiting the sale of tobacco products at a retail outlet on any person who commits repeated violations of requirements promulgated under Section 906(d) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)). 21 U.S.C. § 333(f)(8). “Repeated violations” is defined as at least five (5) violations of particular requirements over a 36-month period at a particular retail outlet. See Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act, Pub. L. No. 111-31, § 103(q)(1)(A), 123 Stat. 1776, 1838 (2009).
3. The Act prohibits the misbranding of a tobacco product while such product is held for sale after shipment of the product or its components in interstate commerce. 21 U.S.C. § 331(k).

² “OV” indicates an original violation. “X” indicates a repeated violation.

4. A tobacco product is deemed to be misbranded if it is sold or distributed in violation of regulations issued under Section 906(d) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)). 21 U.S.C. § 387c(a)(7)(B); 21 C.F.R. § 1140.1(b).
5. The regulations at 21 C.F.R. Part 1140 were issued under Section 906(d) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)). Therefore, selling or distributing a tobacco product in violation of these regulations causes that tobacco product to be misbranded.
6. FDA has documented multiple repeated violations of 21 C.F.R. Part 1140 at Respondent's establishment, as detailed below.
7. Retailers who have committed five (5) or more repeated violations of particular requirements promulgated under Section 906(d) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)) within a 36-month period are subject to an NTSO for a period provided in the following table:

Number of NTSOs received by Retailer	Maximum Period of Time for NTSO
First NTSO	30 Calendar Days
Second NTSO	6 Months
Third (and subsequent) NTSO	Permanent NTSO

See CTP, U.S. FDA., U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs., Determination of the Period Covered by a No-Tobacco-Sale Order and Compliance with an Order (August 2015), *available at*

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/RulesRegulationsGuidance/UCM460155.pdf>.

CURRENT ALLEGATIONS

8. Respondent owns an establishment that does business under the name Break Time 3028, located at 110A East Nifong Boulevard, Columbia, MO 65203.
9. Respondent's establishment receives tobacco products, including Grizzly Long Cut Premium Wintergreen smokeless tobacco and L&M cigarettes, in interstate commerce and holds them for sale after shipment in interstate commerce.
10. On February 22, 2016, an FDA-commissioned inspector conducted an inspection of Break Time 3028 and documented that Respondent committed a violation for selling cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, or smokeless tobacco to a minor, in violation of 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a). Specifically, a person younger than 18 years of age was able to purchase a package of Grizzly Long Cut Premium Wintergreen smokeless tobacco on February 22, 2016, at approximately 8:54 AM.

PREVIOUS CASE HISTORY

11. Respondent has been the subject of one prior CTP NTSO and two prior CTP Civil Money Penalty ("CMP") actions based on its violations of the Act.
12. On October 26, 2015, CTP initiated an NTSO action against Respondent, alleging that FDA-commissioned inspectors documented the following violations at Respondent's establishment:
 - a. Sale to a minor (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a)) on June 8, 2015, December 13, 2014, January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013; and
 - b. Failure to verify the age of a person purchasing tobacco products by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1)) on June 8, 2015, January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013.

See Compl., FDA Docket Number FDA-2015-R-3483 (Most Recent NTSO Action). The Most Recent NTSO Action concluded with MFA Petroleum Company d/b/a Break Time 3028 admitting all of the allegations in the Complaint, agreeing to a duration for the NTSO, and the Court issuing an NTSO for the agreed-upon time period. In acknowledging that the alleged violations occurred, Respondent expressly waived its right to contest such violations in subsequent actions. See Attachment to Notice of Settlement Agreement, FDA-2015-R-3483.

13. On April 8, 2015, CTP initiated its second CMP action against Respondent, alleging that FDA-commissioned inspectors documented the following violations at Respondent's establishment:
 - a. Sale to a minor (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a)) on December 13, 2014, January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013; and
 - b. Failure to verify the age of a person purchasing tobacco products by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1)) on January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013.

See Compl., FDA Docket Number FDA-2015-H-1098, CRD Docket Number C-15-1929. The CMP Action concluded with MFA Petroleum Company d/b/a Break Time 3028 admitting all of the allegations in the Complaint and paying the agreed upon penalty, and the Court closing the case. In acknowledging that the alleged violations occurred, Respondent expressly waived its right to contest such violations in subsequent actions. See Attachment to Notice of Settlement Agreement, FDA Docket Number FDA-2015-H-1098, CRD Docket Number C-15-1929.

14. On June 20, 2014, CTP initiated its first CMP action against Respondent, alleging that FDA-commissioned inspectors documented the following violations at Respondent's establishment:
 - a. Sale to a minor (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a)) on January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013; and
 - b. Failure to verify the age of a person purchasing tobacco products by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth (21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1)) on January 21, 2014, and August 7, 2013.

See Compl., FDA Docket Number FDA-2014-H-0808, CRD Docket Number C-14-1315. The CMP Action concluded with MFA Petroleum Company d/b/a Break Time 3028 admitting all of the allegations in the Complaint and paying the agreed upon penalty, and the Court closing the case. In acknowledging that the alleged violations occurred, Respondent expressly waived its right to contest such violations in subsequent actions. See Attachment to Notice of Settlement Agreement, FDA Docket Number FDA-2014-H-0808, CRD Docket Number C-14-1315.

15. As described in the paragraphs above, Respondent has committed:
 - a. Four repeated violations and one original violation of 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a); and
 - b. Two repeated violations and one original violation of 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1).

Accordingly, Respondent has committed a total of six repeated violations of particular requirements in 21 C.F.R. Part 1140 within a 36-month period.

OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO COMPLAINT

16. Respondent must respond to this Complaint. The cover letter provides information on options for responding. Respondent has the right to request a hearing by filing an Answer within 30 days after service of the Complaint. 21 C.F.R. § 17.9. The Answer will be deemed to be a request for a hearing, unless the Answer states otherwise. Failure to file an Answer within 30 days after service of the Complaint may result in a default order. 21 C.F.R. § 17.11. The Answer must be filed with the Departmental Appeals Board, Civil Remedies Division, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Cohen Building, Room G-644 (MS 6132), ATTN: FDA NTSO, Washington, D.C. 20201. The Answer must include both the FDA Docket Number and CRD Docket Number, which are found at the top of this document.
17. Respondent has the right, but is not required to retain counsel for representation.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

18. CTP respectfully requests that this Court impose a no-tobacco-sale order for a period of six months on Respondent.

DATED: July 1, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Shannon M. Singleton
Attorney for Complainant
Center for Tobacco Products
United States Food and Drug
Administration
Office of the Chief Counsel
White Oak 32 Room 4312
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002
Phone: (301) 796-8717
Fax: (301) 847-8618
Shannon.Singleton@fda.hhs.gov