

Food and Drug Administration, HHS

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device, or any defect in mechanical, physical, or chemical properties of a device.

(b) *Person or respondent* includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, scientific or academic establishment, government agency or organizational unit thereof, or other legal entity, or as may be defined in the act or regulation pertinent to the civil penalty action being brought.

(c) *Presiding officer* means an administrative law judge qualified under 5 U.S.C. 3105.

(d) Any term that is defined in the act has the same definition for civil money penalty actions that may be brought under that act.

(e) Any term that is defined in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations has the same definition for civil money penalty actions that may arise from the application of the regulation(s).

(f) Any term that is defined in the PHS Act has the same definition for civil money penalty actions that may be brought under that act.

(g) *Departmental Appeals Board (DAB)* means the Departmental Appeals Board of the Department of Health and Human Services.

[60 FR 38626, July 27, 1995, as amended at 82 FR 34402, July 25, 2017]

§ 17.5 Complaint.

(a) The Center with principal jurisdiction over the matter involved shall begin all administrative civil money penalty actions by serving on the respondent(s) a complaint signed by the Office of the Chief Counsel attorney for the Center and by filing a copy of the complaint with the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. For a civil money penalty action against retailers of tobacco products, the complaint may be signed by any Agency employee designated by the Chief Counsel.

(b) The complaint shall state:

(1) The allegations of liability against the respondent, including the statutory basis for liability, the identification of violations that are the basis for the alleged liability, and the reasons that the respondent is responsible for the violations;

(2) The amount of penalties and assessments that the Center is seeking;

(3) Instructions for filing an answer to request a hearing, including a specific statement of the respondent's right to request a hearing by filing an answer and to retain counsel to represent the respondent; and

(4) That failure to file an answer within 30 days of service of the complaint will result in the imposition of the proposed amount of penalties and assessments, as provided in § 17.11.

(c) The Center may, on motion, subsequently amend its complaint to conform with the evidence adduced during the administrative process, as justice may require.

(d) The presiding officer will be assigned to the case upon the filing of the complaint under this part.

[60 FR 38626, July 27, 1995, as amended at 79 FR 6091, Feb. 3, 2014]

§ 17.7 Service of complaint.

(a) Service of a complaint may be made by:

(1) Certified or registered mail or similar mail delivery service with a return receipt record reflecting receipt; or

(2) Delivery in person to:

(i) An individual respondent; or
(ii) An officer or managing or general agent in the case of a corporation or unincorporated business.

(b) Proof of service, stating the name and address of the person on whom the complaint was served, and the manner and date of service, may be made by:

(1) Affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury of the individual serving the complaint by personal delivery;

(2) A United States Postal Service or similar mail delivery service return receipt record reflecting receipt; or

(3) Written acknowledgment of receipt by the respondent or by the respondent's counsel or authorized representative or agent.

§ 17.9 Answer.

(a) The respondent may request a hearing by filing an answer with the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, within 30 days of service of the

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complaint. Unless stated otherwise, an answer shall be deemed to be a request for hearing.

(b) In the answer, the respondent:

(1) Shall admit or deny each of the allegations of liability made in the complaint; allegations not specifically denied in an answer are deemed admitted;

(2) Shall state all defenses on which the respondent intends to rely;

(3) Shall state all reasons why the respondent contends that the penalties and assessments should be less than the requested amount; and

(4) Shall state the name, address, and telephone number of the respondent's counsel, if any.

(c) If the respondent is unable to file an answer meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section within the time provided, the respondent shall, before the expiration of 30 days from service of the complaint, file a request for an extension of time within which to file an answer that meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section. The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, grant the respondent up to 30 additional days within which to file an answer that meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) The respondent may, on motion, amend its answer to conform with the evidence as justice may require.

§ 17.11 Default upon failure to file an answer.

(a) If the respondent does not file an answer within the time prescribed in § 17.9 and if service has been effected as provided in § 17.7, the presiding officer shall assume the facts alleged in the complaint to be true, and, if such facts establish liability under the relevant statute, the presiding officer shall issue an initial decision within 30 days of the time the answer was due, imposing:

(1) The maximum amount of penalties provided for by law for the violations alleged; or

(2) The amount asked for in the complaint, whichever amount is smaller.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, by failing to file a timely answer, the respondent waives any right to a hearing and to contest the

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amount of the penalties and assessments imposed under paragraph (a) of this section, and the initial decision shall become final and binding upon the parties 30 days after it is issued.

(c) If, before such a decision becomes final, the respondent files a motion seeking to reopen on the grounds that extraordinary circumstances prevented the respondent from filing an answer, the initial decision shall be stayed pending a decision on the motion.

(d) If, on such motion, the respondent can demonstrate extraordinary circumstances excusing the failure to file an answer in a timely manner, the presiding officer may withdraw the decision under paragraph (a) of this section, if such a decision has been issued, and shall grant the respondent an opportunity to answer the complaint as provided in § 17.9(a).

(e) If the presiding officer decides that the respondent's failure to file an answer in a timely manner is not excused, he or she shall affirm the decision under paragraph (a) of this section, and the decision shall become final and binding upon the parties 30 days after the presiding officer issues the decision on the respondent's motion filed under paragraph (c) of this section.

§ 17.13 Notice of hearing.

After an answer has been filed, the Center shall serve a notice of hearing on the respondent. Such notice shall include:

(a) The date, time, and place of a prehearing conference, if any, or the date, time, and place of the hearing if there is not to be a prehearing conference;

(b) The nature of the hearing and the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;

(c) A description of the procedures for the conduct of the hearing;

(d) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the representatives of the government and of the respondent, if any; and

(e) Such other matters as the Center or the presiding officer deems appropriate.

§ 17.15 Parties to the hearing.

(a) The parties to the hearing shall be the respondent and the Center(s)