

Norman, Fox & Co.

"Your Quality Source for Quality Chemicals"

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August 7, 2017

Mr. Scott Pruitt
Administrator, EPA
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Ref: Request for Relief

Dear Administrator Pruitt

I am the president of Norman, Fox & Co., a small chemical distribution company located in the City of Industry, California, with operations in the City of Industry and in Vernon, California. We have roughly 50 employees. As part of its normal business, Norman, Fox & Co. purchases various industrial chemicals in bulk quantities from sources within the US and also overseas. It then repackages these chemicals into smaller sizes for its various customers. Occasionally, Norman, Fox & Co. also creates custom blends of compounds for its customers and also manufactures a few specialty products.

I write to you to resolve a regulatory issue, which, on its face, makes little sense and adversely affects our operations with absolutely no environmental benefits whatsoever. I am aware that the EPA, under your stewardship, is engaged in a process to simplify regulations, especially, in cases when the regulations in question create perverse outcomes.

The specific chemical in question is p-chlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTf). Its Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number is 98-56-6. It is on the list of EPA's "High Production Volume" (HPV) list of compounds. In 2011, Norman, Fox & Co. was purchasing PCBTf from a domestic supplier. However, due to the cost difference between the domestic price and the cost that the company could get when importing the material directly, Norman, Fox & Co. decided to purchase the material directly from a Chinese supplier (who is the same supplier to our domestic supplier) beginning in 2012. Between 2012 through 2016, we imported/purchased a total of 906,091 pounds of PCBTf from China. Currently, we have switched back to purchasing PCBTf from the higher-priced domestic supplier for the reason stated below.

It is our understanding that when we purchase the material from the domestic supplier (as we did in 2011 and as we do currently, we are in compliance with TSCA requirements. However, it is our understanding that when we directly import PCBTf from China (i.e., from the same source

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who supplies our domestic supplier), we might be non-compliant with TSCA. This makes no sense to us. We would like your help in resolving this TSCA regulatory conundrum. Simply, there should not be two different regulatory outcomes – one compliant and the other potentially not – when dealing with the same compound (PCBTF), simply due to the manner in which the material is procured. Clearly, the environmental outcomes are the same if we directly import the compound or if someone else imports it and we obtain it from them. I would be happy to discuss this further with your staff. Looking forward to a response from you on this matter. I can be reached by phone at 626-581-5600, or via email at shalpin@norfoxchem.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SHALPIN", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen M. Halpin
President
Norman, Fox & Co.

Norman, Fox & Co.

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