

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Glasforms, Inc.
Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama
EPA Identification Number ALR000013128**

Consent Order No. 22-XXX-CHW

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“the Department” or “ADEM”) and Glasforms, Inc. (“Glasforms”) pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, as amended, and the Alabama Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization Act (“AHWMMA”), Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. Glasforms operates a fiberglass-reinforced plastic product manufacturing facility (the “Facility”) with EPA Identification Number ALR000013128, located at 3943 Valley East Industrial Drive in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. Glasforms, as a result of its operations at the facility, was a large quantity generator of hazardous waste, a small quantity handler of universal waste, and a used oil generator, as those terms are defined in ADEM Admin. Code Div. 14, at all times relevant to this action.
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, as amended.
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), the Department is the state agency responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of solid and hazardous waste regulations in accordance with the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act §§ 1002 to 11012, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 to 6992k, as amended.

In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the AHWMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended.

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

4. On November 2, 2021, a representative of the Department's Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch and a representative of US EPA Region 4 conducted a compliance evaluation inspection ("CEI") of Glasforms. The CEI and a review of Glasforms' compliance showed the following:

(a) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(7)(a), a large quantity generator may accumulate hazardous waste on site without a permit or interim status provided the generator accumulates hazardous waste on site for no more than 90 days, unless it has been granted an extension to the 90-day period. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-8-.01(1)(c), requires a permit for the "treatment", "storage", and "disposal" of any "hazardous waste" as identified or listed in Chapter 335-14-2.

Glasforms stored two 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste onsite for more than 90 days without an extension or a permit.

(b) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-11-.02(4)(d)1., a small quantity handler of universal waste must contain any lamp in containers or packages that are structurally sound, adequate to prevent breakage, and compatible with the contents of the lamps. Such containers and packages must remain closed and must lack evidence of leakage, spillage, or damage that could cause leakage under reasonably foreseeable conditions.

Glasforms failed to keep closed six containers of spent fluorescent lamps.

(c) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-11-.02(5)(e), each lamp or a container or package in which the lamps are contained must be labeled or marked clearly with any one of the following phrases: "Universal Waste - Lamp(s)", or "Waste Lamp(s)", or "Used Lamp(s)".

Glasforms failed to label six containers of spent fluorescent lamps with one of the appropriate phrases.

(d) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-11-.02(6)(c), a small quantity handler of universal waste who accumulates universal waste must be able to demonstrate the length of time that the universal waste has been accumulated from the date it becomes a waste or is received.

Glasforms failed to demonstrate the length of time six containers of spent fluorescent lamps became a waste or was received.

(e) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(7)(a)1.(v), at least weekly, the large quantity generator must inspect central accumulation areas. The large quantity generator must look for leaking containers and for deterioration of containers caused by corrosion or other factors. The large quantity generator must record inspections in an inspection log or summary. He must keep these records for at least three years from the date of inspection. At a minimum, these records must include the date and time of the inspection, the name of the inspector, a notation of the observations made, and the date and nature of any repairs or other remedial actions.

Glasforms failed to document the performance of weekly inspections for the hazardous waste storage area from August 13, 2021, through November 2, 2021.

(f) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3.01(5)(a)5., a generator must mark or label its container holding hazardous waste with the words "Hazardous Waste" and with an indication of the hazards of the contents.

Glasforms failed to mark or label two satellite accumulation containers of hazardous waste in Building 2 with the words "Hazardous Waste" and an indication of the hazard(s) of the contents.

5. On December 15, 2021, the Department issued a Notice of Violation to Glasforms, which cited violations of the hazardous waste regulations that were discovered during the CEI.

6. On February 2, 2022, the Department received Glasforms' response to the aforementioned Notice of Violation.

7. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18), as amended, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation(s), including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent, and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation(s) upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at the civil penalty assessed in this Order, the Department has considered the following:

(a) **SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATIONS:** In arriving at the civil penalty, the Department considered the general nature and magnitude of the violations along with the available evidence of irreparable harm to the environment and threat to the health or safety of the public.

(b) **STANDARD OF CARE:** In considering the standard of care manifested by Glasforms, the Department noted that the violations described above were non-technical and easily avoidable. Consequently, Glasforms failed to exhibit a standard of care commensurate with the applicable regulatory standards.

(c) **ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED:** The Department has determined that there was no significant economic benefit gained by Glasforms as a result of the violations referenced herein.

(d) **EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT:** There are no known environmental effects to mitigate as a result of the alleged violations.

(e) **HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS:** Based on a review of Department records, Glasforms has no history of similar violations.

(f) ABILITY TO PAY: The Department does not have any evidence indicating that Glasforms is unable to pay the civil penalty.

(g) OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty that is warranted in the spirit of cooperation and the desire to resolve this matter amicably without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation (see Attachment A, which is made a part of the Department's Contentions).

7. The Department neither admits nor denies Glasforms' contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Special Order by Consent in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the alleged violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Special Order by Consent are in the best interest of the citizens of Alabama.

FACILITY'S CONTENTIONS

8. Promptly following the inspection on November 2, 2021, Glasforms obtained overpacks for 55-gallon drums. On November 16, 2021, Glasforms shipped the two 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste offsite.

9. Immediately following the inspection on November 2, 2021, Glasforms corrected any other alleged violations, including sealing the aforementioned six containers containing spent fluorescent lamps, and checking the labels for "Fluorescent Bulbs," dating the labels correctly. Glasforms further labeled its aerosol can puncture station and satellite accumulation container with the words "Hazardous Waste," as well as an indication of the hazard.

10. Glasforms neither admits nor denies any of the Department's contentions. Glasforms consents to abide by the terms of this Special Order by Consent and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

Therefore, without admitting that it has violated any statutes or regulations, Glasforms, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the alleged violations cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement. The Department believes that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and Glasforms agree to enter into this Special Order by Consent with the following terms and conditions:

A. Glasforms agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days of the effective date of this Special Order by Consent. Failure to pay the civil penalty within forty-five days from the effective date may result in the Department's filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the civil penalty.

B. Glasforms agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check or other payment methods acceptable to the Department and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

P.O. Box 301463

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Any payment submitted to the Department pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall reference Glasforms' name and address, and the ADEM Administrative Order number of this action.

C. Glasforms agrees that, independent of this Special Order by Consent, Glasforms shall comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the AHWMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

D. The Department and Glasforms (hereinafter the "parties") agree that this Special Order by Consent shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Special Order by Consent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent, to execute the Special Order by Consent on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these provisions and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Special Order by Consent is intended to operate as a full resolution of the alleged violations cited herein.

F. Glasforms agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Special Order by Consent.

G. For purposes of this Special Order by Consent only, Glasforms agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

H. The parties agree that the sole purpose of this Special Order by Consent is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Special Order by Consent, then such future violations may be addressed in orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement actions as may be appropriate. Glasforms agrees not to object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement actions based on the issuance of this Special Order by Consent if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement actions address new matters not raised in this Special Order by Consent.

I. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Special Order by Consent shall not be appealable, and Glasforms does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent.

J. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall not affect Glasforms' obligation to comply with any federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The parties agree that final approval and entry into this Special Order by Consent are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the order.

L. The parties agree that, should any provision of this Special Order by Consent be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

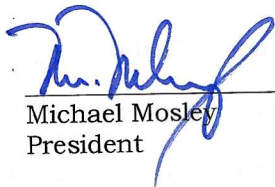
M. The parties agree that any modifications of this Special Order by Consent must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

N. The parties agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Special Order by Consent is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Glasforms of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

GLASFORMS, INC.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Michael Mosley
President

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

11 May 2022

(Date Signed)

(Date Executed)

RH

Attachment A

Glasforms, Inc.
Birmingham, Jefferson County
Facility ID No. ALR000013128

Violation	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violation*	
Storage of hazardous waste without a permit	1	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$0	
Failure to keep containers of universal waste lamps closed	1	\$200	\$100	\$0	
Failure to label containers of universal waste lamps	1	\$200	\$100	\$0	
Failure to demonstrate the length of time universal waste lamps have been accumulated on site	1	\$200	\$100	\$0	
Failure to document weekly inspections of the central hazardous waste accumulation area	1	\$200	\$100	\$0	
Failure to label satellite accumulation containers of hazardous waste	1	\$200	\$100	\$0	Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$11,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$12,500

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty

Economic Benefit (+)	\$0
Mitigating Factors (-)	\$0
Ability to Pay (-)	\$0
Other Factors (+/-)	-\$2,500

Amount of Initial Penalty	\$12,500
Total Adjustments (+/-)	-\$2,500
FINAL PENALTY	\$10,000

Footnotes

* See the "FINDINGS" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.

