

**BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, D.C. 20585**

In the Matter of:)
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)

Hefei Meiling Co., Ltd.)
(refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers))
)

Case Number: 2017-SE-14004

Issued: November 21, 2017

NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Refrigerators, freezers and refrigerator-freezers are covered products subject to federal energy conservation standards. 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a). Manufacturers and private labelers are prohibited from distributing covered products in the United States that do not comply with applicable federal energy conservation standards. 10 C.F.R. § 429.102(a)(6).

TESTING

The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) tested four units of Amana brand freezer basic model number AQC0902DRW (“the basic model”), manufactured by Hefei Meiling Co., Ltd. (“Meiling”). DOE’s testing in accordance with applicable DOE test procedures (10 C.F.R. § 430.23(b); Appendix B to Subpart B of Part 430) demonstrates that the basic model consumes more energy than permitted by the applicable energy conservation standard. Basic model AQC0902DRW belongs to the product class “Chest freezers and all other freezers except compact freezers.” 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(a). The maximum annual energy use (AEU) for this product class for units with an adjusted volume equal to the average of the tested units and manufactured on or after September 15, 2014, is 223 kWh/year. The four units that DOE tested performed at an AEU of 242, 251, 247, and 262 kWh/year, respectively.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts stated above, DOE has determined, after applying the calculations set forth in 10 C.F.R. Part 429, Subpart C, Appendix A, that the basic model (including each individual model within the basic model) does not comply with the applicable energy conservation standard.

MANDATORY ACTIONS BY MEILING

In light of the above findings, Meiling (“Meiling”) must take the following steps in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 429.114(a):

- (1) Immediately cease distribution in commerce of all units of the basic model;
- (2) Provide immediate written notification of this noncompliance determination to all persons in the United States to whom Meiling has distributed units of any model within the basic model;
- (3) Provide to DOE within 15 calendar days of the date of this Notice a copy of the written notification required by paragraph (2) and a list of the parties that Meiling notified; and
- (4) Provide to DOE within 30 calendar days of the date of this Notice records sufficient to show the number of units of the basic model that Meiling distributed in commerce in the past five years.¹

If you claim that any of the information sought by this Notice constitutes confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or is protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, you must (1) provide one complete and full copy and one copy with the confidential information deleted and (2) submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request. *See* 10 CFR § 429.7. Failure to adhere to these procedures will result in a rejection of your request for confidential treatment.

To ensure timely receipt, DOE strongly encourages you to submit your responses by e-mail, fax, or an express delivery service. DOE accepts scanned images of documents (such as PDFs).

Responses may be sent by any of the following methods:

- By email to: steven.goering@hq.doe.gov
- By fax to: (202) 586-5677
- By private carrier to: Steve Goering (GC-32)
 U.S. Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Ave., SW
 Washington, DC 20585

OPTIONAL ACTIONS BY MEILING

In addition to the mandatory steps listed above that Meiling must complete, Meiling may elect to modify the basic model to bring it into compliance with the current, applicable standard. A modified basic model shall be treated as a new basic model under the regulations and must be certified in accordance with the provisions of 10 C.F.R. Part 429. In addition to satisfying all requirements of part 429, any models within the basic model must be assigned new model numbers and Meiling must also maintain, and provide upon request to DOE, records that

¹ The terms “to distribute in commerce” and “distribution in commerce” mean to sell in commerce, to import, to introduce or deliver for introduction into commerce, or to hold for sale or distribution after introduction into commerce. 42 U.S.C. § 6291(16). The term “commerce” means trade, traffic, commerce, or transportation— (A) between a place in a State and any place outside thereof, or (B) which affects trade, traffic, commerce, or transportation described in subparagraph (A). 42 U.S.C. § 6291(17).

demonstrate that modifications have been made to all units of the new basic model prior to distribution in commerce. Prior to distribution in commerce of the modified basic model, Meiling must provide to DOE test data demonstrating that the modified basic model complies with the current, applicable standard. All units must be tested in accordance with DOE regulations, and Meiling shall bear the costs of all such testing.

If, after this testing, DOE determines that the modified basic model complies with the current, applicable standard, DOE shall issue a Notice of Allowance to permit Meiling to resume the distribution in commerce of the modified basic model. Until DOE determines that the modified basic model complies with the applicable standard, Meiling is prohibited from selling or otherwise distributing in commerce units of the modified basic model.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS NOTICE

Should Meiling fail to cease immediately the distribution in commerce of all units of models within the basic model, this letter serves as notice that DOE may seek a judicial order within 30 calendar days to restrain further distribution. If, however, Meiling provides DOE with a satisfactory statement within that 30-day period detailing the steps that Meiling will take to ensure that units of the noncompliant basic model will no longer be distributed in commerce in the United States, DOE may elect to defer seeking such an order until a more appropriate time, if needed.

The distribution of any units of a noncompliant basic model may result in DOE seeking all appropriate legal remedies available under federal law, including injunctive relief and civil penalties with respect to each unit of the basic model distributed in violation of federal law.

/S/

Laura L. Barhydt
Assistant General Counsel
for Enforcement