

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**DEPARTMENTAL APPEALS BOARD**

**Civil Remedies Division**

Center for Tobacco Products,

Complainant,

v.

7 Days Grocery, LLC / Shedid F. Shedid  
d/b/a 7 Days Grocery,

Respondent.

Docket No. C-15-923  
FDA No. FDA-2015-H-0119

Decision No. CR3708

Date: March 11, 2015

**INITIAL DECISION AND DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

The Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) began this matter by serving an administrative complaint on Respondent, 7 Days Grocery, LLC / Shedid F. Shedid d/b/a 7 Days Grocery, at 4565 Durant Avenue, North Charleston, South Carolina 29405, and by filing a copy of the complaint with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Division of Dockets Management. The complaint alleges that 7 Days Grocery impermissibly sold cigarettes to minors and failed to verify, by means of photo identification containing a date of birth, that a tobacco purchaser was 18 years of age or older, thereby violating the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act), 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq., and its implementing regulations, Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco, 21 C.F.R. pt. 1140 (2013). CTP seeks to impose a \$500 civil money penalty against 7 Days Grocery.

As provided for in 21 C.F.R. §§ 17.5 and 17.7, on January 15, 2015, CTP served the complaint on Respondent 7 Days Grocery by United Parcel Service. In the complaint and accompanying cover letter, CTP explained that, within 30 days, Respondent should pay the penalty, file an answer, or request an extension of time in which to file an answer.

CTP warned Respondent that, if it failed to take one of these actions within 30 days, the Administrative Law Judge could, pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 17.11, issue an initial decision ordering it to pay the full amount of the proposed penalty.

Respondent 7 Days Grocery has neither filed an answer within the time prescribed, nor requested an extension of time within which to file an answer. Pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 17.11, I assume that the facts alleged in the complaint (but not its conclusory statements) are true. Specifically:

- On March 11, 2014, at 4:36 p.m., at Respondent's business establishment, 4565 Durant Avenue, North Charleston, South Carolina 29405, an FDA-commissioned inspector observed that a person younger than 18 years of age was able to purchase a package of Newport Box 100s cigarettes. The inspector also documented that staff failed to verify, by means of photographic identification containing a date of birth, that the purchaser was 18 years of age or older;
- In a warning letter dated May 15, 2014, CTP informed Respondent of the inspector's March 11, 2014 observations, and that such actions violate federal laws, 21 C.F.R. §§ 1140.14(a) and 1140.14(b)(1). The letter further warned that Respondent's failure to correct the violations could result in a civil money penalty or other regulatory action;
- At approximately 7:55 a.m. on July 22, 2014, at Respondent's business establishment, 4565 Durant Avenue, North Charleston, South Carolina 29405, FDA-commissioned inspectors observed that a person younger than 18 years of age was able to purchase a package of Newport Box 100s cigarettes. The inspector also documented that staff failed to verify, by means of photographic identification containing a date of birth, that the purchaser was 18 years of age or older.

These facts establish Respondent 7 Days Grocery's liability under the Act. The Act prohibits misbranding of a tobacco product. 21 U.S.C. § 331(k). A tobacco product is misbranded if sold or distributed in violation of regulations issued under section 906(d) of the Act. 21 U.S.C. § 387f(d); *see* 21 U.S.C. § 387c(a)(7)(B); 21 C.F.R. § 1140.1(b). The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the regulations at 21 C.F.R. pt. 1140 under section 906(d) of the Act. 21 U.S.C. § 387a-1; *see* 21 U.S.C. § 387f(d)(1); 75 Fed. Reg. 13,225, 13,229 (Mar. 19, 2010). The regulations prohibit the sale of cigarettes to any person younger than 18 years of age. 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(a). The regulations also require retailers to verify, by means of photo identification containing a purchaser's date of birth, that no cigarette purchasers are younger than 18 years of age. 21 C.F.R. § 1140.14(b)(1).

A \$500 civil money penalty is permissible under 21 C.F.R. § 17.2.

**Order**

For these reasons, I enter default judgment in the amount of \$500 against Respondent 7 Days Grocery, LLC / Shedid F. Shedid d/b/a 7 Days Grocery. Pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 17.11(b), this order becomes final and binding upon both parties after 30 days of the date of its issuance.

/s/

---

Catherine Ravinski  
Administrative Law Judge