

Complaint

IN THE MATTER OF
SPRINGS MILLS, INC.

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND THE FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACTS

Docket C-2338. Complaint, Jan. 9, 1973—Decision, Jan. 9, 1973.

Consent order requiring a York, South Carolina, manufacturer and seller of carpets and rugs, among other things to cease manufacturing for sale, selling, importing, or distributing any product, fabric, or related material which fails to conform to an applicable standard of flammability or regulation issued under the provisions of the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended.

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and by virtue of the authority vested in it by said Acts, the Federal Trade Commission, having reason to believe that Springs Mills, Inc., a corporation, hereinafter referred to as respondent, has violated the provisions of the said Acts and the rules and regulations promulgated under the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding by it in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues its complaint stating its charges in that respect as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Springs Mills, Inc., is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of South Carolina.

Respondent is engaged in the manufacture and sale of carpets and rugs with an office and place of business located in York, South Carolina.

PAR. 2. Respondent is now and for some time last past has been engaged in the manufacturing for sale, sale and offering for sale, in commerce, and has introduced, delivered for introduction, transported and caused to be transported in commerce, and has sold or delivered after sale or shipment in commerce, carpets and rugs, as the terms "carpet," "rug" and "commerce" are defined in the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, or any applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the aforesaid Act, which fails to conform to an applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended.

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Among such products mentioned hereinabove were the following numbered production lots of "Style 1400—Contempora" style carpets subject to Department of Commerce Standard for the Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs (DOC FF 1-70) : 979, 1003, 1086, 1098, 1166, 1204, 1273, 1297, 1300, 1336, 1357 and 1428.

PAR. 3. The aforesaid acts and practices of respondent were and are in violation of the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and as such constituted, and now constitute unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in commerce, within the intent and meaning of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the respondent named in the caption hereof, and the respondent having been furnished thereafter with a copy of a draft of complaint which the Division of Textiles and Furs, Bureau of Consumer Protection proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by the Commission, would charge respondent with violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended; and

The respondent and counsel for the Commission having thereafter executed an agreement containing a consent order, an admission by the respondent of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the aforesaid draft of complaint, a statement that the signing of said agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in such complaint, and waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission's rules; and

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that the respondent has violated the said Acts, and that complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having thereupon accepted the executed consent agreement and placed such agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days, now in further conformity with the procedure prescribed in Section 2.34(b) of its rules, the Commission hereby issues its complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and enters the following order:

1. Respondent Springs Mills, Inc., is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of South Carolina.

Respondent is engaged in the manufacture and sale of carpets and rugs with an office and place of business located in York, South Carolina.

2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of the proceeding and of the respondent and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

It is ordered, That respondent Springs Mills, Inc., a corporation, its successors and assigns, and its officers, agents, representatives and employees directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, do forthwith cease and desist from manufacturing for sale, selling, offering for sale, in commerce or importing into the United States, or introducing, delivering for introduction, transporting or causing to be transported in commerce, or selling or delivering after sale or shipment in commerce, any carpet or rug; or manufacturing for sale, selling, or offering for sale, any carpet or rug made of fabric or related material which has been shipped or received in commerce, as "carpet," "rug," "commerce," "fabric" and "related material" are defined in the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, or any applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the aforesaid Act, which carpet or rug fails to conform to an applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

It is further ordered, That respondent notify all of its customers who have purchased or to whom have been delivered the products which gave rise to this complaint, of the flammable nature of said products and effect the recall of said products from such customers.

It is further ordered, That the respondent herein either process the products which gave rise to the complaint so as to bring them into conformance with the applicable standard of flammability under the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, or destroy said products.

It is further ordered, That respondent herein shall, within ten (10) days after service upon them of this order, file with the

Commission a special report in writing setting forth the respondent's intentions as to compliance with this order. This special report shall also advise the Commission fully and specifically concerning (1) the identity of the products which gave rise to the complaint, (2) the identity of purchasers of said products, (3) the amount of said products on hand and in the channels of commerce, (4) any action taken and any further actions proposed to be taken to notify customers of the flammability of said products and effect the recall of said products from customers, and of the results thereof, (5) any disposition of said products since February 2, 1972, and (6) any action taken or proposed to be taken to bring said products into conformance with the applicable standard of flammability under the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, or to destroy said products. Respondent will submit with its report, a complete description of each style of carpet or rug currently in inventory or production. Upon request, respondent will forward to the Commission for testing a sample of any such carpet or rug.

It is further ordered, That respondent notify the Commission at least 30 days prior to any proposed change in the corporate respondent such as dissolution, assignment or sale resulting in the emergence of a successor corporation, the creation or dissolution of subsidiaries or any other change in the corporation which may affect compliance obligations arising out of the order.

It is further ordered, That the respondent corporation shall forthwith distribute a copy of this order to each of its operating divisions.

It is further ordered, That respondent herein shall, within sixty (60) days after service upon it of this order, file with the Commission a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which it has complied with this order.

IN THE MATTER OF

EX-CELL-O CORPORATION

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT