

(3) *Requests for formal hearing.* Following the filing of an objection with basis, the Field Administrator must serve a motion for Final Agency Order pursuant to §386.36 unless otherwise ordered by the Assistant Administrator. The motion must set forth the reasons why the Field Administrator is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Respondent must, within 45 days of service of the motion for Final Agency Order, submit and serve a response to the Field Administrator's motion. After reviewing the record, the Assistant Administrator will either set the matter for hearing by referral to the Office of Hearings or issue a Final Agency Order based upon the submissions.

(4) *Requests for informal hearing.*

(i) If the Field Administrator objects with basis to a request for an informal hearing, he/she must serve the objection, a copy of the Notice of Claim, and a copy of respondent's reply, on the respondent and Assistant Administrator, pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Based upon the Notice of Claim, the reply, and the objection with basis, the Assistant Administrator will issue an order granting or denying the request for informal hearing.

(A) *Informal hearing granted.* If the request for informal hearing is granted by the Assistant Administrator, a Hearing Officer will be assigned to hear the matter and will set forth the date, time and location for hearing. No further motions will be entertained, and no discovery will be allowed. At hearing, all parties may present evidence, written and oral, to the Hearing Officer, following which the Hearing Officer will issue a report to the Assistant Administrator containing findings of fact and recommending a disposition of the matter. The report will serve as the sole record of the proceedings. The Assistant Administrator may issue a Final Agency Order adopting the report, or issue other such orders as he/she may deem appropriate. By participating in an informal hearing, respondent waives its right to a formal hearing.

(B) *Informal hearing denied.* If the request for informal hearing is denied, the Field Administrator must serve a motion for Final Agency Order pursuant to §386.36, unless otherwise directed by the Assistant Administrator. The motion must set forth the reasons why the Field Administrator is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Respondent must, within 45 days of service of the motion for Final Agency Order, submit and serve a response to the Field Administrator's motion. After reviewing the record, the Assistant Administrator will set the matter for formal hearing by referral to the Office of Hearings, or will issue a Final Agency Order based upon the submissions.

(C) Nothing in this section shall limit the Assistant Administrator's authority to refer any matter for formal hearing, even in in-

stances where respondent seeks only an informal hearing.

§ 386.17 Intervention.

After the matter is called for hearing and before the date set for the hearing to begin, any person may petition for leave to intervene. The petition is to be served on the administrative law judge. The petition must set forth the reasons why the petitioner alleges he/she is entitled to intervene. The petition must be served on all parties in accordance with §386.31. Any party may file a response within 10 days of service of the petition. The administrative law judge shall then determine whether to permit or deny the petition. The petition will be allowed if the administrative law judge determines that the final decision could directly and adversely affect the petitioner or the class he/she represents, and if the petitioner may contribute materially to the disposition of the proceedings and his/her interest is not adequately represented by existing parties. Once admitted, a petitioner is a party for the purpose of all subsequent proceedings.

§ 386.18 Payment of the claim.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 28482, May 18, 2005, §386.18 was added, effective November 14, 2005.

(a) Payment of the full amount claimed may be made at any time before issuance of a Final Agency Order. After the issuance of a Final Agency Order, claims are subject to interest, penalties, and administrative charges in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717; 49 CFR part 89; and 31 CFR 901.9.

(b) If respondent elects to pay the full amount as its response to the Notice of Claim, payment must be served upon the Field Administrator at the Service Center designated in the Notice of Claim within 30 days following service of the Notice of Claim. No written reply is necessary if respondent elects the payment option during the 30-day reply period. Failure to serve full payment within 30 days of service of the Notice of Claim when this option has been chosen may constitute a default and may result in the Notice of

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Claim, including the civil penalty assessed by the Notice of Claim, becoming the Final Agency Order in the proceeding pursuant to § 386.14(c).

(c) Unless objected to in writing, submitted at the time of payment, payment of the full amount in response to the Notice of Claim constitutes an admission by the respondent of all facts alleged in the Notice of Claim. Payment waives respondent's opportunity to further contest the claim, and will result in the Notice of Claim becoming the Final Agency Order.

Subpart C—Compliance and Consent Orders

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 28478, May 18, 2005, the heading to subpart A was revised, effective November 14, 2005. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

Subpart C—Settlement Agreements

§ 386.21 Compliance order.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 28482, May 18, 2005, § 386.21 was removed, effective November 14, 2005.

(a) When a respondent contests a Notice of Investigation or fails to reply to such notice, the final order disposing of the proceeding may contain a compliance order.

(b) A compliance order shall be executed by the Assistant Administrator and shall contain the following:

(1) A statement of jurisdictional facts;

(2) Findings of facts, or reference thereto in an accompanying decision, as determined by a hearing officer or by the Assistant Administrator upon respondent's failure to reply to the notice, which establish the violations charged;

(3) A specific direction to the respondent to comply with the regulations violated within time limits provided;

(4) Other directions to the respondent to take reasonable measures, in the time and manner specified, to assure future compliance;

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(5) A statement of the consequences for failure to meet the terms of the order;

(6) Provision that the Notice of Investigation and the final decision of the hearing officer or Assistant Administrator may be used to construe the terms of the order; and

(7) A statement that the order constitutes final agency action, subject to review as provided in 49 U.S.C. 521(b)(8) for violations of regulations issued under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 31502, the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1984 or sections 12002, 12003, 12004, 12005(b), or 12008(d)(2) of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986; or as provided in 5 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*, for violations of regulations issued under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 5123 (hazardous materials proceedings) or 49 U.S.C. 31138–31139 (financial responsibility proceedings) or violations of the commercial regulations.

(c) *Notice of imminent hazard.* A compliance order may also contain notice that further violations of the same regulations may constitute an imminent hazard subjecting respondent to an order under subpart F of this part.

[56 FR 10183, Mar. 11, 1991, as amended at 65 FR 7756, Feb. 16, 2000]

§ 386.22 Consent order.

When a respondent has agreed to settlement of a civil forfeiture, and at any time before the hearing is concluded, the parties may execute an appropriate agreement for disposing of the case by consent for the consideration of the Assistant Administrator. The agreement is filed with the Assistant Administrator who may (a) accept it, (b) reject it and direct that proceedings in the case continue, or (c) take such other action as he/she deems appropriate. If the Assistant Administrator accepts the agreement, he/she shall enter an order in accordance with its terms.

[50 FR 40306, Oct. 2, 1985. Redesignated at 56 FR 10183, Mar. 11, 1991; 67 FR 61821, Oct. 2, 2002]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 28482, May 18, 2005, § 386.22 was revised, effective November 14, 2005. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows: