

§ 11.12

(2) Accept the proposed penalty, or the compromise, if any, offered in the notice;

(3) File a petition for relief; or

(4) Take no action, and await the Director's decision, pursuant to § 11.13.

(c) Acceptance of the proposed penalty or the compromise shall be deemed to be a waiver of the notice of assessment required by § 11.14, and of the opportunity for a hearing. Any counter offer of settlement shall be deemed a rejection of the proposed offer of compromise.

§ 11.12 Petition for relief.

If the respondent so chooses he may ask that no penalty be assessed or that the amount be reduced, and he may admit or contest the legal sufficiency of the charge and the Director's allegations of facts, by filing a petition for relief (hereinafter "petition") with the Director at the address specified in the notice within 45 days of the date thereof. The petition shall be in writing and signed by the respondent. If the respondent is a corporation, the petition must be signed by an officer authorized to sign such documents. It must set forth in full the legal or other reasons for the relief.

§ 11.13 Decision by the Director.

Upon expiration of the period required or granted for filing of a petition for relief, the Director shall proceed to make an assessment of a civil penalty, taking into consideration information available to him and such showing as may have been made by the respondent, either pursuant to § 11.11 or § 11.12, or upon further request of the Director.

§ 11.14 Notice of assessment.

The Director shall notify the respondent by a written notice of assessment, by personal service or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, of his decision pursuant to § 11.13. He shall set forth therein the facts and conclusions upon which he decided that the violation did occur and appropriateness of the penalty assessed.

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§ 11.15 Request for a hearing.

Except where a right to request a hearing is deemed to have been waived as provided in § 11.11, the respondent may, within 45 calendar days from the date of the notice of assessment referred to in § 11.14, file a dated, written request for a hearing with the Hearings Division, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The request should state the respondent's preference as to the place and date for a hearing. The request must enclose a copy of the notice of violation and notice of assessment. A copy of the request shall be served upon the Director personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address specified in the notice.

§ 11.16 Final administrative decision.

(a) Where no request for a hearing is filed as provided in § 11.15 the Director's assessment shall become effective and shall constitute the final administrative decision of the Secretary on the 45th calendar day from the date of the notice of assessment.

(b) If a request for a hearing is timely filed in accordance with § 11.15, the date of the final administrative decision in the matter shall be as provided in subpart C of this part.

§ 11.17 Payment of final assessment.

When a final administrative decision becomes effective in accordance with this part 11, the respondent shall have 20 calendar days from the date of the final administrative decision within which to make full payment of the penalty assessed. Payment will be timely only if received in Office of the Director during normal business hours, on or before the 20th day. Upon a failure to pay the penalty, the Solicitor of the Department may request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in the U.S. District Court to collect the penalty.