

proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act, including whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices" (12 U.S.C. 1843). Any request for a hearing must be accompanied by a statement of the reasons a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than October 11, 1996.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (James A. Bluemle, Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690:

1. *Bluestem Development Corporation*, Joy, Illinois; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Joy Development Corporation, Davenport, Iowa, and thereby indirectly acquire Joy State Bank, Joy, Illinois.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 12, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson

Deputy Secretary of the Board

[FR Doc. 96-23854 Filed 9-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 12:00 noon, Monday, September 23, 1996.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments,

reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204. You may call (202) 452-3207, beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before this meeting, for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 96-23980 Filed 9-13-96; 4:12 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:

Committee on Employee Benefits of the Federal Reserve System*.

TIME AND DATE: 2:30 p.m., Monday, September 23, 1996.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Proposals regarding an operations review.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

* * * * *

* The Committee on Employee Benefits considers matters relating to the Retirement, Thrift, Long-Term Disability Income, and Insurance Plans for Employees of the Federal Reserve System.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204.

Dated: September 13, 1996

William W. Wiles,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 96-23981 Filed 9-13-96; 4:12 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 922-3236]

Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc.; Proposed Consent Agreement With Analysis To Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: In settlement of alleged violations of federal law prohibiting

unfair or deceptive acts or practices and unfair methods of competition, this consent agreement, accepted subject to final Commission approval, would prohibit, among other things, the Peabody, Massachusetts-based athletic footwear manufacturer from misrepresenting, in any manner, that footwear made wholly abroad was made in the United States. The agreement resolves charges that Hyde misrepresented that all of its Saucony footwear is made in the United States when a substantial amount is made wholly abroad.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elaine D. Kolish, Federal Trade Commission, S-4302, 6th & Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-3042. C. Steven Baker, Chicago Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 55 East Monroe Street, Suite 1437, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 353-8156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the following consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

Agreement Containing Consent Order to Cease and Desist

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., a corporation ("proposed respondent"), and it now appearing that proposed respondent is willing to enter into an agreement containing an order to cease and desist from the acts and practices being investigated,

It is hereby agreed by and between Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., by its duly authorized officer, and its attorney, and counsel for the Federal Trade Commission that:

1. Proposed respondent Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal office or place of business at 13 Centennial Industrial Park Drive, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960. Proposed respondent is a U.S. manufacturer, importer, and seller of footwear, with manufacturing facilities in Bangor, Maine.

2. Proposed respondent admits all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the draft of complaint.

3. Proposed respondent waives:

(a) Any further procedural steps;

(b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law;

(c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the order entered pursuant to this agreement; and

(d) All claims under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

4. This agreement shall not become a part of the public record of the proceeding unless and until it is accepted by the Commission. If this agreement is accepted by the Commission, it, together with the draft of the complaint contemplated hereby, will be placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days and information in respect thereto publicly released. The Commission thereafter may either withdraw its acceptance of this agreement and so notify proposed respondent, in which event it will take such action as it may consider appropriate, or issue and serve its complaint (in such form as the circumstances may require) and decision, in disposition of the proceeding.

5. This agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by proposed respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in the draft complaint or that the facts as alleged in the draft complaint, other than the jurisdictional facts, are true.

6. This agreement contemplates that, if it is accepted by the Commission, and if such acceptance is not subsequently withdrawn by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of § 2.34 of the Commission's Rules the Commission may without further notice to proposed respondent, (1) issue its complaint corresponding in form and substance with the draft of complaint and its decision containing the following order to cease and desist in disposition of the proceeding, and (2) make information public in respect thereto. When so entered, the order to cease and desist shall have the same force and effect and may be altered, modified or set aside in

the same manner and within the same time provided by statute for other orders. The order shall become final upon service. Delivery by the U.S. Postal Service of the decision containing the agreed-to order to proposed respondent's address as stated in this agreement shall constitute service. Proposed respondent waives any right it might have to any other manner of service. The complaint may be used in construing the terms of the order, and no agreement, understanding, representation, or interpretation not contained in the order or in the agreement may be used to vary or contradict the terms of the order.

7. Proposed respondent has read the complaint and the order contemplated hereby. It understands that once the order has been issued, it will be required to file one or more compliance reports showing it has fully complied with the order. Proposed respondent further understands that it may be liable for civil penalties in the amount provided by law for each violation of the order after it becomes final.

Order

Definition

For purposes of this order, the term "Clearly and prominently" shall mean as follows:

A. In a television or video advertisement, the disclosure shall be presented simultaneously in both the audio and video portions of the advertisement. The audio disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it. The video disclosure shall be of a size and shade, and shall appear on the screen for a duration, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend it.

B. In a radio advertisement, the disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it.

C. In a print advertisement, the disclosure shall be in a type size, and in a location, that is sufficiently noticeable so that an ordinary consumer will see and read it, in print that contrasts with the background against which it appears. In multipage documents, the disclosure shall appear on the cover or first page.

D. On a product label, the disclosure shall be in a type size, and in a location on the principal display panel, that is sufficiently noticeable so that an ordinary consumer will see and read it, in print that contrasts with the background against which it appears.

Nothing contrary to, inconsistent with, or in mitigation of the disclosure shall be used in any advertisement or on any label.

I

It is ordered that respondent, Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., a corporation, its successors and assigns, and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any footwear in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act, do forthwith cease and desist from misrepresenting, in any manner, directly or by implication, that footwear made wholly abroad is made in the United States.

PROVIDED, however, that respondent will not be in violation of this Order, if, in connection with a truthful representation about domestic production of its footwear, it makes one of the following disclosures, if truthful, in a clear and prominent manner.

A. "Most Saucony models are made in the USA"; or

B. "Models ____ are not made in the USA"; or

C. "Only models ____ are imported"; or

D. "____% of Saucony footwear is made in the USA."

This proviso shall not apply to any advertising, labeling or promotional material containing any depiction of or other representation relating to footwear made wholly abroad.

II

It is further ordered that for five (5) years after the last date of dissemination of any representation covered by this Order, respondent, or its successors and assigns, shall maintain and upon request make available to the Federal Trade Commission for inspection and copying:

A. All materials that were relied upon in disseminating such representations; and

B. All tests, reports, studies, surveys, demonstrations, or other evidence in its possession or control that contradict, qualify, or call into question such representation, or the basis relied upon for such representation, including complaints from consumers.

III

It is further ordered that the respondent shall distribute a copy of this Order to each of its operating divisions and to each of its officers, agents, representatives, or employees

engaged in the preparation or placement of advertisements, promotional materials, product labels or other such sales materials covered by this Order.

IV

It is further ordered that respondent shall notify the Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to any proposed change in the corporation such as a 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 under this Order.

V

It is further ordered that respondent shall, within sixty (60) days after service of this Order upon it, and at such other times as the Commission may require, file with the Commission a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which it has complied with this Order.

VI

It is further ordered that this Order will terminate twenty (20) years from the date it becomes final, or twenty (20) years from the most recent date that the United States or the Federal Trade Commission files a complaint (with or without an accompanying consent decree) in federal court alleging any violation of the Order, whichever comes later;

Provided, However, that the filing of such a complaint will not affect the duration of:

A. Any paragraph in this Order that terminates in less than twenty (20) years;

B. This Order's application to any respondent that is not named as a defendant in such complaint; and

C. This Order if such complaint is filed after the Order has terminated pursuant to this paragraph.

Provided Further, that if such complaint is dismissed or a federal court rules that the respondent did not violate any provision of the Order, and the dismissal or ruling is either not appealed or upheld on appeal, then the Order will terminate according to this paragraph as though the complaint was never filed, except that the Order will not terminate between the date such complaint is filed and the later of the deadline for appealing such dismissal or ruling and the date such dismissal or ruling is upheld on appeal.

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted an agreement, subject to final approval, to a proposed consent order from respondent Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc.

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for reception of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement and take other appropriate action or make final the agreement's proposed order.

This matter concerns advertising and promotional practices related to the sale of athletic shoes. The Commission's complaint charges that respondent falsely represented that all of its athletic shoes sold in the United States are made in the United States.

The proposed consent order contains a provision which is designed to remedy the advertising violation charges and to prevent the respondent from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future. Part I of the proposed order prohibits the respondent from misrepresenting that footwear made wholly abroad is made in the United States. The proposed order would allow respondent, in connection with a truthful representation about domestic production of its footwear, to make one of the following disclosures, if truthful, in a clear and conspicuous manner: (a) "Most Saucony products are made in the USA"; (b) "Models ____ are not made in the USA"; (c) "Only models ____ are imported"; or (d) "____ % of Saucony footwear is made in the USA."

This order provision provides that if Hyde chooses to make affirmative disclosures in its advertising it can do so if they are truthful and nondeceptive. Although several of the disclosures set out in Part I of the proposed order contain the phrase "Made in USA," this provision is not intended to address the standard for when, if at all, a product that is made partly from domestic parts and labor and partly from foreign parts and labor may appropriately be labeled "Made in USA"; that issue is the subject of a separate, ongoing review by the Commission. Rather, Part I is addressed to the circumstance in which some of the company's products are made entirely abroad.

Part II of the proposed order requires the respondent to maintain materials relied upon in disseminating any representation covered by the order.

Part III of the proposed order requires the respondent to distribute copies of the order to certain company officials and employees. Part IV of the proposed order requires the respondent to notify the Commission of any change in the corporation which may affect compliance obligations under the order. Part V of the proposed order requires the respondent to file one or more compliance reports. Part VI of the proposed order is a provision whereby the order, absent certain circumstances, terminates twenty years from the date of issuance.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed consent order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Roscoe B. Starek III in the Matter of Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc.

I would have preferred to have accepted the original consent agreement rejected by the Commission last fall. As I have consistently stated, case-by-case enforcement—rather than a regulatory proceeding—is the appropriate means to evaluate the "Made in USA" standard.¹ Since a majority of the Commission has opted to conduct a broad review of the "Made in USA" standard, however, it is premature for the Commission to condone use of the Made in USA claims set forth in the safe harbor until it proclaims what the standard is.

[FR Doc. 96-23922 Filed 9-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

[File No. D.9268]

New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc.; Proposed Consent Agreement With Analysis To Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: In settlement of alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices and unfair methods of competition, this consent agreement, accepted subject to final Commission approval, would prohibit, among other things, the

¹ See Request for Public Comment in Preparation for Public Workshop Regarding "Made in USA" Claims in Product Advertising and Labeling, 60 FR 53923, 53930 (October 18, 1995) (Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Roscoe B. Starek III); Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., File No. 922-3236 (Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Roscoe B. Starek III).