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Asbestos Enforcement/ Clean Air Act: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and University of Georgia Enter Into Consent Agreement Addressing Alleged Violations

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia ("Georgia") entered into a February 18th Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO") addressing alleged Clean Air Act violations involving asbestos regulations.

The relevant regulations addressed by the CAFO involve the Emission Standards and Prevention Requirements for asbestos under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

The CAFO alleges that Georgia undertook a renovation (as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. §61.141) on March 16, 2015 at a facility (as that term is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141). The "Facility" was located on Georgia's Athens, Georgia campus. The CAFO further alleges that at the time of the renovation, the "Facility" was a classroom building identified as the Forestry Resources 3 building.

EPA is stated to have determined through Georgia's response to an agency information request that the renovation activity involved the removal of ceiling material in rooms 217, 219, and 220 of the Forestry Resources 3 building. It is further alleged that the renovation took place without an inspection for the presence of asbestos. Therefore, this alleged failure to inspect for asbestos prior to the commencement of demolition or renovation activity is stated to be a violation of Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(a).

The CAFO assesses a civil penalty of \$10,430.00.

[Click here to download a copy of the CAFO.](#)