

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

One Lafayette Centre 1120 20th Street, N.W. — 9th Floor Washington, DC 20036-3419

> FAX: COM (202) 606-5050 FTS (202) 606-5050

SECRETARY OF LABOR,

Complainant,

v.

OSHRC Docket No. 93-0304

MANNKRAFT CORPORATION,

Respondent.

### **REMAND ORDER**

BEFORE: FOULKE, Chairman, and MONTOYA, Commissioner.

### BY THE COMMISSION:

By letter of May 11, 1993, Mannkraft Corporation's Operations Manager, William Koines, acting pro se, requested relief from an order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge dismissing Mannkraft's notice of contest as untimely filed. In his letter, Koines suggests that the citation was addressed to someone who no longer worked at the company and that the delay in filing a notice of contest was attributable to a bankruptcy-related management transition and intervening holiday. The circumstances alleged by Koines' letter may represent excusable neglect pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(1) or faulty service under section 10(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, either of which might support a reinstatement of Mannkraft's notice of contest. However, the Commission has not been presented with a sufficient factual record upon which to base such a decision. The Commission therefore finds it appropriate to allow Mannkraft an opportunity to establish whether its notice of contest should be reinstated.

Accordingly, the Commission vacates the Chief Administrative Law Judge's order dated April 22, 1993. The Commission remands this case to the Chief Administrative Law Judge with instructions to develop an evidentiary record through affidavit(s) or other appropriate proceedings to allow Mannkraft to offer proof of the circumstances alleged in Koines' letter.

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr.

Chairman

Velma Montoya

Commissioner

Dated: September 28, 1993

### NOTICE OF REMAND ORDER

The attached Remand Order by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission was issued and served on the following on September 28, 1993.

Daniel J. Mick, Esq. Counsel for Regional Trial Litigation Office of the Solicitor, USDOL 200 Constitution Ave., N.W. Room S4004 Washington, D.C. 20210

Patricia Rodenhausen, Esq. Regional Solicitor Office of the Solicitor, U.S. DOL 201 Varick St., Room 707 New York, NY 10014

William Koines, Operations Manager Mannkraft Corrugated Packaging & Displays 1000 U. S. Highway 1 Newark, N. J. 07ll4

Irving Sommer
Administrative Law Judge
Occupational Safety and Health
Review Commission
One Lafayette Centre
1120 20th Street, Suite 990
Washington, D.C. 20036-3419

FOR THE COMMISSION

Ray H. Darling, Jr. Executive Secretary



# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION 1825 K STREET NW 4TH FLOOR

WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1246

FAX: COM (202) 634-4008 FTS (202) 634-4008

SECRETARY OF LABOR Complainant,

V.

MANNKRAFT CORPORATION Respondent.

OSHRC DOCKET NO. 93-0304

### NOTICE OF DOCKETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S DECISION

The Administrative Law Judge's Report in the above referenced case was docketed with the Commission on April 23, 1993. The decision of the Judge will become a final order of the Commission on May 24, 1993 unless a Commission member directs review of the decision on or before that date. ANY PARTY DESIRING REVIEW OF THE JUDGE'S DECISION BY THE COMMISSION MUST FILE A PETITION FOR DISCRETIONARY REVIEW. Any such petition should be received by the Executive Secretary on or before May 13, 1993 in order to permit sufficient time for its review. See Commission Rule 91, 29 C.F.R. 2200.91.

All further pleadings or communications regarding this case shall be addressed to:

Executive Secretary Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission 1825 K St. N.W., Room 401 Washington, D.C. 20006-1246

Petitioning parties shall also mail a copy to:

Daniel J. Mick, Esq. Counsel for Regional Trial Litigation Office of the Solicitor, U.S. DOL Room S4004 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210

If a Direction for Review is issued by the Commission, then the Counsel for Regional Trial Litigation will represent the Department of Labor. Any party having questions about review rights may contact the Commission's Executive Secretary or call (202) 634-7950.

Date: April 23, 1993

Ray H. Darling, Jr. Executive Secretary

### DOCKET NO. 93-0304

### NOTICE IS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

Daniel J. Mick, Esq. Counsel for Regional Trial Litigation Office of the Solicitor, U.S. DOL Room S4004 200 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210

Patricia Rodenhausen, Esq. Regional Solicitor Office of the Solicitor, U.S. DOL 201 Varick, Room 707 New York, NY 10014

William Koines, Operations Manager Mannkraft Corporation 1000 U.S. Highway 1 Newark, NJ 07114

Irving Sommer
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Occupational Safety and Health
Review Commission
Room 417/A
1825 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006 1246



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1825 K STREET N.W. 4TH FLOOR WASHINGTON DC 20006-1246

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SECRETARY OF LABOR,

Complainant,

v.

Docket No. 93-0304

MANNKRAFT CORPORATION,

Respondent.

**ORDER** 

By motion dated March 9, 1993, the Secretary moves to dismiss the Respondent's notice of contest as not being timely filed under Section 10 of the Act. The Respondent did not reply to the motion.

The record demonstrates that a citation was issued to the Respondent on November 24, 1992, and was received on November 25, 1992. Under Section 10(a) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 659(a), an employer must notify the Secretary that it intends to contest the citation or proposed penalty within fifteen (15) working days of its receipt. The Respondent had until December 17, 1992 to file its notice of contest, but did not do so, sending a letter dated December 21, 1992 and received on December 22.

It is clear that the Respondent did not file a timely notice of contest. The citation plainly state(s) the requirement to file a notice of contest within the prescribed time period. Roy Kay, Inc., 13 BNA OSHC at 2022, 1987-90 CCH OSHD par. 28,406 (No. 88-1748, 1989). The letter accompanying the citation states unequivocably that, "Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to contest must be submitted to the Area Director within 15 working days of your receipt of the citation." "If (the employer) had carefully read even portions of the written instructions stated and reiterated on the face of the ---citations, he

would have known how to proceed--." Keefe Earth Boring Co., Inc., 14 BNA OSHC 2187,2192 (No. 88-2521, 1991).

There is no evidence that his failure to file a timely notice was caused by "the Secretary's deception or failure to follow proper procedures." Atlantic Marine, Inc. v. OSAHRC & Dunlop, 524 F2d 476(5th Cir., 1975), nor is there any evidence that the Respondent is entitled to any relief under Rule 60(b) of the Federal Rules of Procedure.

Accordingly, the Secretary's motion to dismiss is granted. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the citation, penalty and abatement date is AFFIRMED as issued.

IRVING SOMMER

Judge

DATED:

APR 2 2 1993

Washington, D.C.