

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Settlement Agreements
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<b>Document Title:</b>	AS America Inc Settlement Agreement and Release
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<b>Filer:</b>	Amanda Harris
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## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement and Release (Agreement) is entered into between the California Energy Commission (CEC), with its principal office at 715 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and AS America, Inc. (American Standard), with a place of business at 1 Centennial Avenue, Suite 101 Piscataway, New Jersey 08854-3921, collectively referred to as the Parties.

### I. RECITALS

- (I) CEC's Appliance Efficiency Regulations at California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Article 4, sections 1601-1609 (Appliance Efficiency Regulations),<sup>1</sup> set forth the requirements to sell or offer for sale regulated appliances in California. The pertinent requirements include:
- Testing: The appliance is tested as required in section 1603, using the applicable test method set forth in section 1604.
  - Efficiency: The appliance meets the required efficiency standards set forth in sections 1605.2 or 1605.3.
  - Marking: The appliance is correctly marked and labeled as required under section 1607.
  - Certification: The appliance is certified to CEC and appears in CEC's most recent Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System (MAEDbS) as required under section 1606.
- (II) CEC's enforcement authority includes the removal of non-complying appliances from MAEDbS, as set forth in section 1608, and the issuance of administrative civil penalties under section 1609.
- (III) American Standard manufactures several models of plumbing fittings and plumbing fixtures that it sells or offers for sale in California, either directly or through retailers or distributors.
- (IV) American Standard plumbing fittings and plumbing fixtures are subject to the testing, efficiency, marking, and certification requirements for this appliance class as described in paragraph I(1) above.
- (V) From January 2015 to September 2020, American Standard sold or offered for sale through retailers or distributors kitchen faucets, lavatory faucets, and public lavatory faucets in California that were listed in MAEDbS. When CEC revised its water efficiency standards in late 2015, American Standard modified its kitchen faucets, lavatory faucets, and public lavatory faucets with new aerators and engaged a third-party, ANSI-accredited laboratory to certify that each faucet would not exceed the maximum flow rate. Although American Standard updated MAEDbS for each faucet, CEC alleged that each faucet was not tested in accordance with the test method in section 1604(h). CEC testing of lavatory faucet model 2064151.002 identified no flow rate violation.
- (VI) During the investigation no American Standard product was identified that exceeded applicable maximum flow rates. American Standard and CEC reviewed American Standard toilet and urinal products sold during the time frame in paragraph I(5) and no violations were found.

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<sup>1</sup> All references are to California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Article 4, unless otherwise specified.

(7) Based on the above Recitals, CEC, through adjudication, alleges that it could impose penalties for each violation alleged, obtain injunctive relief to prohibit American Standard from continuing to sell or offer for sale, non-compliant plumbing fittings in California, and take any other enforcement action as allowed by law.

(8) Section 1609(b)(3) and California Public Resources Code section 25402.11(a)(2) identify the following factors CEC shall consider when determining the amount of an administrative civil penalty:

- The nature and seriousness of the violation.
- The persistence of the violation, meaning a responsible person's history of past violations of the Appliance Efficiency Regulations over the previous seven years.
- The number of violations arising from the course of conduct that is subject of the enforcement proceeding.
- The length of time over which the violation occurred.
- The willfulness of the persons responsible for the violation.
- The harm to consumers and to the state that resulted from the amount of energy wasted due to the violation.
- The number of persons responsible for the violation.
- The efforts of the persons responsible for the violation to correct the violation prior to initiation of an enforcement action by CEC.
- The cooperation, by the persons responsible for the violation, with CEC during its investigation.
- The assets, liabilities, and net worth of the persons responsible for the violation. This information will be considered to reduce the administrative civil penalty amount, should a responsible person or persons elect to provide asset, liability, and net worth documentation to the Executive Director to demonstrate that a reduction in a penalty amount is necessary to avoid an undue burden.

(9) Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to deter violations. In developing this Agreement CEC considered the facts of the case and applied the above factors to determine an appropriate settlement. Further, in this case American Standard cooperated with CEC in the investigation by promptly testing, certifying, and by providing to CEC sales data of plumbing fittings. The efforts by American Standard saved CEC time and resources in investigating the alleged violations.

(10) American Standard is willing to enter into this Agreement solely for the purpose of settlement and resolution of this matter with CEC. CEC accepts this Agreement in termination of this matter. Accordingly, the Parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for adjudication.

## **II. TERMS AND RELEASE**

In consideration of the Recitals listed above which are incorporated into this section by reference, and the mutual agreements set forth below, CEC and American Standard agree as follows:

- (1) This Agreement covers the American Standard plumbing fitting models listed in Attachment A.
- (2) In consideration of resolving the allegations listed in paragraph I(5) above, whose model numbers are identified in Attachment A, and consistent with the factors listed in paragraph I(8) and I(9) above, American Standard shall pay the total sum of \$41,119.00 by electronic transfer to CEC by November 1, 2021. Banking information and instructions necessary to complete the electronic transfer shall be provided by CEC.
- (3) American Standard also agrees to take each of the following actions for any and all regulated appliances it will sell or offer for sale in California:
  - a. Test all basic models, utilizing the applicable test method, to ensure conformance with the Appliance Efficiency Regulations.
- (4) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon American Standard and its principals, officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary, affiliates and parent corporations, and upon CEC and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.
- (5) In consideration of the payment specified above, CEC hereby releases American Standard and its parent corporation, principals, directors, officers, agents, employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, and successors from any and all claims known and unknown for alleged violations of section 1608 (efficiency, marking, certification), relating to the appliances and time frame identified in paragraph I(5), whose model numbers are identified in Attachment A.
- (6) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between CEC and American Standard concerning the claims and settlement in this Agreement, and this Agreement fully supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations and agreement of any kind or nature, whether written or oral, between CEC and American Standard concerning these claims.
- (7) No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or any portion thereof, shall be valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all Parties to this Agreement.
- (8) American Standard further agrees that if the subject matter of this Agreement comes before CEC in an administrative adjudication, neither any member of CEC, nor the Executive Director, shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Agreement.
- (9) Each Party to this Agreement has reviewed the Agreement independently, has had the opportunity to consult counsel, is fully informed of the terms and effect of this Agreement, and has not relied in any way on any inducement, representation, or advice of any other Party in deciding to enter into this Agreement.
- (10) This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to California's choice of law rules. Any litigation arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be filed in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.


(11) Each provision of this Agreement is severable, and in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement remains in full force and effect.

(12) The failure of any Party to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision, nor prevent such Party thereafter from enforcing such provision or any other provision of this Agreement.

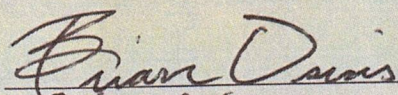
(13) This Agreement is deemed to have been drafted equally by the Parties; it will not be interpreted for or against either Party on the ground that said Party drafted it.

(14) This Agreement is effective upon signature by a representative of American Standard with authority to bind the company, and signature by the Executive Director of CEC. The Parties agree that fax or scanned signatures and multiple signature pages are acceptable for purposes of executing this Agreement, which may be signed in counterparts.

**California Energy Commission**

By:   
Name: Drew Bohan  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: 11/16/21

**AS America, Inc.**

By:   
Name: Brian Osias  
Title: Deputy EC  
Date: 11/18/21

## Attachment A

### Kitchen Faucets

710024IH.***	4175500F15.***	2770732F15.***	4285051F15.***
710027IH.***	4175501F15.***	7293252F15.***	4285100F15.***
2475500F15.***	4175503F15.***	7295252F15.***	4285001F15.***
2475550F15.***	4175300F15.***	7298252F15.***	4285410F15.***
4275500F15.***	4175100F15.***	4101100F15.***	4332350F15.***
4275501F15.***	4175700F15.***	4101301F15.***	4332300F15.***
4275550F15.***	4175701F15.***	4101350F15.***	4332310F15.***
4275551F15.***	4175703F15.***	4433350F15.***	4332001F15.***
9316450.***	4205000F15.***	4433300F15.***	4332410F15.***
9316451.***	4205001F15.***	4433100F15.***	4332400F15.***
9316000.***	4205104F15.***	4433001F15.***	6114380.***
9316001.***	4751732F15.***	4433410F15.***	6114381.***
9316003.***	4771732F15.***	4285300F15.***	

### Lavatory Faucets

7430101.***	7430451.***	7440851.***	7186811.***
7430151.***	7184101.***	7415101.***	2175500.***
7430152.***	7184801.***	7415201.***	2175502.***
7430801.***	7184851.***	7415221.***	2175503.***
D3510210C.***	2064101.***	7415801.***	2175504.***
D3510215C.***	2064131.***	7415821.***	2175505.***
D3510216C.***	2064151.***	7420101.***	2175506.***
D3510280C.***	2064152.***	7420201.***	2275500.***
D3510284C.***	2064801.***	7420221.***	2275503.***
D3510010C.***	2064831.***	7420801.***	2275505.***
D3510015C.***	2064451.***	7420821.***	2275509.***
D3510080C.***	2064461.***	7186101.***	3875501.***
D3510410C.***	7440101.***	7186201.***	3875509.***
D3510415C.***	7440151.***	7186203.***	
D3510910C.***	7440152.***	7186211.***	
D3510915C.***	7440801.***	7186801.***	

### Public Lavatory Faucet

1340M105.***
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