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Sacramento
Dennis Jones, Executive
Officer
08/27/2008
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By _____, Deputy
Case Number:
24-2008-00070532-CU-MC-ODE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

ANTHONY E. HELD, Ph.D., P.E.,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROYAL BRUSH MANUFACTURING, INC.;
and DOES 1 through 150, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

BY FAX

1 NATURE OF THE ACTION

2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff ANTHONY E.
3 HELD, Ph.D., P.E., in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California, to enforce the
4 People’s right to be informed of the presence of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, a toxic chemical, found
5 in certain vinyl smocks sold in California.

6 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failures to warn
7 California citizens about their exposure to di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate present in or on certain vinyl
8 smocks that defendants manufacture, distribute and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the
9 State of California.

10 3. High levels of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate are commonly found in or on the vinyl
11 smocks that defendants manufacture, distribute and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the
12 State of California.

13 4. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,
14 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), “No person in the course of
15 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the
16 state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to
17 such individual” (*Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.6.)

18 5. On October 24, 2003, California identified and listed di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate as a
19 chemical known to cause reproductive and developmental harm. Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
20 became subject to the warning requirement one year later and was therefore subject to the “clear
21 and reasonable warning” requirements of Proposition 65, beginning on October 24, 2004. (*27 CCR*
22 *§ 27001(c); Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.8.) Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate shall hereinafter be
23 referred to as the “LISTED CHEMICAL.”

24 6. Defendants manufacture, distribute and/or sell vinyl smocks containing Di(2-
25 ethylhexyl)phthalate, including, but not limited to, *Big Kids Choice Children’s Paint Smock, BK*
26 *APRON (#0 90672 20105 8)*. All such vinyl smocks containing the LISTED CHEMICAL shall
27 hereinafter be referred to as the “PRODUCTS.”
28

1 7. Defendants' failure to warn consumers and/or other individuals in the State of
2 California about their exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL in conjunction with defendants' sale
3 of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition 65 and subjects defendants to enjoinder of such
4 conduct as well as civil penalties for each such violation.

5 8. For defendants' violations of Proposition 65, plaintiff seeks preliminary injunctive
6 and permanent injunctive relief to compel defendants to provide purchasers or users of the
7 PRODUCTS with the required warning regarding the health hazards of the LISTED CHEMICAL.
8 (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).*)

9 9. Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against defendants for their violations of
10 Proposition 65, as provided for by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

11 **PARTIES**

12 10. Plaintiff ANTHONY E. HELD, Ph.D., P.E., is a citizen of the City and County of
13 Sacramento in the State of California who is dedicated to protecting the health of California
14 citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic exposures from consumer products, and
15 brings this action in the public interest pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7.

16 11. Defendant ROYAL BRUSH MANUFACTURING, INC. is a person in the course
17 of doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

18 12. ROYAL BRUSH MANUFACTURING, INC. manufactures, distributes and/or
19 offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California or implies by its conduct that it
20 manufactures, distributes and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

21 13. Defendants DOES 1-50 ("MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS") are each persons
22 in the course of doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

23 14. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS engage in the process of research, testing,
24 designing, assembling, fabricating and/or manufacturing, or imply by their conduct that they
25 engage in the process of research, testing, designing, assembling, fabricating and/or manufacturing,
26 one or more of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.
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1 15. Defendants DOES 51-100 ("DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS") are each persons in
2 the course of doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

3 16. DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS distribute, exchange, transfer, process and/or
4 transport one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses or retailers for sale or use in
5 the State of California.

6 17. Defendants DOES 101-150 ("RETAIL DEFENDANTS") are each persons in the
7 course of doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

8 18. RETAIL DEFENDANTS offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the State
9 of California.

10 19. At this time, the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are
11 unknown to plaintiff, who therefore sues said defendants by their fictitious name pursuant to Code
12 of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of
13 the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences herein alleged. When
14 ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

15 20. ROYAL BRUSH MANUFACTURING, INC., MANUFACTURER
16 DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and RETAIL DEFENDANTS shall, where
17 appropriate, collectively be referred to hereinafter as "DEFENDANTS."

18 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

19 21. Venue is proper in the Sacramento County Superior Court, pursuant to Code of
20 Civil Procedure §§ 394, 395, 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction,
21 because one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County
22 of Sacramento, and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in
23 this County with respect to the PRODUCTS.

24 22. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
25 California Constitution Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in
26 all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts." The statute under which this action is
27 brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction.

28

1 violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 has continued to occur beyond
2 DEFENDANTS' receipt of plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. Plaintiff further alleges and
3 believes that such violations will continue to occur into the future.

4 29. After receipt of the claims asserted in the sixty-day notice of violation, the
5 appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause
6 of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

7 30. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use in
8 California by DEFENDANTS contained the LISTED CHEMICAL above the allowable state
9 limits.

10 31. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS manufactured,
11 distributed, and/or offered for sale or use by DEFENDANTS in California contained the LISTED
12 CHEMICAL.

13 32. The LISTED CHEMICAL was present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as to
14 expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and ingestion during the
15 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

16 33. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused and
17 continues to cause consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposure is defined
18 by 27 CCR § 25601(b).

19 34. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of
20 the PRODUCTS would expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact
21 and ingestion.

22 35. DEFENDANTS, and each of them, intended that such exposures to the LISTED
23 CHEMICAL from the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS would occur by their
24 deliberate, non-accidental participation in the manufacture, distribution and/or offer for sale or use
25 of PRODUCTS to individuals in the State of California.

26 36. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to those
27 consumers and/or other individuals in the State of California who were or who could become
28

1 exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and ingestion during the reasonably
2 foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

3 37. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted
4 directly by California voters, individuals exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal
5 contact and ingestion resulting from the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, sold by
6 DEFENDANTS without “clear and reasonable warning,” have suffered, and continue to suffer,
7 irreparable harm, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.

8 38. As a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS, and each of them,
9 are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation pursuant to California
10 Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

11 39. As a consequence of the above-described acts, California Health & Safety Code
12 § 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against
13 DEFENDANTS.

14 40. Wherefore, plaintiff prays judgment against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, as
15 set forth hereinafter.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows:

18 1. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess
19 civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each
20 violation alleged herein;

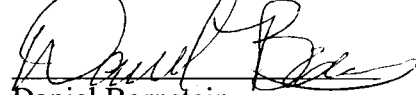
21 2. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a),
22 preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS, and each of them, from manufacturing,
23 distributing and/or offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California, without providing “clear
24 and reasonable warnings” as defined by 27 CCR § 25601, as to the harms associated with
25 exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL;

26 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs of suit; and

27 4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.
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1 Dated: August 27, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,
HIRST & CHANLER LLP



Daniel Bornstein

Attorneys for Plaintiff

ANTHONY E. HELD, PH.D., P.E.

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