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9
10 Attorneys for Plaintiff,
MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION

11
12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
(Unlimited Jurisdiction)

14
15 MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE FOUNDATION,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 WEEMS INDUSTRIES, INC.,

19 Defendant.

20 / BUSINESS TORT

21
22 COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
AND CIVIL PENALTIES

23 MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION alleges as follows:

24 INTRODUCTION

25 1. This Complaint seeks civil penalties and an injunction to remedy the continuing
26 failure of defendant WEEMS INDUSTRIES, INC. dba LEGACY MANUFACTURING
27 COMPANY (hereinafter "Weems" or "Defendant"), to give clear and reasonable warnings to
28 those residents of California, who handle and use air hose couplings and connects that are made
of, or incorporate parts made of, brass and/or bronze (hereinafter referred to as "brass air hose

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTION
AND CIVIL PENALTIES

ENDORSED
FILED
Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco
MAR 4 - 2009
ASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SE
GORDON
BY: CRISTINA BAUTISTA
AUG 7 2009 - 9:02 AM
DEPARTMENT 212

CGC - 09 - 485694

1 promotion of human health, environmental education, and consumer rights. Mateel is based in
2 Eureka, California, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Mateel is a
3 "person" pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25118. Mateel brings this enforcement
4 action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d). Residents of
5 California are regularly exposed to lead and lead compounds from brass air hose couplings
6 manufactured, distributed or marketed by Defendant and are so exposed without a clear and
7 reasonable Proposition 65 warning.

8 6. Defendant is a person doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
9 Section 25249.11. Defendant is a business that manufactures, distributes, and/or markets brass air
10 hose couplings in California, including the City and County of San Francisco. Manufacture,
11 distribution and/or marketing of these products in the City and County of San Francisco and/or to
12 people who live in San Francisco, causes people to be exposed to lead and lead compounds while
13 they are physically present in the City and County of San Francisco.

14 7. Plaintiff brings this enforcement action against Defendant pursuant to Health &
15 Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is a copy of a
16 Notice of Violation letter dated September 17, 2008, which Mateel sent to California's Attorney
17 General. Letters identical in substance were sent to every District Attorney in the state, and to the
18 City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000. On that same
19 day, Mateel sent an identical letter to Weems. Attached to the 60-Day Notice Letter sent to
20 Weems was a summary of Proposition 65 that was prepared by California's Office of
21 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. In addition, each 60-Day Notice Letter plaintiff sent
22 was accompanied by a Certificate of Service attesting to the service of the 60-Day Notice Letter
23 on each entity which received it. Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section
24 25249.7(d), a Certificate of Merit attesting to the reasonable and meritorious basis for the action
25 was also sent with each 60-Day Notice Letter. Factual information sufficient to establish the
26 basis of the Certificate of Merit was enclosed with the 60-Day Notice letter Mateel sent to the
27 Attorney General.

28 8. Defendant is a business that employs more than ten people.

1 Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 et seq. This conduct includes knowingly and
2 intentionally exposing to the above mentioned toxic chemicals, those California residents who
3 handle and use brass air hose couplings. The normally intended use of brass air hose couplings
4 causes exposure to lead and lead compounds, which are chemicals known to the State of
5 California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Defendant has not
6 provided clear and reasonable warnings, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Sections
7 25249.6 and 25249.11.

8 16. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant knew that the brass air hose
9 couplings it manufactured, distributed or marketed were causing exposures to lead and lead
10 compounds. Defendant intended that residents of California handle and use brass air hose
11 couplings in such ways as would lead to significant exposures to these chemicals.

12 17. By the above described acts, Defendant has violated Cal. Health & Safety Code
13 § 25249.6 and is therefore subject to an injunction ordering it to stop violating Proposition 65,
14 requiring it to provide warnings to their past customers who purchased Defendant's products
15 without receiving a clear and reasonable warning, and to provide warnings to future customers.

16 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
17 (Claim for Civil Penalties)

18 18. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference into this First Claim for Relief, as
19 if specifically set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 17, inclusive.

20 19. By the above described acts, Defendant is liable and should be liable pursuant to
21 Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), for a civil penalty of \$2,500.00 per day for each individual
22 exposed to lead and lead compounds from the handling or use of Defendant's brass air hose
23 couplings.

24 PRAYER FOR RELIEF

25 Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant, as follows:

26 A. Pursuant to the First Cause of Action, that Defendant be enjoined, restrained, and
27 ordered to comply with the provisions of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety
28 Code;

1 B. Pursuant to the Second Cause of Action, that Defendant be assessed a civil
2 penalty in an amount equal to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposed, in violation of Section
3 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code, to lead and lead compounds as the result of
4 Defendant' manufacturing, distributing or marketing of brass air hose couplings;

5 C. That Defendant be ordered to identify and locate each individual who purchased
6 brass air hose couplings and provide a warning to each such person that the brass air hose
7 couplings the person purchased will expose that person to chemicals known to cause birth
8 defects.

9 D. That Defendant be ordered to pay Mateel's attorney's fees and costs incurred in
10 prosecuting this action.

11 E. For such other relief as this court deems just and proper.

12 Dated: February 26, 2009

13 KLAMATH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
14 CENTER

15 By 

16 William Verick
17 Attorney for Plaintiff
18 Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation
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28



Klamath

ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW CENTER

September 17, 2008

EDWARD G. WEIL
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 70550
OAKLAND CA 94612-0550

Greetings:

This office and the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation ("Mateel") give you notice that Legacy Manufacturing Company has been, is, will be and threatens to be in violation of Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6. Both this office and Mateel are private enforcers of Proposition 65, both may be contacted at the below listed address and telephone number, and I am a responsible individual at both Mateel and this office. The above referenced violations occur when California residents come into contact with the brass air hose connectors this business markets. Specific examples of the specific types of products at issue are: CRAFTSMAN 2' X 3/8" LEADER HOSE PD0265 #916414 UPC: 092329 340349; and LEGACY WORKFORCE SERIES 3/8IN X 50FT RUBBER AIR HOSE UPC: 092329 300046. The brass air hose couplings that people handle are made from leaded brass, which contains lead and lead compounds ("lead"), which are chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. California residents are exposed to lead when they handle these couplers. Lead is transferred from the brass air hose couplers to peoples' hands and to other parts of their skin. This lead is then absorbed through the skin, taken into cuts and abrasions, absorbed through mucous membranes, and transferred from the skin to the mouth via oral contact either directly with the lead-contaminated skin, and when lead is transferred from contaminated skin to cigarettes and food and the contaminated cigarettes and food are smoked and/or eaten. These lead exposures thus occur via the dermal absorption, subcutaneous, mucous membrane, ingestion and inhalation routes. Legacy Manufacturing Company did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before it exposes them to lead. These violations have occurred every day since at least September 17, 2005, and will continue every day until the lead is removed from the brass air hose couplers, or until clear and reasonable warnings are given. The above-referenced violations are alleged for occupational exposures as well as for consumer and environmental exposures. We do not, however, allege occupational exposure violations as to any brass air hose couplers made outside of California, except as to workplaces Legacy Manufacturing Company itself maintains in California. Exposures constituting Proposition 65 environmental exposure violations occur both on and off the company's property and in each of California's 58 counties.

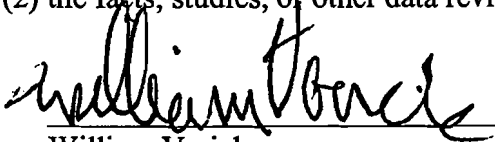
Cordially,

William Verick

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

I, William Verick, hereby declare: This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings. I am the attorney for the noticing party. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the person(s) consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: September 17, 2008



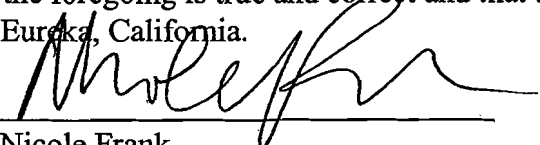
William Verick

This notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposures governed by the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health. The State Plan incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer may use the means of compliances in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Accordingly, any settlement, civil complaint, or substantive court orders in this matter must be submitted to the Attorney General.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Nicole Frank, declare:

If called, I could and would testify as follows: I am over eighteen. My business address is 424 First Street, Eureka, California, 95501. On September 17, 2008, I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER, or a letter identical in substance, to be served by U.S. Mail on those public enforcement agencies listed on the attached SERVICE LIST; in addition on the same date and by U.S. Mail I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER and PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY to be sent by Certified U.S. Mail to the private business entities also listed on the attached SERVICE LIST. I deposited copies of these documents in envelopes, postage pre-paid, with the U.S. Postal Service on the day on which the mail is collected. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on September 17, 2008, at Eureka, California.



Nicole Frank

SERVICE LIST

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSUMER &
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25 COUNTY CENTER DR.
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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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JAMES WEEMS, CEO
WEEMS INDUSTRIES, INC.
DBA LEGACY MANUFACTURING COMPANY
281 NORTH GATEWAY DRIVE
MARION, IA 52302