

ENCLOSURE
FILED
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

2010 OCT 20 AM 1:05

BY: _____
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CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SET

MAR 25 2011 9:00AM

DEPARTMENT 212

Attorneys for Plaintiff
JOHN MOORE

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
10 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

11 JOHN MOORE,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 TIFFIN ATHLETIC MATS, INC.; and DOES
15 1-150, inclusive,

16 Defendants.

Case No. **888-10-504757**

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

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

1 NATURE OF THE ACTION

2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff JOHN MOORE, in
3 the public interest of the citizens of the State of California, to enforce the People’s right to be
4 informed of the presence of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”), a toxic chemical found in
5 athletic mats sold in California.

6 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failures to
7 warn California citizens and others about their exposure to DEHP present in or on certain
8 athletic mats that defendants manufacture, import, distribute, and/or offer for sale to consumers
9 throughout the State of California.

10 3. High levels of DEHP are commonly found in and on the bags that defendants
11 manufacture, distribute, and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the State of California.

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

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

23 6. Defendants manufacture, import, distribute, and/or sell mats containing excessive
24 levels of the LISTED CHEMICAL including, but not limited to, the *Tiffin Gym Mat, Red, 2 ft. x*
25 *4 ft., Item # AB44241R, #Z17125E.* All such athletic mats containing the LISTED CHEMICAL
26 shall hereinafter be referred to as the “PRODUCTS.”

27 7. Defendants’ failure to warn consumers and/or other individuals in the State of
28 California about their exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL in conjunction with defendants’

1 sale of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition 65 and subjects defendants to enjoinder
2 of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each such violation.

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

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

9 **PARTIES**

10 10. Plaintiff JOHN MOORE is a citizen of the State of California who is dedicated to
11 protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic
12 exposures from consumer products, and brings this action in the public interest pursuant to
13 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7.

14 11. Defendant TIFFIN ATHLETIC MATS, INC. ("TIFFIN") is a person doing
15 business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

16 12. Defendant TIFFIN manufactures, imports, distributes, and/or offers the
17 PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California or implies by its conduct that it
18 manufactures, imports, distributes, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of
19 California.

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

22 14. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS engage in the process of research, testing,
23 designing, assembling, fabricating, and/or manufacturing, or imply by their conduct that they
24 engage in the process of research, testing, designing, assembling, fabricating, and/or
25 manufacturing, one or more of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

26 15. Defendants DOES 51-100 ("DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS") are each persons
27 doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

28

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

4 17. Defendants DOES 101-150 (“RETAILER DEFENDANTS”) are each persons
5 doing business within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

6 18. RETAILER DEFENDANTS offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the
7 State of California.

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

13 20. TIFFIN, MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS,
14 and RETAILER DEFENDANTS shall, where appropriate, collectively be referred to hereinafter
15 as “DEFENDANTS.”

16 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

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

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

26 23. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on
27 plaintiff’s information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or
28 association that either are citizens of the State of California, have sufficient minimum contacts

1 in the State of California, or otherwise purposefully avail themselves of the California market.
2 DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by
3 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **(Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants)**

6 24. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,
7 Paragraphs 1 through 23, inclusive.

8 25. The citizens of the State of California have expressly stated in the Safe Drinking
9 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*
10 ("Proposition 65") that they must be informed "about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer,
11 birth defects and other reproductive harm." (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

12 26. Proposition 65 states, "No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly
13 and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or
14 reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual"
15 (*Id.*)

16 27. On August 5, 2010, a sixty-day notice of violation, together with the requisite
17 certificate of merit, was provided to TIFFIN and various public enforcement agencies stating
18 that as a result of the TIFFIN'S sales of the PRODUCTS, purchasers and users in the State of
19 California were being exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from the reasonably
20 foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first having
21 been provided with a "clear and reasonable warning" regarding such toxic exposures.

22 28. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, importation, distribution,
23 and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of California Health & Safety
24 Code § 25249.6 and DEFENDANTS' manufacture, importation, distribution, and/or offering of
25 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 has
26 continued to occur beyond TIFFIN'S receipt of plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation.
27 Plaintiff further alleges and believes that such violations will continue to occur into the future.

28

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

4 30. The PRODUCTS manufactured, imported, distributed, and/or offered for sale or
5 use in California by DEFENDANTS contained the LISTED CHEMICAL above the allowable
6 state limits.

7 31. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS manufactured,
8 imported, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use by DEFENDANTS in California contained
9 the LISTED CHEMICAL.

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

13 33. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused and
14 continues to cause consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposure is
15 defined by 27 CCR section 25602(b).

16 34. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of
17 the PRODUCTS would expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact
18 and/or ingestion.

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

23 36. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to those
24 consumers and/or other individuals in the State of California who were or who could become
25 exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during the
26 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

27 37. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted
28 directly by California voters, individuals exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal

1 contact and/or ingestion, resulting from the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, sold
2 by DEFENDANTS without a “clear and reasonable warning,” have suffered, and continue to
3 suffer, irreparable harm, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.

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

7 39. As a consequence of the above-described acts, California Health & Safety Code
8 § 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against
9 DEFENDANTS.

10 40. Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as set forth
11 hereinafter.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

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

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

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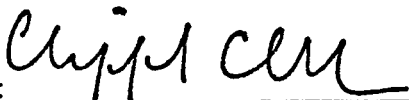
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- 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- 4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: October 20, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,
THE CHANLER GROUP

By: 
Clifford A. Chanler
Attorneys for Plaintiff
JOHN MOORE