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David H. ...
County of Santa Clara Superior Court
By: _____

M. Rawson

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PETER ENGLANDER

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

PETER ENGLANDER,

Plaintiff,

v.

WEEMS INDUSTRIES, INC.; and DOES 1-
150, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 113CV239935

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

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

1 NATURE OF THE ACTION

2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff PETER
3 ENGLANDER 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 lead, a toxic chemical found in the hand grips
5 of grease guns sold in California.

6 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failure to
7 warn California citizens about the risk of exposure to lead present in and on the hand grips of
8 grease guns manufactured, distributed, and offered for sale or use to consumers throughout the
9 State of California.

10 3. Detectable levels of lead are commonly found in and on the hand grips of grease
11 guns that defendants manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale to consumers throughout the
12 State of California.

13 4. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at
14 Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), “[n]o person in the course of
15 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to
16 the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable
17 warning to such individual” Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

18 5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on February 27, 1987, California identified and listed
19 lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Lead became
20 subject to the “clear and reasonable warning” requirements of the act one year later on February
21 27, 1988. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 &
22 25249.10(b). Lead is referred to hereinafter as the “LISTED CHEMICAL.”

23 6. Defendants import, manufacture, sell, and or distribute for sale without a warning
24 in California grease guns with hand grips containing lead, including, but not limited to, the
25 *Legacy Workforce PRO Heavy Duty Grease Gun, L1355 (#0 92329 01355 7)*. All such grease
26 guns with hand grips containing lead are referred to collectively hereinafter as “PRODUCTS.”
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1 because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in this county with
2 respect to the PRODUCTS.

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

7 23. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on
8 plaintiff’s information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or
9 association that is a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in the
10 State of California, and/or otherwise purposefully avails itself of the California market.
11 DEFENDANTS’ purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by
12 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

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

17 25. In enacting Proposition 65, in the preamble to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic
18 Enforcement Act of 1986, the People of California expressly declared their right “[t]o be
19 informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive
20 harm.”

21 26. Proposition 65 states, “[n]o person in the course of doing business shall
22 knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause
23 cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such
24 individual” Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

25 27. On August 1, 2012, plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation, together with the
26 requisite certificate of merit, was provided to WEEMS INDUSTRIES and certain public
27 enforcement agencies stating that, as a result of DEFENDANTS’ sales of the PRODUCTS
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1 containing the LISTED CHEMICAL, purchasers and users in the State of California are being
2 exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the
3 PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a
4 “clear and reasonable warning” regarding such toxic exposures, as required by Proposition 65.

5 28. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, importation, distribution, sale,
6 and offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code section
7 25249.6, and DEFENDANTS’ violations have continued to occur beyond their receipt of
8 plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation. As such, DEFENDANTS’ violations are ongoing and
9 continuous in nature, and will continue to occur in the future.

10 29. After receiving plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation, the appropriate public
11 enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action
12 against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

13 30. The PRODUCTS manufactured, imported, distributed, sold, and offered for sale
14 or use in California by DEFENDANTS contain the LISTED CHEMICAL such that they require
15 a “clear and reasonable” warning under Proposition 65.

16 31. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS they
17 manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale or use in California contain the LISTED
18 CHEMICAL.

19 32. The LISTED CHEMICAL is present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as to
20 expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during
21 reasonably foreseeable use.

22 33. The normal and reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS have caused, and
23 continue to cause, consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposures are
24 defined by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25602(b).

25 34. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable uses
26 of the PRODUCTS expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact
27 and/or ingestion.

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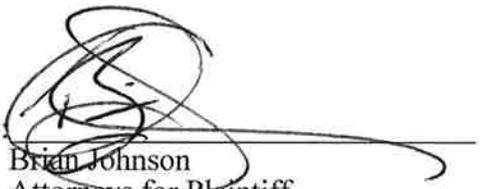
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reasonable" warning" as defined by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25601 *et seq.*, as to the harms associated with exposures the LISTED CHEMICAL;

- 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: January 18, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,
THE CHANLER GROUP

By: 
Brian Johnson
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PETER ENGLANDER