LEXINGTON LAW GROUP Mark N. Todzo, State Bar No. 168389 Joseph Mann, State Bar No. 207968 ENDORSEB 503 Divisadero Street ALAMEDA COUNTY San Francisco, CA 94117 3 Telephone: (415) 913-7800 Facsimile: (415) 759-4112 FEB 15 2013 4 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT mtodzo@lexlawgroup.com 5 jmann@lexlawgroup.com By Lanette Buffin, Deputy Rick Franco, State Bar No. 170970 Center for Environmental Health 7 2201 Broadway, Suite 302 Oakland, California 94612 Telephone: (510) 655-3900 Facsimile: (510) 655-9100 9 rick@ceh.org Attorneys for Plaintiff 10 CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 11 12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 13 7G13667688 14 Case No. CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH,) 15 a non-profit corporation, 16 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES 17 ٧. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq. A BABY INC.; AMAZON.COM, INC.; 18 ANGELES CORPORATION; BABY DOLL (Other) BEDDING, INC.; BABY DOLL INFANTS WEAR CO., INC.; BABY MATTERS LLC; 19 20 BED BATH & BEYOND, INC.; CARPENTER CO.; CHILDRENS FACTORY, INC.; DELTA ENTERPRISE CORP.; DEX PRODUCTS, 21 INC.; FOUNDATIONS WORLDWIDE, INC.: 22 HAYNEEDLE, INC.; KMART CORPORATION; LAKESHORE EQUIPMENT 23 COMPANY; MUNCHKIN, INC.; PEERLESS PRODUCTŚ, INC.; TARGÉT CORPORATION; TOYS "R" 24 US-DELAWARE, INC.: VENTURE PRODUCTS LLC; WAYFAIR LLC; and DOES 25 1 through 700, inclusive, 26 Defendants. 27 28

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Plaintiff Center for Environmental Health, in the public interest, based on information and belief and investigation of counsel, except for information based on knowledge, hereby makes the following allegations:

INTRODUCTION

- This Complaint seeks to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to warn 1. individuals in California that they are being exposed to tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate ("TDCPP"), a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer. TDCPP is a toxic chemical that is used to treat polyurethane foam, which is used as padding or cushioning in a variety of products. This Complaint addresses exposures that have occurred, and continue to occur, through the manufacture, distribution, sale, and/or use of three types of foam-containing products: (i) foam-cushioned pads for infants and children to lie on, such as pads and mats used for sleeping, resting, and/or changing diapers (collectively, "Reclining Pads"); (ii) foam-cushioned mattress toppers (collectively, "Mattress Toppers"); and (iii) foam-cushioned upholstered furniture, such as chairs, ottomans, and sofas (collectively, "Upholstered Furniture"). Reclining Pads, Mattress Toppers, and Upholstered Furniture are collectively referred to herein as "Products." Individuals in California, including infants and children, are exposed to TDCPP when they inhale TDCPP released from Products, and also when TDCPP from Products accumulates in ambient particles that are subsequently touched by such individuals and brought into contact with the mouth.
- 2. Under California's Proposition 65, Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq., it is unlawful for businesses to knowingly and intentionally expose individuals in California to chemicals known to the State to cause cancer without providing clear and reasonable warnings to individuals prior to their exposure. Defendants introduce Products contaminated with significant quantities of TDCPP into the California marketplace, exposing consumers of their Products, many of whom are infants and children, to TDCPP.
- 3. Despite the fact that Defendants expose infants, children, and other people to TDCPP, Defendants provide no warnings whatsoever about the carcinogenic hazards associated with these TDCPP exposures. Defendants' conduct thus violates the warning

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ("CEH") is a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting the public from environmental health hazards and toxic exposures. CEH is based in Oakland, California and is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. CEH is a "person" within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(a) and brings this enforcement action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d). CEH is a nationally recognized non-profit environmental advocacy group that has prosecuted a large number of Proposition 65 cases in the public interest. These cases have resulted in significant public benefit, including the reformulation of thousands of products to remove toxic chemicals to make them safer. CEH also provides information to Californians about the health risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances, where manufacturers and other responsible parties fail to do so.
- 5. Defendant A BABY INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. A Baby Inc. manufactures, distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in California.
- 6. Defendant AMAZON.COM, INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. Amazon.com, Inc. manufactures, distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in California.
- 7. Defendant ANGELES CORPORATION is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. Angeles Corporation manufactures, distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in California.
- 8. Defendant BABY DOLL BEDDING, INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. Baby Doll Bedding, Inc. manufactures, distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in California.
- 9. Defendant BABY DOLL INFANTS WEAR CO., INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. Baby Doll Infants Wear Co., Inc. manufactures, distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in

distributes, and/or sells Reclining Pads for sale or use in California.

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within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. Hayneedle, Inc. manufactures,

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within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11. DOES 501 through 600 manufacture,

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reproductive harm without a "clear and reasonable warning" unless the business responsible for the exposure can prove that it fits within a statutory exemption. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 states, in pertinent part:

No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual ...

- 40. TDCPP has been used in consumer products as an additive flame retardant since the 1960s. In the late 1970s, based on findings that exposure to TDCPP could have potentially mutagenic effects, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the use of TDCPP in children's pajamas.
- Committee, a group of qualified experts who advise the State of California on Proposition 65 chemical listing determinations, announced that it was assigning priority to the preparation of hazard identification materials for TDCPP, based on the chemical's suspected carcinogenic properties. 27 Cal. Code Regs. ("C.C.R.") § 25102(c)(1). On February 11, 2011, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") announced that it was preparing hazard identification materials for TDCPP as a precursor to formally identifying the chemical as carcinogenic. On July 8, 2011, OEHHA made its hazard identification materials for TDCPP publicly available, and announced that the State of California would be making a TDCPP listing determination by October 2011.
- 42. On October 28, 2011, the State of California officially listed TDCPP as a chemical known to cause cancer. 27 C.C.R. § 27001(b). In making this listing determination, OEHHA credited studies showing that exposure to TDCPP induces tumor formation in test animals, and that TDCPP metabolizes into other chemicals found to have similar carcinogenic properties in test subjects.
- 43. On October 28, 2012, one year after it was listed as a chemical known to cause cancer, TDCPP became subject to the clear and reasonable warning requirement regarding carcinogens under Proposition 65. 27 C.C.R. § 27001(b); Health & Safety Code § 25249.10(b).

The chief purpose of the one-year grace period between the listing date of a chemical under Proposition 65 and the effective date of the warning requirement is to give potentially liable parties sufficient time to come into complete compliance with this requirement, such that all illegal exposures can be averted.

- 44. TDCPP is used in Products primarily as an additive flame retardant in the foam padding portion. However, the use of chemical flame retardants, such as TDCPP, in foam provides no appreciably greater protection from fires. Non-chemical methods, such as the use of fire barriers, are far more effective at achieving fire safety benefits.
- foam-cushioned products into indoor household environments. Defendants' Products contain sufficient quantities of TDCPP such that individuals, including infants and children, are exposed to TDCPP through the average use of Products. The routes of exposure include inhalation, ingestion, and/or dermal absorption by individuals. Inhalation occurs when TDCPP is released from the products into the ambient environment. Ingestion and dermal absorption occur when TDCPP from the products accumulates in ambient particles (e.g., dust) that are subsequently touched by individuals and brought into contact with the mouth.
- 46. Some Products, such as Reclining Pads, are specifically designed for infants and children, and are marketed to persons who care for infants and children, such as parents, teachers, and child care professionals. Infants and children spend a large proportion of their time in intimate contact with such Products, which may increase their risk of TDCPP exposure from inhalation and dermal absorption. Infants and children may also be especially prone to ingesting ambient particles containing TDCPP from Products, given the greater amount of time they spend crawling on floors and their greater tendency to put their hands in their mouths. Studies show that concentrations of TDCPP in dust are higher in child care facilities that use foam-cushioned napping pads than in facilities that do not. Once exposed to TDCPP, infants and children may be more susceptible to its carcinogenic properties because they are smaller than adults and because their bodies are still developing.
 - 47. Any person acting in the public interest has standing to enforce violations

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of Proposition 65 provided that such person has supplied the requisite public enforcers with a valid 60-Day Notice of Violation and such public enforcers are not diligently prosecuting the action within such time. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

- 48. More than sixty days prior to naming each Defendant in this lawsuit, CEH provided a 60-Day "Notice of Violation of Proposition 65" to the California Attorney General, the District Attorneys of every county in California, the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to each of the named Defendants. In compliance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and 27 C.C.R. § 25903(b), each Notice included the following information: (1) the name and address of each violator; (2) the statute violated; (3) the time period during which violations occurred; (4) specific descriptions of the violations, including (a) the routes of exposure to TDCPP from Products, and (b) the specific type of Products sold and used in violation of Proposition 65; and (5) the name of the specific Proposition 65-listed chemical that is the subject of the violations described in each Notice.
- More than sixty days prior to naming each Defendant in this lawsuit, 49. concurrent with sending the Notices described in the preceding paragraph, CEH also sent a Certificate of Merit for each Notice to the California Attorney General, the District Attorneys of every county in California, the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to the named Defendants. In compliance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and 11 C.C.R. § 3101, each of the Certificates certified that CEH's counsel: (1) has consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposures to TDCPP alleged in each of the Notices; and (2) based on the information obtained through such consultations, believes that there is a reasonable and meritorious case for a citizen enforcement action based on the facts alleged in each of the Notices. In compliance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and 11 C.C.R. § 3102, each of the Certificates served on the Attorney General included factual information - provided on a confidential basis - sufficient to establish the basis for the Certificate, including the identity of the person(s) consulted by CEH's counsel and the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by such persons.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF 1 Wherefore, CEH prays for judgment against Defendants as follows: 2 That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess 1. 3 civil penalties against each Defendant in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation of 4 Proposition 65 according to proof; 5 That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a), 2. 6 preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants from offering Products for sale in California 7 without providing prior clear and reasonable warnings, as CEH shall specify in further 8 9 application to the Court; That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a), order 3. 10 Defendants to take action to stop ongoing unwarned exposures to TDCPP resulting from use of 11 Products sold by Defendants, as CEH shall specify in further application to the Court; 12 That the Court, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 or any other 4. 13 applicable theory, grant CEH its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and 14 That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and 5. 15 16 proper. 17 Respectfully submitted, 18 Dated: February 15, 2013 LEXINGTON LAW GROUP 19 20

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Mark N. Todzo
Attorneys for Plaintiff
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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