Reuben Yeroushalmi (SBN 193981) 1 Daniel D. Cho (SBN 105409) Ben Yeroushalmi (SBN 232540) 2 YEROUSHALMI & ASSOCIATES 3 APR 0 8 2014 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W Beverly Hills, California 90212 Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk 4 Telephone: 310.623.1926 By Shaunya Bolden, Deputy Facsimile: 310,623,1930 5 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff. Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 9 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BC541969 10 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC., CASE NO. in the public interest, 11 Plaintiff. 12 COMPLAINT FOR PENALTY AND INJUNCTION 13 ٧. Violation of Proposition 65, the Safe 14 PIVOTAL 5, LLC, a Delaware Limited Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Liability Company; PIVOTAL 5, INC., an Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code, § 15 Illinois Corporation; FITNESS 25249.5, et sea.) 16 MANUFACTURING PARTNERS, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Corporation; ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL 17 KATHY SMITH LIFESTYLES, LLC, a CASE (exceeds \$25,000) business entity form unknown; BODY BY 18 JAKE GLOBAL, LLC, a Delaware Limited 19 Liability Company; BODY BY JAKE, INC., a California Corporation; ROSS STORES, 20 INC., a Delaware Corporation: ROSS DRESS FOR LESS, INC., a Virginia 21 Corporation; and DOES 1-20; 22 Defendants. 23 24 Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. alleges a cause of action against 25 26 defendants PIVOTAL 5, LLC, PIVOTAL 5, INC., FITNESS MANUFACTURING 27 PARTNERS, LLC, KATHY SMITH LIFESTYLES, LLC, BODY BY JAKE GLOBAL, LLC, 28

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF PROPOSITION 65, THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE § 25249.5, ET SEO.)

BODY BY JAKE, INC., ROSS STORES, INC., ROSS DRESS FOR LESS, INC., and DOES 1-20 as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. ("Plaintiff" or "CAG") is an organization qualified to do business in the State of California. CAG is a person within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11, subdivision (a). CAG, acting as a private attorney general, brings this action in the public interest as defined under Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d).
- 2. Defendant PIVOTAL 5, LLC ("PIVOTAL LLC") is a Delaware limited liability company, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 3. Defendant PIVOTAL 5, INC. ("PIVOTAL INC") is an Illinois corporation, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- Defendant FITNESS MANUFACTURING PARTNERS, LLC ("FITNESS
 MANUFACTURING") is an Illinois limited liability corporation, doing business in the
 State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 5. Defendant KATHY SMITH LIFESTYLES, LLC ("KATHY SMITH") is a business entity form unknown, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 6. Defendant BODY BY JAKE GLOBAL, LLC ("BODY LLC") is a Delaware limited liability company, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 7. Defendant BODY BY JAKE, INC. ("BODY INC") is a California corporation, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 8. Defendant ROSS STORES, INC. ("ROSS STORES") is a Delaware corporation, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
- 9. Defendant ROSS DRESS FOR LESS, INC. ("ROSS DRESS") is a Virginia corporation, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.

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- 10. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1-20, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each fictitiously named defendant is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged and the damages caused thereby.
- 11. At all times mentioned herein, the term "Defendants" includes PIVOTAL LLC,
 PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, KATHY SMITH, BODY LLC, BODY
 INC, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and DOES 1-20.
- 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants at all times mentioned herein have conducted business within the State of California.
- 13. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this action, each of the Defendants, including DOES 1-20, was an agent, servant, or employee of each of the other Defendants. In conducting the activities alleged in this Complaint, each of the Defendants was acting within the course and scope of this agency, service, or employment, and was acting with the consent, permission, and authorization of each of the other Defendants. All actions of each of the Defendants alleged in this Complaint were ratified and approved by every other Defendant or their officers or managing agents. Alternatively, each of the Defendants aided, conspired with and/or facilitated the alleged wrongful conduct of each of the other Defendants.
- 14. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, each of the Defendants was a person doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11, subdivision (b), and that each of the Defendants had ten (10) or more employees at all relevant times.

JURISDICTION

- 15. The Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, which allows enforcement of violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction.
- 16. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants named herein because Defendants either reside or are located in this State or are foreign corporations authorized to do business in California, are registered with the California Secretary of State, or who do sufficient business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts with California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the markets within California through their manufacture, distribution, promotion, marketing, or sale of their products within California to render the exercise of jurisdiction by the California courts permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 17. Venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles because one or more of the instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County of Los Angeles and/or because Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in the County of Los Angeles with respect to the consumer product that is the subject of this action.

BACKGROUND AND PRELIMINARY FACTS

18. In 1986, California voters approved an initiative to address growing concerns about exposure to toxic chemicals and declared their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." Ballot Pamp., Proposed Law, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 4, 1986) at p. 3. The initiative, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code sections 25249.5, et seq. ("Proposition 65"), helps to protect California's drinking water sources from contamination, to allow consumers to make informed choices about the products

- they buy, and to enable persons to protect themselves from toxic chemicals as they see fit.
- 19. Proposition 65 requires the Governor of California to publish a list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.8. The list, which the Governor updates at least once a year, contains over 700 chemicals and chemical families. Proposition 65 imposes warning requirements and other controls that apply to Proposition 65-listed chemicals.
- 20. All businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate or sell products in California must comply with Proposition 65. Under Proposition 65, businesses are: (1) prohibited from knowingly discharging Proposition 65-listed chemicals into sources of drinking water (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5), and (2) required to provide "clear and reasonable" warnings before exposing a person, knowingly and intentionally, to a Proposition 65-listed chemical (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.6).
- 21. Proposition 65 provides that any person "violating or threatening to violate" the statute may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7. "Threaten to violate" means "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.11(e). Defendants are also liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation, recoverable in a civil action. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(b).
- 22. Plaintiff identified certain practices of manufacturers and distributors of Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate ("DEHP")-bearing products of exposing, knowingly and intentionally, persons in California to the Proposition 65-listed chemicals of such products without first providing clear and reasonable warnings of such to the exposed persons prior to the time of exposure. Plaintiff later discerned that Defendants engaged in such practice.
- 23. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive

toxicity. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 25249.9 and 25249.10, twenty (20) months after addition of DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity, DEHP became fully subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements and discharge prohibitions.

SATISFACTION OF PRIOR NOTICE

- 24. On or about December 19, 2013, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures and occupational exposures, subject to a private action to KATHY SMITH, PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and to the California Attorney General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys for each city containing a population of at least 750,000 people in whose jurisdictions the violations allegedly occurred, concerning the products Jump Ropes and Sauna Burn Suits containing DEHP.
- 25. On or about January 17, 2014, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures and occupational exposures, subject to a private action to BODY LLC, BODY INC, PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and to the California Attorney General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys for each city containing a population of at least 750,000 people in whose jurisdictions the violations allegedly occurred, concerning the product Burn Suits containing DEHP.
- 26. Before sending the notices of alleged violation, Plaintiff investigated the consumer products involved, the likelihood that such products would cause users to suffer significant exposures to DEHP, and the corporate structure of each of the Defendants.
- 27. Plaintiff's notices of alleged violation included a Certificate of Merit executed by the attorney for the noticing party, CAG. The Certificate of Merit stated that the attorney for Plaintiff who executed the certificate had consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate expertise who reviewed data regarding the exposures to DEHP, the

subject Proposition 65-listed chemical of this action. Based on that information, the attorney for Plaintiff who executed the Certificate of Merit believed there was a reasonable and meritorious case for this private action. The attorney for Plaintiff attached to the Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General the confidential factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit.

- 28. Plaintiff's notices of alleged violations also included a Certificate of Service and a document entitled "The Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) A Summary." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d).
- 29. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the dates that Plaintiff gave notices of the alleged violations to PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, KATHY SMITH, BODY LLC, BODY INC, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and the public prosecutors referenced in Paragraph 24 and 25.
- 30. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that neither the Attorney General, nor any applicable district attorney or city attorney has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action against the Defendants.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, KATHY SMITH, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and DOES 1-20 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code, §§ 25249.5, et seq.))

Jump Ropes

31. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein. Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer, distributor, promoter, or retailer of Jump Ropes, which includes but is not limited to "DELUXE SPEED JUMP ROPE, 9-foot, kathy smith HEALTHY LIVING, "D1066 C6612 982", "400097712501", "N 337 03 FITNESS SIZE", Barcode: 8 16142 01011 7" ("JUMP ROPES").

- 33. Defendants knew or should have known that DEHP has been identified by the State of California as a chemical known to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity and therefore was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also informed of the presence of DEHP in JUMP ROPES within Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations further discussed above at Paragraph 24.
- 34. Plaintiff's allegations regarding JUMP ROPES concern "[c]onsumer products exposure[s]," which "is an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." *Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 25602(b). JUMP ROPES are consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures to DEHP took place as a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.
- 35. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between December 19, 2010 and the present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed their employees and California consumers and users of JUMP ROPES, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or sold as mentioned above, to DEHP, without first providing any type of clear and reasonable warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure. Defendants have distributed and sold JUMP ROPES in California. Defendants know and intend that California consumers will use and consume JUMP ROPES, thereby exposing them to DEHP. Defendants thereby violated Proposition 65.
- 36. The principal routes of exposure are through dermal contact, ingestion and inhalation. Persons sustain exposures by handling JUMP ROPES without wearing gloves or any other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling JUMP ROPES, as well as through direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter dispersed from JUMP ROPES. And as to Defendants' employees, employees may be exposed to DEHP in the course of their employment by handling, distributing, and selling JUMP ROPES.

- 37. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of Proposition 65 as to JUMP ROPES have been ongoing and continuous to the date of the signing of this complaint, as Defendants engaged and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of JUMP ROPES, so that a separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and every time a person was exposed to DEHP by JUMP ROPES as mentioned herein.
- 38. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.
- 39. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to DEHP from JUMP ROPES, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b).
- 40. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to filing this Complaint.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, KATHY SMITH, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and DOES 1-20 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code, §§ 25249.5, et seq.))

SAUNA BURN SUITS

41. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 40 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein. Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer, distributor, promoter, or retailer of Sauna Burn Suits, which includes but is not limited to "SAUNA BURN SUITE, kathy smith HEALTHY LIVING, "XXL Fits Waist Size 36"-42"", "D1066 C6612 1646", "400097712518", "N 337 03 FITNESS SIZE", "KSRSSXXL"" ("SAUNA BURN SUITS").

42. SAUNA BURN SUITS contain DEHP.

- 43. Defendants knew or should have known that DEHP has been identified by the State of California as a chemical known to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity and therefore was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also informed of the presence of DEHP in SAUNA BURN SUITS within Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations further discussed above at Paragraph 24.
- 44. Plaintiff's allegations regarding SAUNA BURN SUITS concern "[c]onsumer products exposure[s]," which "is an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." *Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 25602(b). SAUNA BURN SUITS are consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures to DEHP took place as a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.
- 45. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between December 19, 2010 and the present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed their employees and California consumers and users of SAUNA BURN SUITS, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or sold as mentioned above, to DEHP, without first providing any type of clear and reasonable warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure. Defendants have distributed and sold SAUNA BURN SUITS in California. Defendants know and intend that California consumers will use and consume SAUNA BURN SUITS, thereby exposing them to DEHP. Defendants thereby violated Proposition 65.
- 46. The principal routes of exposure are through dermal contact, ingestion and inhalation.

 Persons sustain exposures by handling SAUNA BURN SUITS without wearing gloves or any other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling SAUNA BURN SUITS, as well as through direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter

dispersed from SAUNA BURN SUITS. And as to Defendants' employees, employees may be exposed to DEHP in the course of their employment by handling, distributing, and selling SAUNA BURN SUITS.

- 47. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of Proposition 65 as to SAUNA BURN SUITS have been ongoing and continuous to the date of the signing of this complaint, as Defendants engaged and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of SAUNA BURN SUITS, so that a separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and every time a person was exposed to DEHP by SAUNA BURN SUITS as mentioned herein.
- 48. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.
- 49. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to DEHP from SAUNA BURN SUITS, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b).
- 50. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to filing this Complaint.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against PIVOTAL LLC, PIVOTAL INC, FITNESS MANUFACTURING, BODY LLC, BODY INC, ROSS STORES, ROSS DRESS, and DOES 1-20 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code, §§ 25249.5, et seq.))

Burn Suits

51. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 50 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.

- 52. Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer, distributor, promoter, or retailer of Burn Suits, which include but are not limited to "BODY BY JAKE® MAX BURN SUIT, ELASTIC COMFORT FIT, "There's only one BODY BY! TM", "BURN CALORIES DETOXIFY BODY DESIGNED FOR COMFORT", "BBJMBS-R", "Manufactured and distributed under license from Body By Jake by Pivotal 5, Inc., Chicago, IL 60644", "03 FITNESS SIZE", "D1066 C6611", "400097908089" ("BURN SUITS").
- 53. BURN SUITS contain DEHP.
- 54. Defendants knew or should have known that DEHP has been identified by the State of California as a chemical known to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity and therefore was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also informed of the presence of DEHP in BURN SUITS within Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations further discussed above at Paragraph 25.
- 55. Plaintiff's allegations regarding BURN SUITS concern "[c]onsumer products exposure[s]," which "is an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." *Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 25602(b). BURN SUITS are consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures to DEHP took place as a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.
- 56. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between January 17, 2011 and the present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed their employees and California consumers and users of BURN SUITS, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or sold as mentioned above, to DEHP, without first providing any type of clear and reasonable warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure. Defendants have distributed and sold BURN SUITS in California. Defendants know and intend that California consumers will use and consume BURN SUITS, thereby exposing them to DEHP. Defendants thereby violated Proposition 65.

- 57. The principal routes of exposure are through dermal contact, ingestion and inhalation.

 Persons sustain exposures by handling BURN SUITS without wearing gloves or any other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling BURN SUITS, as well as through direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter dispersed from BURN SUITS. And as to Defendants' employees, employees may be exposed to DEHP in the course of their employment by handling, distributing, and selling BURN SUITS.
- 58. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of Proposition 65 as to BURN SUITS have been ongoing and continuous to the date of the signing of this complaint, as Defendants engaged and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of BURN SUITS, so that a separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and every time a person was exposed to DEHP by BURN SUITS as mentioned herein.
- 59. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.
- 60. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to DEHP from BURN SUITS, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b).
- 61. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to filing this Complaint.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff demands against each of the Defendants as follows:

- 1. A permanent injunction mandating Proposition 65-compliant warnings;
- 2. Penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (b);
- 3. Costs of suit;

- 4. Reasonable attorney fees and costs; and
- 5. Any further relief that the court may deem just and equitable.

Dated: April 8 2014

YEROUSHALMI & ASSOCIATES

BY:

Reuben Yeroushalmi
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Consumer Advocacy Grove

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc.