| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8                                 | Clifford A. Chanler, State Bar No. 135534 Brian Johnson, State Bar No. 235965 THE CHANLER GROUP 2560 Ninth Street Parker Plaza, Suite 214 Berkeley, CA 94710-2565 Telephone: (510) 848-8880 Facsimile: (510) 848-8118 cliff@chanler.com brian@chanler.com Attorneys for Plaintiff PETER ENGLANDER | FILED Superior Court of California County of San Francisco  JAN 09 2017  CLERKOF THE COURT  BY:                        |
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| 9  | SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA   |  |
| 10   | COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO   |  |
| 11<br>12   | UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION  |  |
| 13<br>14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22<br>23<br>24 | PETER ENGLANDER,  Plaintiff,  V.  LYMAN PRODUCTS CORPORATION and DOES 1-150, inclusive,  Defendants.  | CGC-17-556317  Case No.  COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.) |
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| 27<br>28   |   |  |
| 20   | COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF   |  |
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## **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff Peter Englander in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California. Plaintiff brings this action to enforce the People's right to be informed of the health hazards caused by exposures to lead, a toxic chemical found in and on brass hammer pins sold by defendants in California.
- 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants' continuing failure to warn individuals not covered by California's Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code section 6300 et seq., who purchase, use, or handle defendants' products, about the risks of exposure to lead present in and on brass hammer pins manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use throughout the State of California. Individuals not covered by California's Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code section 6300 et seq., who purchase, use or handle defendants' products, are referred to hereinafter as "consumers."
- 3. Detectable levels of lead are found in and on the brass hammer pins that defendants manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale to consumers and other individuals throughout California.
- 4. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65"), "[n]o 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 ..." Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.
- 5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on February 27, 1987, California listed lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. Lead became subject to the "clear and reasonable warning" requirements of the act one year later on February 27, 1988.

  Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b).

  Defendants manufacture, distribute, import, sell, and offer for sale without health hazard warnings in California, brass hammer pins that contain lead including, but not limited to, the pins offered in

connection with the Lyman Brass Tapper Hammer, Item #7031290, UPC #0 11516 81290 2. All such brass hammer pins containing lead are referred to hereinafter as "PRODUCTS."

- 6. Defendants' failure to warn consumers in the State of California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead in conjunction with defendants' sales of the PRODUCTS are violations of Proposition 65, and subject defendants, and each of them, to enjoinment of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each violation. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a) & (b)(1).
- 7. For defendants' violations of Proposition 65, plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to compel defendants to provide consumers of the PRODUCTS with the required warning regarding the health hazards associated with exposures to lead. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).
- 8. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against defendants for their violations of Proposition 65.

## **PARTIES**

- 9. Plaintiff PETER ENGLANDER, is a citizen of the State of California who is dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic exposures from consumer products; and he brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d).
- 10. Defendant LYMAN PRODUCTS CORPORATION ("LYMAN") is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.
- 11. LYMAN manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.
- 12. Defendants DOES 1-50 ("MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS") are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.

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- 13. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, research, test, design, assemble, fabricate, and manufacture, or imply by their conduct that they research, test, design, assemble, fabricate, and manufacture one or more of the PRODUCTS offered for sale or use in California.
- Defendants DOES 51-100 ("DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS") are each a person 14. in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.
- DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and each of them, distribute, exchange, **15**. transfer, process, and transport one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California, or imply by their conduct that they distribute, exchange, transfer, process, and transport one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California.
- Defendants DOES 101-150 ("RETAILER DEFENDANTS") are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.
- 17. RETAILER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, offer the PRODUCTS for sale to consumers and other individuals in the State of California.
- At this time, the true names of defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are 18. unknown to plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an amended complaint.
- LYMAN, MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and RETAILER DEFENDANTS shall hereinafter collectively be referred to as "DEFENDANTS."

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## **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

- 20. Venue is proper in the Superior Court for the County of San Francisco pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction, because plaintiff seeks civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, because one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in this county, and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct business in San Francisco with respect to the PRODUCTS.
- 21. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action 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." The statute under which this action is brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction.
- 22. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on Plaintiff's information and good faith belief that DEFENDANTS are each a person, firm, corporation or association that is a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California, and/or otherwise purposefully avails itself of the California market. DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# (Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants)

- 23. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, Paragraphs 1 through 22, inclusive.
- 24. In enacting Proposition 65, in the preamble to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, the People of California expressly declared their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm."
- 25. Proposition 65 states, "[n]o 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 . . . ." Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

- 26. On October 28, 2016, plaintiff served a sixty-day notice of violation together with an accompanying certificate of merit, on LYMAN, the California Attorney General's Office, and all other requisite public enforcement agencies alleging that, as a result of DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS, consumers and other individuals in the State of California are being exposed to lead resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, without the consumers first receiving a "clear and reasonable warning" regarding the harms associated with exposures to lead, as required by Proposition 65.
- 27. DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, and DEFENDANTS' violations have continued beyond their receipt of plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. As such, DEFENDANTS' violations are ongoing and continuous in nature and, unless enjoined will continue in the future.
- 28. After receiving plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation, no public enforcement agency has commenced and diligently prosecuted a cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged violations that are the subject of plaintiff's notice of violation.
- 29. The PRODUCTS that DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale or use in California expose consumers and other individuals to lead, resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS. Such exposures caused by DEFENDANTS and endured by consumers in California are not exempt from the "clear and reasonable" warning requirements of Proposition 65, yet DEFENDANTS provide no clear and reasonable warning. DEFENDANT'S violations of Proposition 65 as a result of their failure to provide warnings to consumers and other individuals exposed to lead from the PRODUCTS in violation of Proposition 65 have continued since as far back as October 28, 2013.

- 30. DEFENDANTS know or should know that the PRODUCTS they manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale in California contain lead.
- 31. Lead is present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as to expose consumers through dermal contact and/or ingestion during reasonably foreseeable use.
- 32. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused, and continues to cause, consumer exposures to lead, as defined by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25602(b).
- 33. DEFENDANTS know that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS exposes consumers and other individuals to lead through dermal contact and/or ingestion.
- 34. DEFENDANTS intend for such exposures to lead from the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS to occur by their deliberate, non-accidental participation in the manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, and offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use to consumers in California.
- 35. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to those consumers and other individuals in California who have been, or who will be, exposed to lead through dermal contact and/or ingestion resulting from their use of the PRODUCTS.
- 36. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65 enacted directly by California voters, consumers exposed to lead through dermal contact and/or ingestion as a result of their use of the PRODUCTS that DEFENDANTS sold without a "clear and reasonable" health hazard warning, have suffered, and continue to suffer, irreparable harm for which they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 37. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS, and each of them, are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation.

38. As a consequence of the above-described acts, Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against DEFENDANTS.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows:

- 1. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), assess civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation;
- 2. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a), preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing, or offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California without first providing a "clear and reasonable warning" in accordance with title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25601 et seq., regarding the harms associated with exposures to lead;
- 3. That the Court, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a), issue preliminary and permanent injunctions mandating that DEFENDANTS recall all PRODUCTS currently in the chain of commerce in California without a "clear and reasonable warning" as defined by California Code of Regulations title 27, section 25601 et seq.;
  - 4. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
  - 5. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: January 9, 2017

Respectfully submitted, THE CHANLER GROUP

Brian Johnson

Attorneys for Plaintiff

PETER ENGLANDER