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**CONFORMED COPY  
OF ORIGINAL FILED  
Los Angeles Superior Court**

**NOV 30 2017**

**Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By Shaunya Bolden, Deputy**

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
8 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

10 SHEFA LMV, INC.,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 LOGAN GRAPHIC PRODUCTS, INC.;  
14 AARON BROTHERS, INC. and DOES 1  
through 100, Inclusive,

15 Defendants.  
16  
17  
18

) Unlimited Jurisdiction

) CASE NO.

**BC 6 8 5 1 3 2**

) COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

) (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.)

) TOXIC TORT/ENVIRONMENTAL

**BY FAX**

1 Plaintiff, Shefa LMV, INC., hereby alleges:

2 **I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

3 1. This complaint seeks to remedy the failure of Defendants to warn persons of exposure  
4 to Diisononyl Phthalate (“DINP”), a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or  
5 reproductive harm.

6 2. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health & Safety  
7 Code § 25249.6 (commonly known as “Proposition 65”) businesses must provide persons with a  
8 “clear and reasonable warning” before exposing individuals to chemicals known to the state to cause  
9 cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

10 3. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant(s) failed to provide such warning before exposing  
11 individuals to DEHP.

12 **II. PARTIES**

13 4. Plaintiff is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed pursuant to the laws of the  
14 State of California, made up of California citizens, represented by and through its counsel of record,  
15 the Law Office of Daniel N. Greenbaum.

16 5. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) provides that actions to enforce Proposition 65  
17 may be brought by “any person in the public interest.”

18 6. Defendant LOGAN GRAPHIC PRODUCTS, INC. is a business entity with ten or  
19 more employees that sells, or has, at times relevant to this complaint, authorized the manufacture,  
20 distribution, or sale of plastic handled tools, including, but not limited to, Mat Knife, Model 500;  
21 UPC008957050000, that contain DINP, for sale within the State of California, without first giving  
22 clear and reasonable warning.

23 7. Defendant AARON BROTHERS, INC. is a business entity with ten or more  
24 employees that sells, or has, at times relevant to this complaint, authorized the manufacture,  
25 distribution, or sale of plastic handled tools, including, but not limited to, Mat Knife, Model 500;  
26 UPC008957050000, that contain DINP, for sale within the State of California, without first giving  
27 clear and reasonable warning.



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15. An exposure to a chemical in a consumer product is one “which 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.” (27 CCR 25602(b))

16. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State develops a list of chemicals “known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.” (Health & Safety Code § 25249.8.)

17. No warning must be provided concerning a listed chemical until twelve (12) months after the chemical first appears on the list. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.10(b).)

18. Any person “violating or threatening to violate” the statute may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7.)

19. Proposition 65 defines to “threaten to violate” as “to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur.” (Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(e).)

20. In addition, violators are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation, recoverable in a civil action. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7 (b).)

21. Actions to enforce the law “may be brought by the Attorney General in the name of the People of the State of California [or] by any district attorney [or] by any City Attorney of a City having a population in excess of 750,000 . . .” (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(c).)

22. Private parties are given authority to enforce Proposition 65 “in the public interest,” but only if the private party first provides written notice of a violation to the alleged violator, the Attorney General, and every District Attorney in whose jurisdiction the alleged violation occurs.

23. If no public prosecutors commence enforcement within sixty (60) days, then the private party may sue. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).)

**V. FACTS**

24. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) is the California agency tasked (in part) with providing the regulatory and scientific framework for Proposition 65.

25. OEHHA placed DINP on the list of chemicals known to California to cause cancer on December 20, 2013. (27 CCR 27001(b))

1           26. Defendant Logan Graphic Products, Inc. is the manufacturer(s) and distributor(s) of  
2 the PRODUCTS for use by individuals in the home and other endeavors.

3           27. The PRODUCTS are sold through various retailers, including but not limited to  
4 Defendant Aaron Brothers, Inc., located in California for use by citizens of the State of California.

5           28. On April 22, 2017, Plaintiff purchased the PRODUCT from an Aaron Brothers retail  
6 location in California.

7           29. On May 17, 2017, Plaintiff's expert prepared a report summarizing the results of  
8 analysis on the PRODUCTS, including the amount of the DINP in the product.

9           30. Based on the levels found in analysis, Plaintiff's expert opined the use of the  
10 PRODUCTS would lead to exposure to DINP above the safe harbor levels set by the Office of  
11 Environment Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).

12           31. Based on that report and opinion, Plaintiff and its counsel prepared a Notice of  
13 Violation.

14           32. Pursuant to the statute and regulations referenced above, on May 26, 2017 Plaintiff  
15 served the Notice of Violation on the Office of the Attorney General, Defendant, as well as all  
16 required public agencies.

17           33. Plaintiff is unaware of any governmental prosecution against Defendant.

18           34. At least sixty (60) days have elapsed since service of the Notice of Violation.

19           35. Based upon consultation with experts, Plaintiff alleges that individuals who purchase,  
20 handle, or use the PRODUCTS are exposed to DINP chiefly through:

21           a. contact between the item and the skin;

22           b. transfer of DINP from the skin to the mouth, both by transfer of DINP directly  
23 from the hand to mouth, and indirectly by transfer of DINP from the skin to objects that are  
24 placed in the mouth, such as food or cigarettes; and

25           c. through direct absorption of DINP through the skin.

26           36. Such individuals are thereby exposed to the DINP that is present on or in the  
27 PRODUCTS during the intended and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.  
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1 37. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants have had knowledge that the  
2 PRODUCTS contain DINP and that an individual’s skin may contact DINP through the intended and  
3 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

4 38. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants have had knowledge that  
5 individuals within the State of California handle the PRODUCTS, which contain DINP.

6 39. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants knew that the PRODUCTS were  
7 sold throughout the State of California in large numbers, and Defendants profited from such sales.

8 40. Notwithstanding this knowledge, Defendants intentionally authorized and reauthorized  
9 the sale of the PRODUCTS, thereby exposing consumers to DINP.

10 41. At all times material to this complaint, therefore, Defendants have knowingly and  
11 intentionally exposed individuals within the State of California to DINP.

12 42. The exposure is knowing and intentional because it is the result of the Defendants’  
13 deliberate act of authorizing the sale of products known to contain DINP, in a manner whereby these  
14 products were, and would inevitably be, sold to consumers within the state of California, and with the  
15 knowledge that the intended use of this PRODUCTS would result in exposures to DINP by  
16 individuals within the State of California.

17 43. Defendants have failed to provide clear and reasonable warnings that the use of the  
18 PRODUCTS in question in California results in exposure to a chemical known to the State of  
19 California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm, and no such warning was  
20 provided to those individuals by any other person.

21 **VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **(Against All Defendants for Violation of Proposition 65)**

23 44. Paragraphs 1 through 43 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

24 45. By committing the acts alleged above, Defendants have, in the course of doing  
25 business, knowingly and intentionally exposed individuals in California to chemicals known to the  
26 State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable  
27 warning to such individuals, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.  
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1 46. Said violations render Defendants liable to Plaintiffs for civil penalties not to exceed  
2 \$2,500 per day for each violation, as well as other remedies.

3  
4 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

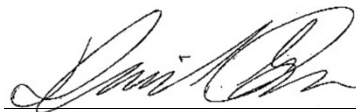
5 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that the Court:

- 6 1. Pursuant to the First Causes of Action, grant civil penalties according to proof;  
7 2. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, enter such temporary restraining orders,  
8 preliminary injunctions, permanent injunctions, or other orders prohibiting Defendant from  
9 exposing persons within the State of California to Listed Chemicals caused by the use of their  
10 products without providing clear and reasonable warnings, as Plaintiffs shall specify in further  
11 application to the court;  
12 3. Award Plaintiffs their costs of suit;  
13 4. Grant such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.  
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15  
16 Respectfully submitted,

17  
18 DATED: November 30, 2017

19 LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL N. GREENBAUM

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21 By: DANIEL N. GREENBAUM  
22 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
23 Shefa LMV, INC.  
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