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Clerk of Court
Superior Court of CA,
County of Santa Clara
19CV343837
Reviewed By: Y. Chavez

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

11 SAFE PRODUCTS FOR CALIFORNIANS,) No. 19CV343837
12 LLC,)
13 Plaintiff,) **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES**
14 vs.) **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**
15 EHP LABS DISTRIBUTION LLC; DOES 1) (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*)
16 THROUGH 150,)
17 Defendants.)
18)
19)

20 Plaintiff, SAFE PRODUCTS FOR CALIFORNIANS, LLC (“Plaintiff”), alleges as
21 follows:

22 **SUMMARY**

23 1. This is a representative action brought by Plaintiff in the public interest of the
24 citizens of the State of California to enforce the public’s right to be informed of the health
25 hazards caused by exposures to lead and lead compounds, toxic chemicals found in and on the
26 products manufactured, distributed, and/or sold by Defendants, EHP LABS DISTRIBUTION
27 LLC; and DOES 1 THROUGH 150, inclusive (collectively “Defendants”), as set forth below.
28 ///

1 2. By this Complaint, Plaintiff seeks to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to
2 warn individuals not covered by California's Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code
3 § 6300, *et seq.* ("OSHA"), who purchase, use, or handle Defendants' products, about the risks
4 of exposure to lead and lead compounds present in and on the products manufactured,
5 distributed, and sold throughout the State of California. Individuals not covered by OSHA who
6 purchase, use, or handle Defendants' products are referred to hereinafter as "Consumers."

7 3. Detectable levels of lead and lead compounds are found in and/or on the
8 powdered dietary supplements that Defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or offer for sale to
9 Consumers throughout the State of California.

10 4. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at
11 Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"), "[n]o person in the course of
12 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to
13 the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable
14 warning to such individual ..." Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

15 5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on February 27, 1987, California identified and
16 listed lead and lead compounds as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity. Lead and
17 lead compounds became subject to the "clear and reasonable warning" requirements of
18 Proposition 65 one year later on February 27, 1988. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health
19 & Safety Code § 25249.8.

20 6. Defendants manufacture, distribute, import, sell, and offer for sale without
21 health warnings in the State of California, powdered dietary supplements that contain excessive
22 levels of lead and lead compounds including, but not limited to, "Blessed Protein - Choc
23 Coconut," UPC# 8-58221-00747-2; "Blessed Protein - Vanilla Chai," UPC# 8-58221-00748-9;
24 and "Blessed Protein - Salted Caramel," UPC# 8-58221-00746-5. All such products containing
25 lead and lead compounds are referred to collectively hereinafter as "Products."

26 7. Defendants' failure to warn Consumers in the State of California of the health
27 hazards associated with exposures to lead and lead compounds in conjunction with
28 Defendants' sales of the Products are violations of Proposition 65, and subject Defendants, and

1 each of them, to enjoinder of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each violation. Health
2 & Safety Code § 25249.7(a) & (b)(1).

3 8. For Defendants' violations of Proposition 65, Plaintiff seeks preliminary and
4 permanent injunctive relief to compel Defendants to provide Consumers of the Products with
5 the required warning regarding the health hazards associated with exposures to lead and lead
6 compounds. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).

7 9. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), Plaintiff also seeks civil
8 penalties against Defendants for their violations of Proposition 65.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 10. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
11 California Constitution Article VI, section 10, which grants the Superior Court "original
12 jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts." The statute under
13 which this action is brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction.

14 11. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over Defendants based on
15 Plaintiff's information and good faith belief that Defendants are each a person, firm,
16 corporation, or association that is a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum
17 contacts in the State of California, and/or purposefully avails itself of the California market.
18 Defendants' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California
19 courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

20 12. Venue is proper in the Superior Court for the County of Santa Clara, pursuant to
21 Code of Civil Procedure §§ 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent
22 jurisdiction, because Plaintiff seeks civil penalties against Defendants, because one or more
23 instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in this county, and/or because
24 Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in Santa Clara County with respect to
25 the Products.

26 **PARTIES**

27 13. Plaintiff is a limited liability California company with its principal place of
28 business within the State of California, County of Santa Clara. Plaintiff seeks to reduce or

1 eliminate the presence of hazardous substances in consumer products sold in California, and to
2 ensure that California consumers are aware of the presence of such substances in consumer
3 goods so that they can make an educated effort to limit their own exposure where deemed
4 necessary. Plaintiff brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code
5 § 25249.7(d).

6 14. Defendant EHP LABS DISTRIBUTION LLC is a person in the course of doing
7 business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

8 15. Defendants manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and/or offer the Products for
9 sale or use in the State of California, or imply by their conduct that they manufacture, import,
10 distribute, sell, and/or offer the Products for sale or use in the State of California.

11 16. Defendants DOES 1 THROUGH 50, inclusive (“Manufacturer Defendants”),
12 are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
13 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

14 17. Manufacturer Defendants, and each of them, research, test, design, assemble,
15 fabricate, and manufacture, or each implies by its conduct that it researches, tests, designs,
16 assembles, fabricates, and manufactures, one or more of the Products offered for sale or use in
17 California.

18 18. Defendants DOES 51 THROUGH 100, inclusive (“Distributor Defendants”),
19 are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
20 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

21 19. Distributor Defendants, and each of them, distribute, exchange, transfer,
22 process, and transport one or more of the Products to individuals, businesses, or retailers for
23 sale or use in the State of California, or each implies by its conduct that it distributes,
24 exchanges, transfers, processes, and transports one or more of the Products to individuals,
25 businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California.

26 20. Defendants DOES 101 THROUGH 150, inclusive (“Retailer Defendants”), are
27 each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
28 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

1 public enforcement agencies, alleging that, as a result of Defendants' sales of the Products,
2 Consumers in the State of California are being exposed to lead and lead compounds resulting
3 from their reasonably foreseeable use of the Products, without the Consumers first receiving a
4 "clear and reasonable warning" regarding the harms associated with exposures to lead and lead
5 compounds, as required by Proposition 65.

6 28. Defendants manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer the Products for sale
7 or use in violation of Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, and Defendants' violations have
8 continued beyond their receipt of Plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. As such, Defendants'
9 violations are ongoing and continuous in nature and, unless enjoined, will continue in the
10 future.

11 29. After receiving Plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation, and to Plaintiff's best
12 information and belief, no public enforcement agency has commenced and diligently
13 prosecuted a cause of action against Defendants under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged
14 violations that are the subject of Plaintiff's notice of violation.

15 30. The Products that Defendants manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer for
16 sale or use in California cause exposures to lead and lead compounds as a result of the
17 reasonably foreseeable use of the Products. Such exposures caused by Defendants and endured
18 by Consumers in California are not exempt from the "clear and reasonable" warning
19 requirements of Proposition 65, yet Defendants provide no clear and reasonable warning.

20 31. Defendants knew or should have known that the Products they manufacture,
21 import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale or use in California contain lead and lead compounds.

22 32. Lead and lead compounds are present in or on the Products in such a way as to
23 expose Consumers through ingestion and/or inhalation during reasonably foreseeable use.

24 33. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the Products has caused, and
25 continues to cause, consumer exposures to lead and lead compounds, as defined by title 27 of
26 the California Code of Regulations, section 25602(b).

27 34. Defendants know that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the
28 Products exposes individuals to lead and lead compounds through ingestion and/or inhalation.

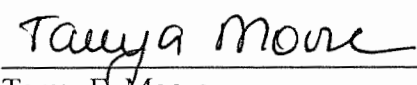
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offering the Products for sale or use in California without first providing a “clear and reasonable warning” in accordance with title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25601, *et seq.*, regarding the harms associated with lead and lead compounds;

- 4. Plaintiff’s reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit; and
- 5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: February 14, 2019

MOORE LAW FIRM, P.C.



Tanya E. Moore
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Safe Products for Californians, LLC