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Superior Court of CA,
County of Santa Clara
19CV352318
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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

10
11 SAFE PRODUCTS FOR CALIFORNIANS,) No. 19CV352318
LLC,)
12 Plaintiff,) **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES**
13 vs.) **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**
14) (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*)
ALTICOR INC.; AMWAY CORP.; DOES 1)
15 THROUGH 150,)
16 Defendants.)
17)
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, ALTICOR INC., AMWAY
27 CORP., and DOES 1 THROUGH 150, inclusive (collectively “Defendants”), as set forth
28 below.

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 Bodykey by Nutrilite Meal Replacement Shake that Defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or
9 offer for sale to 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, Elite Protein Powdered Dietary Supplements that
22 contain excessive levels of lead and lead compounds including, but not limited to, “Bodykey
23 by Nutrilite Meal Replacement Shake – French Vanilla,” SKU 12-2277. All such products
24 containing lead and lead compounds are referred to collectively hereinafter as “Products.”

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

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. Defendants ALTICOR INC. and AMWAY CORP. are persons in the course of
7 doing 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 21. Retailer Defendants, and each of them, offer the Products for sale to individuals
2 in the State of California.

3 22. At this time, the true names of Defendants DOES 1 THROUGH 150, inclusive,
4 are unknown to Plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names
5 pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
6 alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and
7 occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an
8 amended complaint.

9 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **Violation of Proposition 65**

11 23. Plaintiff re-pleads and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in
12 each of the foregoing paragraphs, and incorporates them herein as if separately re-pled.

13 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the
14 Defendants employs ten or more persons.

15 25. In enacting Proposition 65, in the preamble to the Safe Drinking Water and
16 Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, the People of California expressly declared their right “[t]o be
17 informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive
18 harm.”

19 26. Proposition 65 states, “[no] person in the course of doing business shall
20 knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause
21 cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such
22 individual ...” Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

23 27. On or about May 22, 2019, Plaintiff served a sixty-day notice of violation,
24 including the attachment of a Certificate of Merit affirming that Plaintiff’s counsel had
25 consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate expertise who reviewed
26 relevant data regarding the alleged exposures to lead and lead compounds and that counsel
27 believed there was meritorious and reasonable cause for a public action, on Defendants
28 ALTICOR INC. and AMWAY CORP., the California Attorney General’s Office, and the

1 requisite public enforcement agencies, alleging that, as a result of Defendants' sales of the
2 Products, Consumers in the State of California are being exposed to lead and lead compounds
3 resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the Products, without the Consumers first
4 receiving a "clear and reasonable warning" regarding the harms associated with exposures to
5 lead and lead 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: July 26, 2019

MOORE LAW FIRM, P.C.



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