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Case #19CV348901
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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

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11 SAFE PRODUCTS FOR CALIFORNIANS,) No. 19CV348901
LLC,)
12) **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR**
Plaintiff,) **CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE**
13) **RELIEF**
vs.)
14) (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*)
HOMEGOODS, INC.; T.J. MAXX OF CA,)
15)
LLC; AMAZON.COM, INC.; ORIENT)
16)
SOLUTIONS LIMITED; DOES 2)
17)
THROUGH 150,)
18)
Defendants.)

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, HOMEGOODS, INC.; T.J.
27 MAXX OF CA, LLC; AMAZON.COM, INC.; ORIENT SOLUTIONS LIMITED; and DOES
28 2 THROUGH 150, inclusive (collectively “Defendants”), as set forth 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 Minvita 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, Minvita Dietary Supplements that contain excessive
22 levels of lead and lead compounds including, but not limited to, “Minvita Energy Superfood
23 Blend,” UPC# 5-060255-370476; “Minvita Mulberry Superfood Blend,” UPC# 5-060255-
24 370285, ASIN# B00HVEOE4G; “Minvita Moringa Superfood Powder,” UPC# 5-060255-
25 370223, ASIN# B075CT5P39; and “Minvita Detox Superfood Blend,” UPC# 5-060255-
26 370483, ASIN# B072J8J5V7. All such products containing lead and lead compounds are
27 referred to collectively hereinafter as “Products.”

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1 **PARTIES**

2 13. Plaintiff is a limited liability California company with its principal place of
3 business within the State of California, County of Santa Clara. Plaintiff seeks to reduce or
4 eliminate the presence of hazardous substances in consumer products sold in California, and to
5 ensure that California consumers are aware of the presence of such substances in consumer
6 goods so that they can make an educated effort to limit their own exposure where deemed
7 necessary. Plaintiff brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code
8 § 25249.7(d).

9 14. Defendants HOMEGOODS, INC.; T.J. MAXX OF CA, LLC; AMAZON.COM,
10 INC.; and ORIENT SOLUTIONS LIMITED are persons in the course of doing business within
11 the meaning of Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

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

15 16. Defendants DOES 2 THROUGH 50, inclusive (“Manufacturer Defendants”),
16 are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
17 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

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

22 18. Defendants DOES 51 THROUGH 100, inclusive (“Distributor Defendants”),
23 are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
24 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

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

1 businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California.

2 20. Defendants DOES 101 THROUGH 150, inclusive (“Retailer Defendants”), are
3 each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code
4 §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

5 21. Retailer Defendants, and each of them, offer the Products for sale to individuals
6 in the State of California.

7 22. At this time, the true names of Defendants DOES 2 THROUGH 150, inclusive,
8 are unknown to Plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names
9 pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
10 alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and
11 occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an
12 amended complaint.

13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Violation of Proposition 65**

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

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

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

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

27 27. On or about November 15, 2018 and October 4, 2019, Plaintiff served a sixty-
28 day notice of violation, including the attachment of a Certificate of Merit affirming that

1 Plaintiff's counsel had consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate
2 expertise who reviewed relevant data regarding the alleged exposures to lead and lead
3 compounds and that counsel believed there was meritorious and reasonable cause for a public
4 action, on Defendants HOMETOOLS, INC.; T.J. MAXX OF CA, LLC; AMAZON.COM,
5 INC.; ORIENT SOLUTIONS LIMITED; the California Attorney General's Office, and the
6 requisite public enforcement agencies, alleging that, as a result of Defendants' sales of the
7 Products, Consumers in the State of California are being exposed to lead and lead compounds
8 resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the Products, without the Consumers first
9 receiving a "clear and reasonable warning" regarding the harms associated with exposures to
10 lead and lead compounds, as required by Proposition 65.

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

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

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

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

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

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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.*;

3. That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 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 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 5, 2020

MOORE LAW FIRM, P.C.

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