Electronically FILED by S	uperior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 10/13/2020 12:34 PM Sf Assigned for all purposes to: Stanley Mosk Courthouse	1 herri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by H. Flores-Hernandez,Deputy Clerk e, Judicial Officer: Robert Draper
2 3	LAW OFFICE OF DÁNIEL N. GREENBAUM The Hathaway Building 7120 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite 320 Van Nuys CA 91406 Telephone: (818) 809-2199 Facsimile: (424) 243-7689 Email: dgreenbaum@greenbaumlawfirm.com Attorney for Shefa LMV, INC. SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 20 21 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	SHEFA LMV, INC., Plaintiff, vs. 2MODA LLC; WHOLESALE BACKPACK dba BACKPACKS USA; and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive, Defendants.	Unlimited Jurisdiction CASE NO. 20STCV39401 COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.)
	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENA	1 LTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1 2

Plaintiff, Shefa LMV, INC., hereby alleges:

I.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This complaint seeks to remedy the failure of Defendants to warn persons of exposure to Diisononyl Phthalate ("DINP"), a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer.

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

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

PARTIES

II.

11

12

13

14

17

19

20

21

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

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

6. Defendant 2MODA LLC, is a business entity with ten or more employees that sells, or 18 has, at times relevant to this complaint, authorized the manufacture, distribution, or sale of plastic backpack products, including but not limited to, Moda West 10" Mini Backpack; UPC: 709673898128, that contain DINP, for sale within the State of California, without first giving clear and reasonable warning.

with ten or more employees that sells, or has, at times relevant to this complaint, authorized the

manufacture, distribution, or sale of plastic backpack products, including but not limited to, Moda

West 10" Mini Backpack; UPC: 709673898128, that contain DINP, for sale within the State of

Defendant WHOLESALE BACKPACK dba BACKPACKS USA, is a business entity

22 23

7.

25 26

24

27 28

COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

California, without first giving clear and reasonable warning.

8. The identities of DOES 1 through 100 are unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, Plaintiff suspects they are business entities with at least ten or more employees that at all times relevant to this complaint, authorized the manufacture, distribution, or sale of plastic backpack products, including but not limited to, Moda West 10" Mini Backpack; UPC: 709673898128, that contain DINP, for sale within the State of California, without first giving clear and reasonable warning.

9. Defendants named in paragraphs 6 through 8 have at all times relevant to this complaint, authorized the manufacture, distribution, or sale of plastic purse products, including but not limited to, plastic backpack products, including but not limited to, Moda West 10" Mini Backpack; UPC: 709673898128, that contain DINP (hereinafter "PRODUCTS"), for sale within the State of California, without first giving clear and reasonable warning.

12 13

14

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, section 10, because this case is a cause not given by statute to other trial courts.

15 11. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants, because they are business entities that do 16 sufficient business, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail 17 themselves of the California market, through the sale, marketing, and use of its products in 18 California, to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with 19 traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

20 Venue is proper in this Court because the cause, or part thereof, arises in Los Angeles 12. County because Defendant's products are sold and consumed in this county.

22 23

27

28

21

IV. **STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

13. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 is an initiative statute 24 passed as "Proposition 65" by a vote of the people in November of 1986.

25 14. The warning requirement of Proposition 65 is contained in Health & Safety Code § 26 25249.6, which provides:

> No 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

1 reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual, except as provided in Section 25249.10. 2 An exposure to a chemical in a consumer product is one "which results from a 15. 3 person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a 4 consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." (27 CCR 25602(b)) 5 16. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State develops a list of chemicals 6 'known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity." (Health & Safety Code § 25249.8.) 7 17. No warning must be provided concerning a listed chemical until twelve (12) months 8 after the chemical first appears on the list. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.10(b).) 9 18. Any person "violating or threatening to violate" the statute may be enjoined in any 10 court of competent jurisdiction. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7.) 11 19. Proposition 65 defines to "threaten to violate" as "to create a condition in which there 12 is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." (Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(e).) 13 In addition, violators are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each 20. 14 violation, recoverable in a civil action. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7 (b).) 15 21. Actions to enforce the law "may be brought by the Attorney General in the name of 16 the People of the State of California [or] by any district attorney [or] by any City Attorney of a City 17 having a population in excess of 750,000 . . ." (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(c).) 18 22. Private parties are given authority to enforce Proposition 65 "in the public interest," 19 but only if the private party first provides written notice of a violation to the alleged violator, the 20 Attorney General, and every District Attorney in whose jurisdiction the alleged violation occurs. 21 23. If no public prosecutors commence enforcement within sixty (60) days, then the 22 private party may sue. (Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).) 23 V. **FACTS** 24 24. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") is the California 25 agency tasked (in part) with providing the regulatory and scientific framework for Proposition 65. 26 25. OEHHA placed DINP on the list of chemicals known to California to cause cancer on 27 December 20, 2013. (27 CCR 27001(b)) 28 COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1	26.	Defendant 2MODA LLC, is the manufacturer(s) of the PRODUCTS for use by	
2	individuals in the home and other endeavors.		
3	27.	Defendant WHOLESALE BACKPACK dba BACKPACKS USA is the distributor(s)	
4	of the PRODUCTS for use by individuals in the home and other endeavors		
5	28.	The PRODUCTS are sold through various retailers, including but not limited to	
6	Amazon, Inc., to consumers located in California for use by citizens of the State of California.		
7	29.	On November 15, 2019, Plaintiff purchased the PRODUCT from Amazon.com, Inc.	
8	30.	On December 9, 2019, Plaintiff's expert prepared a report summarizing the results of	
9	analysis on the PRODUCTS, including the amount of the DINP in the product.		
10	31.	Based on the levels found in analysis, Plaintiff's expert opined the use of the	
11	PRODUCTS	would lead to exposure to DINP above the safe harbor levels set by the Office of	
12	Environment Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).		
13	32.	Based on that report and opinion, Plaintiff and its counsel prepared a Notice of	
14	Violation.		
15	33.	Pursuant to the statute and regulations referenced above, on or around December 12,	
16	2019, Plaintiff served the Notice of Violation on the Office of the Attorney General, Defendant, as		
17	well as all required public agencies.		
18	34.	Plaintiff is unaware of any governmental prosecution against Defendant.	
19	35.	At least sixty (60) days have elapsed since service of the Notice of Violation.	
20	36.	Based upon consultation with experts, Plaintiff alleges that individuals who purchase,	
21	handle, or use the PRODUCTS are exposed to DINP chiefly through:		
22		a. contact between the item and the skin;	
23		b. transfer of DINP from the skin to the mouth, both by transfer of DINP directly	
24	from t	the hand to mouth, and indirectly by transfer of DINP from the skin to objects that are	
25	placed in the mouth, such as food or cigarettes; and		
26		c. through direct absorption of DINP through the skin.	
27			
28		5	
	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF		

37. Such individuals are thereby exposed to the DINP that is present on or in the PRODUCTS during the intended and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

38. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants have had knowledge that the PRODUCTS contain DINP and that an individual's skin may contact DINP through the intended and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

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

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

10 41. Notwithstanding this knowledge, Defendants intentionally authorized and reauthorized the sale of the PRODUCTS, thereby exposing consumers to DINP.

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

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

19 44. Defendants have failed to provide clear and reasonable warnings that the use of the 20 PRODUCTS in question in California results in exposure to a chemical known to the State of 21 California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm, and no such warning was 22 provided to those individuals by any other person.

VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Violation of Proposition 65)

25

23

24

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

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

26 46. By committing the acts alleged above, Defendants have, in the course of doing 27 business, knowingly and intentionally exposed individuals in California to chemicals known to the 28

6

1			
2	State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable		
3	warning to such individuals, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.		
4	47. Said violations render Defendants liable to Plaintiffs for civil penalties not to exceed		
5	\$2,500 per day for each violation, as well as other remedies.		
6	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
7	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that the Court:		
8	1. Pursuant to the First Cause of Action, grant civil penalties of \$2,500 per violation pe		
9	day, going back one year from the date of filing, which at the time of filing is \$5,000;		
-	2. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, enter such temporary restraining orders,		
10	preliminary injunctions, permanent injunctions, or other orders prohibiting Defendant from		
11	exposing persons within the State of California to Listed Chemicals caused by the use of their		
12	products without providing clear and reasonable warnings, as Plaintiffs shall specify in further		
13	application to the court;		
14	3. Award Plaintiff the costs of suit;		
15	4. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, award Plaintiff their reasonable		
16	attorney's fees and costs of at least \$20,000 as of the filing of this Complaint, and ar		
17	anticipated additional \$7,500 of attorney's fees to obtain a default judgment, if a default is		
18	entered; and		
19	5. Grant such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.		
20			
21	Respectfully submitted,		
22			
23	DATED: October 11, 2020		
24	LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL N. GREENBAUM		
25	1 min lan		
26	By: DANIEL N. GREENBAUM		
27	Attorneys for Plaintiff Shefa LMV, INC.		
28	7		
	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF		