1 2 3 4	Evan J. Smith, Esquire (SBN 242352) Ryan P. Cardona, Esquire (SBN 302113) BRODSKY SMITH 9465 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90212 Telephone: (877) 534-2590 Facsimile: (310) 247-0160		ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California,
5	Attorneys for Plaintiff		County of San Francisco 10/18/2024
6			Clerk of the Court
7		THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	Deputy Clerk
8	COUNTY OF	SAN FRANCISCO	
9	EMA BELL,	Case No.: CGC-23-603844	
10	Plaintiff,	FIRST AMENDED COMPL PENALTIES AND INJUNC	
11	VS.	(Violation of Health & Safety seq.)	y Code § 25249.5 et
12	ANTHEM SPORTS, LLC,	scq.)	
13	Defendant.		
14	Plaintiff Ema Bell ("Plaintiff"), by and	l d through har attorneys, alleges	the following cause
15	of action in the public interest of the citizens of		the following cause
16			
17		ND OF THE CASE	1°C ' ',' ,
18		ative action on behalf of all Ca	
19	enforce relevant portions of Safe Drinking Wa		
20	the Health and Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq		
21	"[n]o person in the course of doing busine		
22	individual to a chemical known to the state to	-	
23	giving clear and reasonable warning to such in	ndividual". Health & Safety (	Code § 25249.6.
24	2. This first amended complaint is	s a representative action brough	t by Plaintiff in the
25	public interest of the citizens of the State of Ca	llifornia to enforce the People's	right to be informed
26	of the health hazards caused by exposure to d	li(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEH	P) and bisphenol A
27	(BPA) (collectively the "Listed Chemicals")	), toxic chemicals found in pr	oducts sold and/or
	distributed by defendant Anthem Sports, LLC	("Anthem" or "Defendant") in	California.
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3. DEHP is a harmful chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and
 reproductive toxicity. On January 1, 1988, the State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known
 to the State to cause cancer and it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since
 that time. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b).
 On October 24, 2003, the State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known to cause
 reproductive toxicity.

4. BPA is a harmful chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive
toxicity. On May 11, 2015, the State of California listed BPA as a chemical known to the State to
cause reproductive toxicity and BPA has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations
since that time. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 &
25249.10(b).

5. Proposition 65 requires all businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate
within California or sell products therein to comply with Proposition 65 regulations. Included in
such regulations is the requirement that businesses must label any product containing a Proposition
65-listed chemical that will create an exposure above safe harbor levels with a "clear and
reasonable" warning before "knowingly and intentionally" exposing any person to any such listed
chemical.

Proposition 65 allows for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation
 for up to 365 days to be imposed upon defendants in a civil action for violations of Proposition 65.
 Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Proposition 65 also allows for any court of competent
 jurisdiction to enjoin the actions of a defendant which "violate or threaten to violate" the statute.
 Health & Safety Code § 25249.7.

7. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant distributes, sells and/or offers for sale in California,
without a requisite exposure warning, (a) Tandem Sport Volleyball blocking pads and (b) Mueller
Sports Medicine face guards (collectively, the "Products") that expose persons to Proposition 65
Listed Chemicals when used for their intended purpose.

8. Defendant's failure to warn consumers and other individuals in California of the
health hazards associated with exposure to Listed Chemicals in conjunction with the sale and/or

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distribution of the Products is a violation of Proposition 65 and subjects Defendant to the
 enjoinment and civil penalties described herein.

3 9. Plaintiff seeks civil penalties against Defendant for its violations of Proposition 65
4 in accordance with Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

10. Plaintiff also seeks injunctive relief, preliminarily and permanently requiring
Defendant to provide purchasers or users of the Products with required warnings related to the
dangers and health hazards associated with exposure to the Listed Chemicals, pursuant to Health
and Safety Code § 25249.7(a).

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11. Plaintiff further seeks a reasonable award of attorney's fees and costs.

# PARTIES

11 12. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general 12 public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and to 13 improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items. She brings this 14 action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

15 13. Defendant Anthem, through its business, effectively imports, distributes, sells,
and/or offers the Products for sale or use in the State of California, or it implies by its conduct that
it imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the Products for sale or use in the State of California.
Plaintiff alleges that defendant Anthem is a "person" in the course of doing business within the
meaning of Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.

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# **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

14. Venue is proper in the County of San Francisco because one or more of the
instances of wrongful conduct occurred and continue to occur in this county and/or because
Defendant conducted, and continues to conduct, business in the County of San Francisco with
respect to the Products.

15. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Constitution
Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those
given by statute to other trial courts. Health and Safety Code § 25249.7 allows for the enforcement

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1 of violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction; therefore, this Court has 2 jurisdiction over this lawsuit.

3 16. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is either a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts with the State of California, is registered 4 5 with the California Secretary of State as a foreign corporation authorized to do business in the 6 State of California, and/or has otherwise purposefully availed itself of the California market. Such 7 purposeful availment has rendered the exercise of jurisdiction by California courts consistent and 8 permissible with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

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# **STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

17. 10 The people of the State of California declared in Proposition 65 their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive 11 12 harm." (Section 1(b) of Initiative Measure, Proposition 65.)

13 18. To effect this goal, Proposition 65 requires that individuals be provided with a 14 "clear and reasonable warning" before being exposed to substances listed by the State of California 15 as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity. H&S Code § 25249.6 states, in pertinent part:

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 reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual...

18 19. 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 20 consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." (27 CCR § 25602, para (b).) H&S Code § 25603(c) states that "a person in the course of doing business ... shall provide a warning to any person to whom the product is sold or transferred unless the product is packaged or labeled with a clear and reasonable warning."

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> FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF -VIOLATION OF HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5

20. Pursuant to H&S Code § 25603.1, the warning may be provided by using one or more of the following methods individually or in combination:<sup>1</sup>

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A warning that appears on a product's label or other labeling. a.

b. Identification of the product at the retail outlet in a manner which provides a warning. Identification may be through shelf labeling, signs, menus, or a combination thereof.

The warnings provided pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (b) shall be c. prominently placed upon a product's labels or other labeling or displayed at the retail outlet with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the label, labeling or display as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use.

d. A system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any other system that provides clear and reasonable warnings.

14 21. Proposition 65 provides that any "person who violates or threatens to violate" the 15 statute may be enjoined in a court of competent jurisdiction. (H&S Code § 25249.7.) The phrase "threaten to violate" is defined to mean creating "a condition in which there is a substantial 16 probability that a violation will occur." (H&S Code § 25249.11(e).) Violators are liable for civil 17 penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day for each violation of the Act (H&S Code § 25249.7) for up to 18 19 365 days.

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# FACTUAL BACKGROUND

DEHP is a harmful chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and 22. 21 22 reproductive toxicity. On January 1, 1988, the State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known 23 to the State to cause cancer and it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since 24 that time. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b).

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Alternatively, a person in the course of doing business may elect to comply with the warning requirements set out in the amended version of 27 CCR 25601, et.seq. as amended on August 30, 2016, and operative on August 30, 2018. 28

On October 24, 2003, the State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known to cause
 reproductive toxicity.

3 23. BPA is a harmful chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive
4 toxicity. On May 11, 2015, the State of California listed BPA as a chemical known to the State to
5 cause reproductive toxicity and BPA has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations
6 since that time. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 &
7 25249.10(b).

8 24. The exposures that are the subject of the Notices result from the purchase,
9 acquisition, handling, and recommended use of the Products.

10 25. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemicals is through dermal
11 absorption. Dermal absorption will occur through direct skin contact when the Products are
12 contacted with bare hands or exposed skin. Exposure through ingestion will occur by touching the
13 Products with subsequent touching of the user's hand to mouth.

14 26. Defendant has marketed, distributed, offered to sell and/or sold the Products in
15 California since at least January 6, 2022. The Products continue to be distributed and sold in
16 California without the requisite warning information.

17 27. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant has knowingly and intentionally
18 exposed users of the Products to Listed Chemicals without first giving a clear and reasonable
19 exposure warning to such individuals.

28. As a proximate result of acts by Defendant, as a person in the course of doing
business within the meaning of H&S Code § 25249.11, individuals throughout the State of
California, including in San Francisco County, have been exposed to Proposition 65 listed
chemicals without a clear and reasonable warning on the Products. The individuals subject to the
violative exposures include normal and foresceable users and consumers that use the Products, as
well as all others exposed to the Products.

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# **SATISFACTION OF NOTICE REQUIREMNTS**

2 The Alleged Violations of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 to Anthem

3 29. On November 10, 2021, Plaintiff purchased the Products from Anthem. At the time
4 of the purchases, Anthem did not provide a Proposition 65 exposure warning for Listed Chemicals
5 in a manner consistent with H&S Code § 25603.1 as described *supra*.

- 6 30. Each Product was sent to a testing laboratory<sup>2</sup> to determine the chemical content of
  7 the Products.
- 8 31. The results of these analyses determined the Products expose users to the Listed
  9 Chemicals (each, a "Chemical Test Report," collectively, the "Chemical Test Reports").
- 32. Plaintiff provided the Chemical Test Reports and each Product to an analytical
  chemist to determine if, based on the findings of the Chemical Test Reports and the reasonable
  and foreseeable use of the Products, exposure to the Listed Chemicals will occur at levels that
  require Proposition 65 warnings under the Clear and Reasonable Warnings section 25601 of Title
  27 of the California Code of Regulations.
- 33. On January 6, 2022, Plaintiff received from the analytical chemist an exposure
  assessment report for each Product which concluded that persons in California who use the
  Products will be exposed to levels of Listed Chemicals that require a Proposition 65 exposure
  warning.

34. On January 6, 2022 (Tandem Sport Volleyball blocking pads) (Exhibit A) and
January 10, 2022 (Mueller Sports Medicine face guards) (Exhibit B),, Plaintiff gave notice of
alleged violation of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 (collectively, the "Notices") to Defendant
concerning the exposure of California citizens to Listed Chemicals from use of the Products
without proper warning, subject to a private action to Defendant and to the California Attorney
General's office and the offices of the County District attorneys and City Attorneys for each city

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Tandem Sport Volleyball blocking pads Chemical Test Report determined the Product exposes users to DEHP; The Mueller Sports Medicine face guards Chemical Test Report determined the Product exposes users to BPA.

with a population greater than 750,000 persons wherein the herein violations allegedly occurred.
 See attached at Exhibits "A" – "B" a true and correct copy of each Notice.

3 35. The Notices complied with all procedural requirements of Proposition 65 including
4 the attachment of a Certificate of Merit affirming that Plaintiff's counsel had consulted with at
5 least one person with relevant and appropriate expertise who reviewed relevant data regarding
6 Listed Chemicals exposure, and that counsel believed there was meritorious and reasonable cause
7 for a private action.

8 36. After receiving the Notices, and to Plaintiff's best information and belief, none of
9 the noticed appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and diligently prosecuted a
10 cause of action against Defendant under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged violations which are
11 the subject of the Notices.

12 37. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the date of each
13 Notice to Defendant, as required by law.

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# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# (By Plaintiff against Defendant for the Violations of Proposition 65)

16 38. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 37 of
17 this First Amended Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

18 39. Defendant has, at all times mentioned herein, acted as distributer, and/or retailer of
19 the Products.

40. Use of the Products will expose users and consumers thereof to Listed Chemicals,
hazardous chemicals found on the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to be hazardous to
human health.

41. The Products do not comply with the Proposition 65 warning requirements.

42. Plaintiff, based on her best information and belief, avers that at all relevant times
herein, and at least January 6, 2022, continuing until the present, that Defendant has continued to
knowingly and intentionally expose California users and consumers of the Products to Listed
Chemicals without providing required warnings under Proposition 65.

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43. The exposures that are the subject of the Notices result from the purchase,
acquisition, handling and recommended use of the Products. The primary route of exposure to
these chemicals is through dermal absorption. Dermal absorption of the Listed Chemicals occurs
through direct skin contact when the Products are contacted with bare hands or exposed skin.
Exposure through ingestion will also occur by touching the Products with subsequent touching of
the user's hand to mouth, or direct contact with the user's mouth.

7 44. Plaintiff, based on her best information and belief, avers that such exposures will
8 continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to purchasers and users or
9 until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products.

45. Defendant has knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the
Products exposes individuals to Listed Chemicals, and Defendant intends that exposures to Listed
Chemicals will occur by its deliberate, non-accidental participation in the importation, distribution,
sale and offering of the Products to consumers in California

46. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the herein claims prior to this
First Amended Complaint.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the above
described acts, Defendant is liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day per violation.

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48. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), this Court is specifically authorized to grant injunctive relief in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant.

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF – VIOLATION OF HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5

9.

1	<u>PRAYER FOR RELIEF</u>	
2	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant and requests the following	
3	relief:	
4	A. That the co	urt assess civil penalties against defendant in the amount of \$2,500 per
5	day for each violation for up to 365 days in accordance with Health and Safety Code §	
6	25249.7(b);	
7	B. That the c	court preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendant, mandating
8	Proposition 65 com	pliant warnings on the Products;
9	C. That the co	urt grant Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, in the
10	amount of \$50,000.	.00.
11	D. That the cou	art grant any further relief as may be just and proper.
12	Dated: October 18, 2024	BRODSKY SMITH
13		By:
14		Evan J. Smith (SBN242332) Ryan P. Cardona (SBN302113)
15		9465 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90212
16		Telephone: (877) 534-2590 Facsimile: (310) 247-0160
17		
18		Attorneys for Plaintiff
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		- 10 - IPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF – TION OF HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5

# EXHIBIT "A"

## LAW OFFICES BRODSKY & SMITH

9595 WILSHIRE BLVD., STE. 900 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212 877.534,2590 www.brodskysmith.com

NEW JERSEY OFFICE 1310 NORTH KINGS HIGHWAY CHERRY HILL, NJ 08934 856.795.7250 NEW YORK OFFICE 240 MINEOLA BOULEVARD MINFOLA, NY 11501 516.741.4977 PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE TWO BALA PLAZA, STE, 805 BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004 610.667.6200

### January 6, 2022

President/CEO	President/CEO	
Volleyball Connection, Inc.	Volleyball Connection, Inc.	
c/o D. Kevin Ryan	440 Baxter Ave.	
462 South Fourth Street	Louisville, KY 40204	
2200 Meidinger Tower		
Louisville, KY 40202		
Member/Manager	Member/Manager	
Anthem Sports, LLC	Anthem Sports, LLC	
c/o Peter W. Hoops, Esquire	2 Extrusion Drive	
Hoops & Jensen, LLC	Pawcatuck, CT 06379	
19A Thames Street		
Groton, CT 06340		

## 60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky & Smith ("Brodsky Smith") represents Ema Bell ("Bell"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Bell has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o 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 reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

## I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

- Enforcer: Ema Bell, 222 S. Figueroa St. Apt. 1212, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2581; (Ph) 424-332-3817.
- 2. Alleged Violator(s): Volleyball Connection, Inc.; Anthem Sports, LLC
- 3. Time Period of Exposure: Violations have been occurring since at least January 6, 2022 and are continuing to this day.
- 4. Listed Chemical: Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). DEHP is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.
- 5. Product:

Product <sup>2</sup>	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Pad	Tandem Sport Volleyball Blocking Pad

6. Description of Exposure: The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase, acquisition, handling and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers use, touch, or handle the Products. Some amount of exposure through ingestion can occur by touching the Product with subsequent touching of the user's hand to mouth. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

## II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

## **III. <u>RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS</u>**

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Bell against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have these violations of California law quickly rectified, Bell is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

Bell has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky & Smith, 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Bell's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

Sincerely,

Evan J. Smith

Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

# EXHIBIT "B"

## LAW OFFICES BRODSKY & SMITH, LLC

9595 WILSHIRE BLVD., STE, 900 HEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212 877,534.2590 www.brodskysmith.com

NEW JERSEY OFFICE 1310 NORTH KINGS HIGHWAY CHERRY HILL, NJ 08934 856,795,7250 NEW YORK OFFICE 240 MINEOLA BOULEVARD MINEOLA, NY 11501 516.741.4977 PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE TWO BALA PLAZA, STE. 805 BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004 610.667.6200

### January 10, 2022

President/CEO	President/CEO	
Mueller Sports Medicine, Inc.	Mueller Sports Medicine, Inc.	
c/o Brett W. Mueller	c/o Brett W. Mueller	
One Quench Drive	One Quench Drive	
Prairie DU SAC, WI 53578	PO Box 99	
	Prairie Du Sac, WI 53578	
Member/Manager	Member/Manager	
Anthem Sports, LLC	Anthem Sports, LLC	- 1
c/o Peter W. Hoops, Esquire	2 Extrusion Drive	
Hoops & Jensen, LLC	Pawcatuck, CT 06379	- 1
19A Thames Street		
Groton, CT 06340		

## 60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act<sup>1</sup>

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") represents Ema Bell ("Bell"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Bell has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o 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 reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

## I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

- Enforcer: Ema Bell, 222 S. Figueroa St. Apt. 1212, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2581; (Ph) 424-332-3817
- 2. Alleged Violator(s): Mueller Sports Medicine, Inc.; Anthem Sports, LLC.
- 3. Time Period of Exposure: Violations have been occurring since at least January 10, 2022 and are continuing to this day.
- 4. Listed Chemical: Bisphenol A (BPA). BPA is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity.
- 5. Product:

Product <sup>2</sup>	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Face guard	Mueller Sports Medicine, Inc.
	UPC# 074676814575

6. Description of Exposure: The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase, acquisition, handling and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers use, touch, or handle the Products. Some amount of exposure through ingestion can occur by touching the Product with subsequent touching of the user's hand to mouth. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

#### II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

#### III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Bell against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have these violations of California law quickly rectified, Bell is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Bell's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

Bell has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky & Smith, LLC, 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.

Sincerely,

Evan J. Smith

Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary