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3	4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400 San Francisco, CA 94111	FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco				
4	Telephone: (415) 926-7247 kimberly@sevenhillsllp.com	06/22/2023 Clerk of the Court				
5		BY: KAREN VALDES Deputy Clerk				
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL					
7	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
8						
9	COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO					
10	UNLIMITED CI	VIL JURISDICTION				
11		Corre No.				
12	KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL,	Case No. CGC-23-607199				
13	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF				
14		Violation of Proposition 65, The Safe				
15	A.N.S. XTREME PERFORMANCE, INC., ANSGEAR.COM, and DOES 1-30, inclusive,	Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 <i>et</i> <i>seq.</i>)				
16	Defendants.	UNLIMITED CIVIL				
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20	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENA	LTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF				

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Plaintiff KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL, acting in the public interest, alleges a cause of action against Defendants A.N.S. XTREME PERFORMANCE, INC., ANSGEAR.COM, and DOES 1-30.

INTRODUCTION AND NATURE OF THE ACTION

 This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff Keep America Safe and Beautiful ("KASB") in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California to enforce the People's right to be informed of the health hazards caused by exposures to di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ("DEHP"), a toxic chemical found in and on the vinyl/PVC handles manufactured, imported, distributed, sold or offered for sale by Defendants in the State of California.

2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to warn
individuals not covered by California's Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code § 6300 *et seq.*("consumers") they are being exposed to substances known to the State of California to cause birth
defects or other reproductive harm through exposures to DEHP, when they purchase, use or handle
Defendants' vinyl/PVC handles.

3. Detectable levels of DEHP are found in and on the vinyl/PVC handles that Defendants
manufacture, import, sell or distribute for sale to individuals throughout California.

4. Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at
Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* ("**Proposition 65**"), it is unlawful for a person in the course
of doing business to knowingly and intentionally expose consumers in California to chemicals known
to the State to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, without first providing a "clear
and reasonable" health hazard warning to such individuals prior to purchase or use.

5. KASB contends and alleges Defendants manufacture, distribute, import, sell, and
offer for sale, in and into California vinyl/PVC handles ("PRODUCTS") containing DEHP, without
Proposition 65's requisite health hazard warning regarding the harms associated with exposures to
the chemical, including, but not limited to, *Warrior Professional Co2 Fill Station W/ 40" Steel Braided Hose; Item MS58/ 30WOGMS58/30WOG*. Defendants' conduct subjects them to civil
penalties for each violation, enjoinment as well as preliminary and permanent injunctive relief.
Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a) and (b).

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff KASB is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of California and acting in the interest of the general public, dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens and the environment through the elimination or reduction of toxic chemicals utilized in manufacturing consumer products and to increasing public awareness of those chemicals through the promotion of sound environmental practices and corporate responsibility. KASB is a person within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(a), and it brings this action in the public interest, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

7. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges, at all relevant times, Defendant
A.N.S. XTREME PERFORMANCE, INC. ("A.N.S XTREME") was and is a "person" "in the
course of doing business" with ten (10) or more employees, within the meanings of Health and Safety
Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

8. A.N.S. XTREME manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the
PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it manufactures,
imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

9. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges, at all relevant times, Defendant
ANSGEAR.COM ("ANSGEAR" and, collectively with A.N.S. EXTREME, "A.N.S.") was and is a
"person" "in the course of doing business" with ten (10) or more employees, within the meanings of
Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.

10. ANSGEAR manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it manufactures, imports,
distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

11. Defendants DOES 1-10 ("MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS") are each a person
in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and
25249.11. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, assemble, fabricate, and
manufacture, or each implies by its conduct that it does such for one or more of the PRODUCTS
offered for sale or use in California.

12. Defendants DOES 11-20 ("**DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS**") are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11. DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and each of them, distribute, transfer, and transport, or each impliedly does so by its conduct, one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California

13. Defendants DOES 21-30 ("RETAILER DEFENDANTS") are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and 25249.11.
 RETAILER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, by and through their conduct, offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the State of California.

14. At this time, the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 30, inclusive, are
unknown to plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said DOES Defendants by their fictitious names, pursuant
to Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, each
of the fictitiously named Defendants is responsible in some manner for the acts and occurrences
alleged herein and the damages caused thereby. When ascertained, their true names and capacities
shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

16 15. At all times mentioned herein, A.N.S. XTREME, ANSGEAR, MANUFACTURER
17 DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and RETAILER DEFENDANTS shall,
18 hereinafter, where appropriate, be referred to collectively as the "DEFENDANTS."

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. This Court has jurisdiction over this action, pursuant to Cal. Health & Safety Code
§ 25249.7, allowing enforcement by any court of competent jurisdiction. The California Superior
Court has jurisdiction over this action, pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, section 10,
which grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to
other trial courts." The statute under which this action is brought does not specify any other basis of
subject matter jurisdiction.

17. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS, based on
plaintiff's information and good faith belief DEFENDANTS are each a person, firm, corporation or
association that is a citizen of the State of California, does sufficient business in California, has

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sufficient minimum contacts in California, and/or otherwise purposefully and intentionally avail 2 themselves of the California market through their manufacture, importation, distribution, promotion, 3 marketing or sale of PRODUCTS within the State. DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair 4 5 play and substantial justice.

18. 6 Venue is proper in the Superior Court for the County of San Francisco, pursuant to 7 Code of Civil Procedure §§ 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent 8 jurisdiction, because plaintiff seeks civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, because one or more 9 instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in this county, and/or because 10 DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in the County of San Francisco with 11 respect to the PRODUCTS that are the subject of this action.

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REGULATORY BACKGROUND AND LAW

19. 13 In 1986, the people of the State of California approved an initiative addressing the 14 harms caused by hazardous chemicals and declared their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to 15 chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." Ballot Pamp., Proposed General Law, Gen, Elec. (Nov. 4, 1986) at p.3. 16

17 20. Formally known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 and 18 codified at Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq., Proposition 65 states, in relevant part, "[n]o 19 person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a 20 chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving a clear and reasonable 21 warning to such individual..."

22 21. Under the Act, a "person in the course of doing business" is defined as a business with 23 ten (10) or more employees. Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(b). Businesses are prohibited from 24 exposing individuals to hazardous chemicals without first giving a "clear and reasonable" warning. 25 Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

22. 26 Exposing individuals to hazardous chemicals means to cause individuals to ingest, 27 inhale, contact via body surfaces or otherwise come into contact with a listed chemical. 27 CCR 28 § 25102(i). An exposure to a hazardous chemical is defined as one that "results from a person's

acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption or other reasonably foreseeable use of a product..." 27 C.C.R. § 25600(h).

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23. Under Proposition 65, persons violating the statute may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction and may be subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day, per violation. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7.

6 24. On October 24, 2003, pursuant to Proposition 65's implementing regulations,
7 California identified and listed DEHP as a chemical known to the State cause birth defects and
8 reproductive harm. DEHP became subject to the "clear and reasonable warning" requirements one
9 year later, on October 24, 2004. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code
10 §§ 25249.8, 25249.10(b).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff purchased DEFENDANTS' PRODUCTS, without a warning, in California. 12 25. 13 26. Plaintiff investigated and tested DEFENDANTS' PRODUCTS at an accredited lab, 14 and consulted with a person with relevant and appropriate knowledge and expertise, who, after 15 reviewing the collected data and analyzing the risk of exposure to DEHP, determined the PRODUCTS subject consumers in California to exposure to the listed chemical at levels requiring a 16 17 warning under the statute, based on touching, handling or otherwise utilizing PRODUCTS in 18 accordance with their reasonably foreseeable and intended usages.

19 27. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff's attorney executed a certificate of merit, attesting
20 there was a reasonable and meritorious case for this private action and included the factual
21 information supporting the certificate when it served the notice on the California Attorney General's
22 Office, as required. Health &Safety Code § 25249.7(d); Title 11 C.C.R. § 3102.

28. Thereafter, on June 23, 2022, plaintiff served a 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice"),
together with the certificate of merit, on A.N.S. XTREME, ANSgear.com, the California Attorney
General's Office, and the requisite public enforcement agencies, alleging, as a result of
DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS, consumers in the State of California were, and are, being
exposed to DEHP through their reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS as intended without
first receiving a "clear and reasonable warning," as required by Proposition 65.

1	29. After receiving plaintiff's Notice, no public enforcement agency has commenced and			
2	is diligently prosecuting a cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65 to enforce			
3	the alleged violations that are the subject of the Notice.			
4	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION			
5	(Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All DEFENDANTS)			
6	30. KASB realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully stated herein, the allegations			
7	set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 29, inclusive.			
8	31. DEFENDANTS' PRODUCTS contain DEHP in levels requiring a clear and			
9	reasonable warning under Proposition 65.			
10	32. DEFENDANTS know or should have known the PRODUCTS they manufacture,			
11	import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale in California contain DEHP. As a result of plaintiff's			
12	Notice, DEFENDANTS also have actual knowledge of the presence of DEHP in the PRODUCTS.			
13	33. The PRODUCTS DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer for			
14	sale in or into the State of California cause exposures to DEHP, both direct and/or indirect dermal			
15	contact and ingestion, through the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.			
16	34. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused, and			
17	continues to cause, exposures to DEHP.			
18	35. DEFENDANTS know the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS			
19	exposes individuals to DEHP through direct and indirect dermal contact and/or ingestion.			
20	36. DEFENDANTS intend that exposures to DEHP from the reasonably foreseeable use			
21	of the PRODUCTS will occur by their deliberate, non-accidental participation in the California			
22	marketplace.			
23	37. The exposures to DEHP, caused by DEFENDANTS and endured by consumers and			
24	other individuals in California, are not exempt from the "clear and reasonable" warning requirements			
25	of Proposition 65.			
26	38. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to those consumers			
27	and other individuals in California who have been, or who will be, exposed to DEHP through direct			
28	and indirect dermal contact and/or ingestion resulting from the use of the PRODUCTS as intended.			
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39. 40. 41. 42. as follows:

39. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, consumers and other individuals, exposed to DEHP through dermal contact and ingestion as a result of their use of the PRODUCTS that DEFENDANTS sold without a "clear and reasonable" health hazard warning, have suffered, and continue to suffer, irreparable harm for which they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

40. DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer the PRODUCTS for
sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6, and DEFENDANTS' violations have
continued beyond their receipt of plaintiff's Notice. As such, DEFENDANTS' violations are
ongoing and continuous in nature and, unless enjoined, will continue in the future.

41. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the abovedescribed acts, DEFENDANTS, and each of them, are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500
per day for each violation.

42. As a consequence of the above-described acts, Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a)
also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against DEFENDANTS.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, KASB prays for relief and judgment against DEFENDANTS, and each of them,as follows:

That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), preliminarily and
 permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing, importing, marketing or
 otherwise offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California without first providing a "clear and
 reasonable warning" to consumers addressing the harms associated with exposures to DEHP;

23 2. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), issue preliminary
24 and permanent injunctions mandating DEFENDANTS recall all PRODUCTS currently in the chain
25 of commerce in California that do not bear a clear and reasonable health hazard warning;

3. That the Court assess civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, in the
amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation of Proposition 65, in an amount to be determined at trial;

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1	4.	That the Court award plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, incurred	l
2	herein; and		
3	5.	That the Court grant any further relief as it deems just and equitable.	
4	Dated: June 2	22, 2023 Respectfully submitted,	
5		SEVEN HILLS LLP	
6			
7		By: Kimberly Gates Johnson	
8		By:	
9		Attorneys for Plaintiff	
10		Keep America Safe and Beautiful	
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