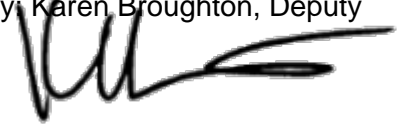


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Environmental Health Advocates, Inc.  
8

9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

10 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

11 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES,  
INC.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 PERFUME WORLDWIDE, INC., a New York  
corporation, CARTER BEAUTY  
COSMETICS, an Irish company, WALMART  
15 INC., a Delaware corporation, and DOES 1  
through 100, inclusive,  
16

17 Defendants.

Case No.: 22CV02540

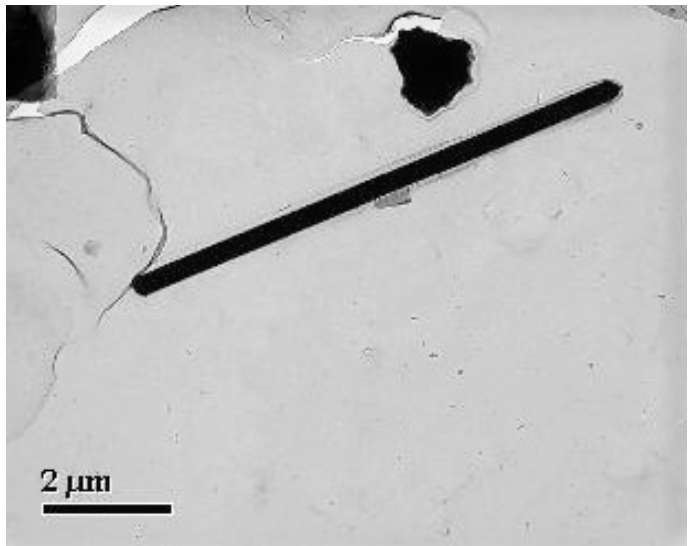
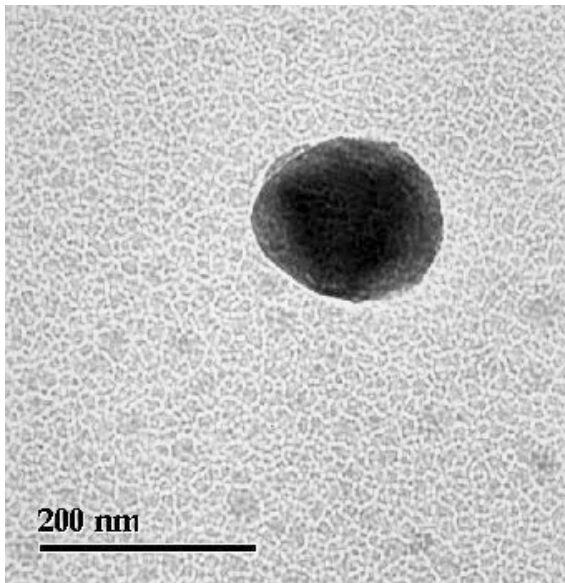
**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES  
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

I.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California (“the People”). Plaintiff seeks to remedy Defendants’ failure to inform the People of exposure to Titanium Dioxide (airborne, unbound particles of respirable size) (“TiO<sub>2</sub>”), a known carcinogen. Defendants expose consumers to TiO<sub>2</sub> by manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing blush products including but not limited to the Carter Beauty Blusher Palette- Cupid (“Products”). Defendants know and intend that customers will use Products containing TiO<sub>2</sub>. Below are pictures of TiO<sub>2</sub> particles found in an exemplar of Defendants’ Products:



2. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. (“Proposition 65”), “[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 giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual. . . .” (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.6.)

3. California identified and listed Titanium Dioxide (airborne, unbound particles of respirable size) (“TiO<sub>2</sub>”) as a chemical known to cause cancer as early as September 2, 2011.

4. Defendants failed to sufficiently warn consumers and individuals in California about

1 potential exposure to TiO<sub>2</sub> in connection with Defendants’ manufacture, import, sale, or distribution of  
2 Products. This is a violation of Proposition 65.

3 5. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief compelling Defendants to sufficiently warn consumers  
4 in California before exposing them to TiO<sub>2</sub> in Products. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(a).) Plaintiff  
5 also seeks civil penalties against Defendants for their violations of Proposition 65 along with attorney’s  
6 fees and costs. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(b).)

7 **II.**

8 **PARTIES**

9 6. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC. (“Plaintiff”) is a  
10 corporation in the State of California dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through  
11 the elimination or reduction of toxic exposure from consumer products. It brings this action in the public  
12 interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7.

13 7. Defendant PERFUME WORLDWIDE, INC. (“PW”) is a corporation organized and  
14 existing under the laws of New York. PW is registered to do business in California, and does business  
15 in the County of Santa Cruz, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11. PW  
16 manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Santa Cruz County.

17 8. Defendant CARTER BEAUTY COSMETICS (“CBC”) is a company organized and  
18 existing under the laws of Ireland. CBC is registered to do business in California, and does business in  
19 the County of Santa Cruz, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11. CBC  
20 manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Santa Cruz County.

21 9. Defendant WALMART INC. (“Walmart”) is a corporation organized and existing under  
22 the laws of Delaware. Walmart is registered to do business in California, and does business in the County  
23 of Santa Cruz, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11. Walmart manufactures,  
24 imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Santa Cruz County.

25 10. Plaintiff does not know the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partners,  
26 or corporate, of the defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason sues  
27 said defendants under fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this Complaint when the true  
28 names and capacities of these defendants have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and

1 thereon alleges that these defendants are responsible in whole or in part for the remedies and penalties  
2 sought herein.

3 **III.**

4 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

5 11. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court original  
6 jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts. The Health and Safety Code  
7 statute upon which this action is based does not give jurisdiction to any other court. As such, this Court  
8 has jurisdiction.

9 12. Venue is proper in Santa Cruz County Superior Court pursuant to Code of Civil  
10 Procedure, sections 394, 395, and 395.5. Wrongful conduct occurred and continues to occur in this  
11 County. Defendants conducted and continue to conduct business in this County as it relates to Products.

12 13. Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California or otherwise  
13 purposefully avail themselves of the California market. Exercising jurisdiction over Defendants would  
14 be consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

15 **IV.**

16 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

17 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against all Defendants)**

19 14. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above.

20 15. Proposition 65 mandates that citizens be informed about exposures to chemicals that  
21 cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

22 16. Defendants manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed Products containing TiO<sub>2</sub>  
23 in violation of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. Plaintiff is informed and believes such  
24 violations have continued after receipt of the Notice (defined *infra*) and will continue to occur into the  
25 future.

26 17. In manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing Products, Defendants failed to  
27 provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers and individuals in California who may be exposed  
28 to TiO<sub>2</sub> through reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

1 18. Products expose individuals to TiO<sub>2</sub> through direct inhalation. This exposure is a natural  
2 and foreseeable consequence of Defendants placing Products into the stream of commerce. As such,  
3 Defendants intend that consumers will use Products, exposing them to TiO<sub>2</sub>.

4 19. Defendants knew or should have known that the Products contained TiO<sub>2</sub> and exposed  
5 individuals to TiO<sub>2</sub> in the way provided above. The Notice informed Defendants of the presence of  
6 TiO<sub>2</sub> in the Products. Likewise, media coverage concerning TiO<sub>2</sub> and related chemicals in consumer  
7 products provided constructive notice to Defendants.

8 20. Defendants' actions in this regard were deliberate and not accidental.

9 21. More than sixty days prior to naming each defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff issued a  
10 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") as required by and in compliance with Proposition 65. Plaintiff  
11 provided the Notice to the various required public enforcement agencies along with a certificate of merit.  
12 The Notice alleged that Defendants violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in  
13 California of the health hazards associated with exposures to TiO<sub>2</sub> contained in the Products.

14 22. The appropriate public enforcement agencies provided with the Notice failed to  
15 commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendants.

16 23. Individuals exposed to TiO<sub>2</sub> contained in Products through inhalation resulting from  
17 reasonably foreseeable use of the Products have suffered and continue to suffer irreparable harm. There  
18 is no other plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

19 24. Defendants are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation  
20 of Proposition 65 pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 252497(b). Injunctive relief is also  
21 appropriate pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7(a).

## 22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

24 1. Civil penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation. Plaintiff alleges that  
25 damages total a minimum of \$1,000,000;

26 2. A preliminary and permanent injunction against Defendants from manufacturing,  
27 importing, selling, and/or distributing Products in California without providing a clear and reasonable  
28 warning as required by Proposition 65 and related Regulations;

