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FILED
Sen Diego Superior Court

MAR 1 5 2016

Attorney for Plaintiff, Kingpun Cheng

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

### UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

KINGPUN CHENG,	)	CASE NO.:37-2015-00020415-CU-NP-CTL
Plaintiff,	) ) )	[ <del>PROPOSED</del> ] JUDGMENT APPROVING
and	)	PROP 65 STIPULATION AND CONSENT JUDGMENT
THE DIXIELINE LUMBER CO., LINCOLN PRODUCTS, INC. AND DOES 1 – 25 INCLUSIVE	) ) )	(Cal. Health & Safety Code \$ 25249.6 et seg.)  Date: December 124, 15 ph. 22  Time: C100 A-1  Dept. C-73
Defendant.	)	Judge: Hon. Joel R. Wohlfeil Action Filed: June 17, 2015

In the above entitled action, Plaintiff, Kingpun Cheng and Defendant, Lincoln Products, Inc. having agreed through their respective counsel that judgment be entered pursuant to the terms of the Proposition 65 settlement agreement in the form of a [Proposed] Consent Judgment entered into by the parties, and following issuance of an order approving this Proposition 65 settlement agreement and entering this Consent Judgment on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

[PROPOSED] JUDGMENT APPROVING PROP 65 STIPULATION AND CONSENT JUDGMENT

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §664.6, judgment is entered in accordance with the Consent Judgment attached hereto as Exhibit 1. IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: 315/16 JOEL R. WOHLFEIL JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT 

[PROPOSED] JUDGMENT APPROVING PROP 65 STIPULATION AND CONSENT JUDGMENT

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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
10	COUNTY OF SA KING PUN CHENG,	j
11	Plaintiff,	Case No.
12	VS.	UNLIMITED JURISDICTION
13	LINCOLN PRODUCTS.; AND	STIPULATION DE ENTRY OF
14	DOES 1-25	CONSENT JUDGMENT AS TO LINCOLN RODUCTS, INC.
15	Defendants.	Complaint Filed: June 16, 2015
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### 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Parties

This Stipulation and [Proposed] Order Re Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment") is hereby entered into by and between King Pun Cheng acting on behalf of the public interest (hereinafter "Cheng") and Lincoln Products, Inc., (hereinafter "Lincoln" or "Defendant"). Collectively Lincoln and Cheng shall be referred to hereafter as the "Parties" and each of them as a "Party." Cheng is an individual residing in California who seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Defendant employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of Proposition 65, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 et seq.

## 1.2 <u>Allegations and Representations</u>

Cheng alleges that Defendant has offered for sale in the State of California and has sold in California, brass plumbing and hose products, including valves, fittings, connectors, nipples, and accessories, specified as "No Lead", "(NL)" or "Lead Free Compliant" products which contain lead, and that such sales have not been accompanied by Proposition 65 warnings. Lead is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Cheng has cited Lincoln "Lead Compliant American Standard Tub Shower Stem 054374510153", hereafter ("Lead Free") as a specific example of "lead free" plumbing hardware that is the subject of his allegations.

## 1.3 Covered Products Description

The products that are covered by this Consent Judgment are defined as, brass plumbing and hose products, including valves, fittings, connectors, nipples, and accessories, specified as "No Lead", "(NL)" or "Lead Free Compliant" products in conformity with California Health & Safety Code §116875 (and equivalent Federal law) which contain statutorily proscribed low levels of lead and that are distributed Lincoln and/or sold in California by Defendant and/or

Releasees (as defined in Section 5.1 below). All such items shall be referred to herein as the "Covered Products."

## 1.4 Notices of Violation/Complaint

- A) On or about September 23, 2014, Cheng served Dixieline Lumber Company ("Dixieline"), Lincoln and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) (the "Notice"), alleging that Lincoln and Dixieline were in violation of Proposition 65 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Covered Products exposed users in California to lead. No public enforcer diligently prosecuted the claims threatened in the Notice within sixty days plus service time relative to the provision of the Notice to them by Cheng.
- B) On or about April 14, 2015, Cheng served Dixieline Lumber Company ("Dixieline"), Lincoln and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled "Supplemental 60-Day Notice of Violation" pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) (the "Notice"), alleging that Lincoln and Dixieline were in violation of Proposition 65 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Covered Products exposed users in California to lead. No public enforcer diligently prosecuted the claims threatened in the Notice within sixty days plus service time relative to the provision of the Notice to them by Cheng.
- C) On June 16, 2015, Cheng, acting in the interest of the general public in the State of California, filed a complaint in the Superior Court of San Diego County alleging violations of Health & Safety Code §25249.6 (the "Complaint") based on the alleged failure to warn of exposures to lead contained in Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Dixieline or Lincoln.

## 1.5 Stipulation as to Jurisdiction/No Admission

For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this Court has jurisdiction over Defendant as to the allegations contained in the complaint filed in this matter, that venue is proper in the County of San Diego, and that this Court has jurisdiction to approve, enter, and oversee the enforcement of this Consent Judgment as a full and final binding resolution

of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein and/or in the Notices

Defendant denies the material allegations contained in Cheng's Notice and Complaint and maintains that it has not violated Proposition 65 and did not fraudulently or deliberately mislead consumers regarding the Covered Products or their designation as "lead free" pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §116875. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Defendant. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of Defendant under this Consent Judgment.

### 1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this Consent Judgment is entered as a judgment of the Court. All Covered Products already shipped on or before the "Effective Date" or within 120 days thereafter are deemed to be covered by the waiver and release provisions of Paragraph 5.1 of this Consent Judgment and shall not be subject to any future enforcement action by Cheng hereunder. The reformulation and warning requirements of Paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 shall apply to any Covered Product shipped later than 120 days after the Effective Date.

For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term "Execution Date" shall mean the date this Consent Judgment is signed by all parties in Clause 14 below.

## 2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNINGS AND REFORMULATION

Commencing One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after the Effective Date, Lincoln shall not ship, sell, or offer to sell in California a Covered Product(s) that is/are manufactured, distributed or sold by Lincoln containing more than 300 ppm lead without a warning as set forth in Section 2.3. One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after the Effective Date in California,

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Covered Products manufactured, distributed or sold by Lincoln shall either be (a) reformulated pursuant to Section 2.1 or (b) include a warning as provided in Section 2.3.

2.1 Reformulation Option. The Covered Products shall be deemed to comply with Proposition 65 with regard to lead and be exempt from any Proposition 65 warning requirements for lead if the exposed brass or other metal components that are part of the Covered Products meet the following criteria: (a) the alloy from which the components are made shall have no lead as an intentionally added constituent; and (b) the alloy from which the components are made shall have a lead content by weight of no more than 0.03% (300 parts per million, or "300 ppm"). Defendants and the Releasees (as defined in Section 5.1 below) may comply with the above requirements by relying on information obtained from their manufacturers, suppliers distributors, official product certification organizations (such as IAPMO) or any other person in the course of doing business that manufacturers, supplies or otherwise distributes the reformulated Covered Products to the Defendants, provided that the Defendants' and Releasees' reliance is in good faith. Although good faith reliance regarding the content of the brass alloy may also be established by other means, Cheng agrees that obtaining test results showing that the lead content is no more than 0.03%, using a method of sufficient sensitivity to establish a limit of quantification (as distinguished from detection) of less than 300 ppm shall be deemed to establish good faith reliance.

2.2 Warning Alternative. Commencing on the Effective Date, Covered Products that Lincoln ships, sells or offers for sale in California that do not meet the warning exemption standard set forth in Section 2.1 above shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 2.3 below no later than One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after the Effective Date. The warning requirements set forth in paragraph 2.3 below, apply only to Covered Products

Defendant manufactures, distributes, markets, sells or ships for distribution One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after the Effective Date for sale or use inside the State of California.

2.3 Warnings. Where required under Section 2.2 above, Lincoln shall provide either of the Proposition 65 warnings as follows:

WARNING: This product contains lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. [Wash hands after handling.]

#### OR

WARNING: This product contains [OR may contain] chemicals [,including lead and lead compounds] known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. [Do not use in connection with drinking water.] [Wash hands after handling.]

Bracketed language may be omitted at Defendant's or Releasees' option. Defendant or Releasees may add additional listed chemicals to the warning unless the Attorney General advises that the inclusion of such additional chemicals would render the warning misleading or constitute an over warning. The word "WARNING" shall be in bold and may be preceded by the words "CALIFORNIA," "PROP 65," or "CALIFORNIA PROP 65" at Lincoln's option.

- 2.4 Where utilized as an alternative to meeting the reformulation criteria set forth in Section 2.1, Defendant shall provide the warning language set forth in Section 2.3 either:
- (a) With the unit package of the Covered Products or affixed to the Covered Products. Such warning shall be prominently affixed to or printed on each Covered Product's label or package or the Covered Product itself. If printed on the label, the warning shall be contained in the same section that states other safety warnings, if any, concerning the use of the Covered Product; Lincoln may continue to utilize, on an ongoing basis, unit packaging containing substantively the same Proposition 65 warnings as those set forth in Section 2.3 above, but only to the extent such packaging materials have already been printed within one hundred twenty days of the Effective Date, or

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In the owner's manual of another product in which the Covered Product is a component, (b) but only if the other product: (i) may cause serious injury or bodily harm unless used as directed; (ii) is sophisticated, difficult to understand or install, set-up, or assemble; or (iii) has one or more features a consumer must read about in order to know how to program or use the Covered Product. If the warning is given in the owner's manual pursuant to this subsection, it shall be located in one of the following places in the manual: the outside of the front cover; the inside of the front cover; the first page other than the cover; or the outside of the back cover. The warning shall be printed or stamped in the manual or contained in a durable label or sticker affixed to the manual in a font no smaller than the font used for other chemically-related safety warnings in the manual. Alternatively, the warning may be included in a safety warning section of the owner's manual. Lincoln may continue to utilize, on an ongoing basis, owner's manuals containing substantively the same Proposition 65 warnings and without the additional admonitions as those set forth in Section 2.3 above, but only to the extent such manuals have already been printed within ninety days of the Effective Date. Owner's manual warnings may only be allowed if the owner's manual is sold in the same package and at the same time as the other product and not for Covered Products sold separately.

- 2.5 The requirements for warnings, set forth in Section 2.3 above are imposed pursuant to the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties recognize that these are not the exclusive methods of providing a warning under Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations and that they may or may not be appropriate in other circumstances.
- 2.6 If Proposition 65 warnings for lead or lead compounds or other specified chemicals should no longer be required, Defendant and Releasees shall have no further warning obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. Except in the event that a change in the law requires modification or ceases to require such warnings in the event that Defendant or Releasees

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27 28 claims in the Complaint are resolved with prejudice by this Consent Judgment.

In addition to the foregoing, Cheng, on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, and successors and/or assignees, and not in his representative capacity, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases any other Claims that he could make against Defendant, Releasees or Downstream Releasees arising up to One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after the Effective Date with respect to violations of Proposition 65 and/or Business and Professions Code §17200 based upon the Covered Products. With respect to the foregoing waivers and releases in this paragraph, Cheng hereby specifically waives any and all rights and benefits which he now has, or in the future may have, conferred by virtue of the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH

#### 5.2 Defendant's Release of Cheng

Defendant waives any and all claims against Cheng, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Cheng and his attorneys and other representatives, in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against them in this matter, and/or with respect to the Covered Products.

#### 6. SEVERABILITY AND MERGER

If, subsequent to the execution of this Consent Judgment, any of the provisions of this document are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected.

This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or

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have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

#### 7. **GOVERNING LAW**

The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment resolves any issue, now or in the future, as to the requirements of Proposition 65 with respect to alleged exposures to lead arising from the Covered Products. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Covered Products, then Defendant shall provide written notice to Cheng of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

#### 8. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by: (i) first-class, (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (ii) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Lincoln Products, Inc.:

Brenda K. Radmacher Wood, Smith, Henning, & Berman LLP 505 N. Brand Boulevard, Suite 1100 Glendale, California 91203

For Cheng:

and

Parker Smith, Esq. Parker A. Smith, Attorney at Law 2173 Salk Ave., Suite 250 Carlsbad, CA 92008

Any party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other party a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

#### 9. COUNTERPARTS; EMAIL OR FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts and by email or facsimile, each

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of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

### 10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)/COURT APPROVAL

Cheng agrees to comply with the requirements set forth in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(f) and to promptly bring a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment and Defendants shall support approval of such Motion.

This Consent Judgment shall not be effective until it is approved and entered by the Court and shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved and entered by the Court within twelve months after it has been fully executed by the Parties.

#### **MODIFICATION** 11.

This Consent Judgment may be modified only by further stipulation of the Parties and the approval of the Court or upon the granting of a motion brought to the Court by either Party.

#### 12. ATTORNEY'S FEES

- 12.1 A party who unsuccessfully brings or contests an action arising out of this Consent Judgment shall be required to pay the prevailing party's reasonable attorney's fees and costs unless the unsuccessful party has acted with substantial justification. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term substantial justification shall carry the same meaning as used in the Civil Discovery Act of 1986, Code of Civil Procedure Section 2016, et seq.
- Nothing in this Section shall preclude a Party from seeking an award of sanctions 12.2 pursuant to law.

#### RETENTION OF JURSIDICTION 13.

13.1 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement or modify the Consent Judgment.

#### 14. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this document LEGAL:10080-0006/4595383.1

1	and certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to execute the		
2	Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party. Except as		
3	explicitly provided herein each Portriet to		
4	explicitly provided herein each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.		
5	[Signatures Follow]		
6			
7	APPROVED AS TO FORM:		
8			
9	Dated: June, 2015		
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12	By: Grada Madmil		
13	Brenda K. Radmacher, Esq. Attorneys for Defendant Lincoln Products, Inc.		
14	Emoon roducts, me.		
15	Dated: June 16, 2015 PARKER A. SMITH, ATTORNEY AT LAW		
16	WITH, MITORINEY AT LAW		
17	By:		
18	Parker Smith, Esq.		
19	Attorneys for Plaintiff, King Pun Cheng		
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21	IT IS HEREBY SO STIPULATED:		
22	AGREED TO: AGREED TO:		
23	Date: 10-6-15		
24	Date: 6/16/15		
25	By: Allachar		
26	KING PUN CHENG On Behalf of:		
27	LINCOLN PRODUCTS, INC.		
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