ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a California limited liability company, Plaintiff, HALDEX BRAKE PRODUCTS CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, Defendants. 

Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles JAN 25 2017

RECEIVED Sherri R Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

Susana C. Ontiveros

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

(Unlimited Jurisdiction)

Case No. BC638516

[PROPOSED] JUDGMENT

Plaintiffs ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC ("Plaintiff"), and Defendant HALDEX BRAKE PRODUCTS CORPORATION ("Defendant") have agreed through their respective counsel that judgment be entered in this Proposition 65 action pursuant to the terms of the Stipulated Consent Judgment executed by the parties and attached to this Judgment as **Exhibit 1**. After consideration of the papers submitted and arguments presented, the Court finds that the Stipulated Consent Judgment meets the criteria established by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, in that:

- Any injunctive relief required by the Stipulated Consent Judgment complies with Proposition 65;
- 2. Any reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to the Stipulated Consent Judgment is reasonable under California law; and
- 3. Based on the criteria set forth in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b)(2), any civil penalty required by the Stipulated Consent Judgment is reasonable.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f)(4) and Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6, judgment is hereby entered in accordance with the terms of the Consent Judgment attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Dated: Jan. 26, 2017

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

MOLLY E KENDIG

**過程とはなりの数1** 

Plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC ("Plaintiff"), and Defendant Haldex Brake Products

Corporation ("Defendant") hereby enter into this Stipulated Consent Judgment ("Consent

Judgment") as follows:

WHEREAS: On or about August 26, 2016, Plaintiff, through Plaintiff's counsel, served a 60 Day Notice to Defendant, the California Attorney General, the District Attorneys of every County in the State of California, and the City Attorneys for every City in the State of California with a population greater than 750,000 (collectively, "Public Prosecutor(s)") alleging that Defendant violated California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") and that Plaintiffs intended to file an enforcement action in the public interest; and

- (A) WHEREAS: Plaintiff alleges that Defendant manufactured and/or distributed vehicle brake and suspension system components, including but not limited to air coils-UPC#767653052724 that were sold or distributed for sale in California(collectively the "Covered Products") that expose consumers in the State of California to chemicals, including lead, that are listed by the State of California pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.8; and
- (B) WHEREAS: Plaintiff further alleges that persons in the State of California were exposed to listed chemicals in Covered Products without being provided the Proposition 65 warning set out at California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 and its implementing regulations ("Proposition 65 Warning"); and
- (C) WHEREAS: Plaintiff and Defendant jointly seek to provide the public with

  Proposition 65 warnings and believe that this objective is achieved by the actions
  described in this Consent Judgment; and
- (D) WHEREAS: Plaintiff and Defendant wish to resolve their differences without the delay and expense of litigation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND AGREED UPON AS BETWEEN PLAINTIFF ACTING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEFENDANT AS FOLLOWS:

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. On August 26, 2016, Plaintiff served the 60-Day Notice upon Defendant and on Public Prosecutors. No Public Prosecutors commenced an enforcement action. No Public Prosecutor having commenced an enforcement action, Plaintiff filed its Complaint against Defendant in the present action.
- 1.2. Defendant employs ten (10) or more persons.

- 1.3. For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, Plaintiff and Defendant (the "Parties") stipulate that: 1) this Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violation contained in the Complaint, and personal jurisdiction over Defendant as to the acts alleged in the Complaint; 2) venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles; and 3) this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint and of all claims which were or could have been raised by any person or entity based in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, on the facts alleged in the 60-Day Notices, in the present action, or arising therefrom or related thereto, with respect to Covered Products, including any Proposition 65 claim arising out of an exposure to Covered Products (collectively, "Proposition 65 Claims").
- Proposition 65 Claims, for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation and of resolving the issues raised therein both as to past and future conduct. By execution of this Consent Judgment, the Parties do not admit any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law, nor shall Defendant's compliance with the Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendants of any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law. Defendant denies the material, factual, and legal allegations in the 60-Day Notice and the Complaint and expressly deny any wrongdoing whatsoever.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. "Effective Date" shall mean, with respect to this Consent Judgment, the date the Consent Judgment has been approved and entered by the Court.

#### 3. Injunctive Relief

3.1. Defendant agrees to either undertake, or cause to be undertaken on its behalf, the measures identified in 3.2-3.5 below, compliance with which will constitute compliance by Defendant with all requirements of Proposition 65, California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq., and its implementing regulations (collectively, "Proposition 65") relating to the Covered Products:

# 3.2. <u>Proposition 65 Exemption for the Covered Products</u>

Any Covered Product that is sold, or offered for sale, in the State of California after the Effective Date shall be deemed to comply with Proposition 65 and be exempt from any Proposition 65 warning requirements with respect to lead, if no Accessible Component Part of such Covered Product contains more than 100 ppm of lead. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, "Accessible Component Part" shall mean components of the Covered Products to which a person would be exposed to potentially hazardous chemicals by direct contact during normal use of the Covered Product.

## 3.3. Warning Option

Covered Products that do not meet the warning exemption standard set forth in Section 3.2 above, shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 3.4 below. This warning requirement shall only be required as to air coil Covered Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale in the State of California, after September 1, 2016 and to all other Covered Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale in the State of California after June 1, 2017. No Proposition 65 warning for lead shall be required as to any Covered Products that are already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date, and all such Covered Products are hereby deemed to be exempt from Proposition 65 with respect to lead.

## 3.4. Warning Language

ŀ

Where required to meet the criteria set forth in Section 3.3, Defendant shall provide the following warning statement on or within the unit packaging of the Covered Products, or affixed to the Covered Products, displayed in such a manner as to be reasonably calculated to be seen by the ordinary consumer:

WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

## 4. MONETARY RELIEF

- 4.1. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, Defendants shall pay to Plaintiff the total sum of \$35,000, which includes \$6,000 in civil penalties and \$29,000 in payment of Plaintiff's costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The \$6,000 civil penalty shall be apportioned pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.12 (d), with 75%, or \$4,500, paid to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and 25%, or \$1,500, payable to Plaintiff.
- 4.2. The payment specified in Section 4.1. shall be made by wire transfer to Plaintiff's counsel Custodio & Dubey LLP:

Bank: Bank of America, N.A.

Routing Transit No.: 026009593

Account No.: 325054144600

Beneficiary: Custodio & Dubey LLP

# 5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASE

5.1. This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Plaintiff, on behalf of itself, and acting in the public interest, and Defendant for any alleged violation of Proposition 65, and its implementing regulations, for failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings for the Covered Products with respect to lead, and fully resolves all claims that have been brought, or which could have been brought in this action, or in any other action, up to and including the Effective Date. Plaintiff on behalf of itself, and in the public interest, hereby discharges Defendant, and any of its current and former parent

companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers, affiliates and retailers, licensees and related entities (including but not limited to Genuine Parts Company), together with their current and former officers, directors, shareholders, employees, representatives, contractors, agents, divisions, insurers, successors, assigns, and attorneys, as well as all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain for any of the Covered Products, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them (all of the foregoing entities and individuals being referred to herein as the "Released Parties"), from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted, with respect to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings about exposures to lead for any or all of the Covered Products, through and including the Effective Date.

- 5.2. Plaintiffs, acting on their own behalf, and in the public interest pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d), release, waive, and forever discharge any and all claims against the Released Parties arising from any violation of Proposition 65 that has been or could have been asserted in the public interest regarding the failure to warn under Proposition 65 arising in connection with exposure to lead in the Covered Products, manufactured, distributed, offered for sale, sold, and/or served in the State of California by Released Parties prior to the Effective Date.
- 5.3. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts contained in the 60-Day Notice, or alleged in the Complaint, relating to the Covered Products, will hereafter be discovered or developed. Plaintiff, on behalf of itself only, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. Plaintiff and Defendant acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless intend to release such claims, and in doing so waive California Civil Code § 1542 which reads as follows:

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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

- 5.4. Plantiff understands and acknowledges that the significance and consequence of this waiver of California Civil Code § 1542 is that even if Plaintiff suffers future damages arising out of or resulting from, or related directly or indirectly to, in whole or in part, the Covered Products, including but not limited to any exposure to, or failure to warn with respect to exposure to, the Covered Products, Plaintiff will not be able to make any claim for those damages against any of the Released Parties.
- 5.5. Compliance by Defendant with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to lead in the Covered Products as set forth in the 60 Day Notice and/or the Complaint.

## 6. PROVISION OF NOTICE

When any Party is entitled to receive any notice or writing under this Consent 6.1. Judgment, the notice or writing shall be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested, or by electronic mail, as follows:

#### To Defendant:

Steven G. Emerson

Stinson Leonard Street LLP

1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2900

Kansas City, MO 64106-2150

To Plaintiff:

Vineet Dubey

Custodio & Dubey LLP

448 S. Hill St., Ste 612

Los Angeles, CA 90013

2	6.2. Any Party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by
3	sending the other Party notice that is transmitted in the manner set forth in section 6.1.
4	7. COURT APPROVAL
5	7.1. Upon execution of his Consent Judgment by all parties, Plaintiff shall prepare and
6	file, at its sole cost and expense, a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment that
7	Defendant shall support. This Consent Judgment shall not become effective until
8	approved and entered by the Court. If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court,
9	it shall be of no force or effect, and shall not be introduced into evidence or otherwise
10	used in any proceeding for any purpose.
11	8. GOVERNING LAW AND CONSTRUCTION
12	8.1. The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of
13	California.
14	9. Entire Agreement
15	9.1. This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding
16	of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior
17	discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are
18	hereby merged herein and therein.
19	9.2. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties
20	except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or
21	implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been
22	made by any Party hereto.
23	9.3. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or
24	otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. Any agreements
25	specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or
26	to bind any of the Parties hereto only to the extent that they are expressly incorporated
27	herein.
28	9.4. No supplementation, modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent
	Judgment shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party to be bound thereby.

2

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

9.5.

No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed or

#### 14. SEVERABILITY

14.1. If subsequent to Court approval of this Consent Judgment, any part or provision is declared by a Court to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining portions or provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Ecological Alliance LLC

**Haldex Brake Products Corporation** 

Date: January 10, 2017

Date: January 4, 2017

By: