

1 MIGUEL A. CUSTODIO, JR., STATE BAR NO. 248744
2 VINEET DUBEY, STATE BAR NO. 243208
3 CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP
4 448 S. Hill St., Suite 612
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013
6 Telephone: (213) 785-2909
7 Facsimile: (213) 785-2899

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC

9
10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

12 (Unlimited Jurisdiction)

13 ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a California
14 limited liability company,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 SENCO BRANDS, INC., a Delaware
18 corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

19 Defendants.

20 Case No.: BC671808

21 **[PROPOSED] STIPULATED**
22 **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

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REC'D
AUG 14 2017
FILING WINDOW
Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
Deputy
OCT 12 2017
CONFORMED COPY
ORIGINAL FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

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2 Plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC ("Plaintiff"), and Defendant Senco Brands, Inc.
3 ("Defendant") hereby enter into this Stipulated Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment") as
4 follows:

5 WHEREAS: On or about May 11, 2017, Plaintiff, through Plaintiff's counsel, served a 60
6 Day Notice to Defendant, the California Attorney General, the District Attorneys of every County
7 in the State of California, and the City Attorneys for every City in the State of California with a
8 population greater than 750,000 (collectively, "Public Prosecutor(s)") alleging that Defendant
9 violated California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health
10 and Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq., and its implementing regulations (collectively, "Proposition
11 65") and that Plaintiff intended to file an enforcement action in the public interest; and

12 WHEREAS: Plaintiff alleges that Defendant manufactured and/or distributed hose end
13 proflexes (collectively the "Covered Products") that were sold or distributed for sale in California
14 and further alleges that those Covered Products expose consumers in the State of California to
15 chemicals including lead, which are listed by the State of California pursuant to California Health
16 and Safety Code § 25249.8; and

17 WHEREAS: Plaintiff further alleges that persons in the State of California were exposed
18 to lead in Covered Products without being provided the Proposition 65 warning set out at
19 California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 and its implementing regulations ("Proposition 65
20 Warning");

21 WHEREAS: Defendant denies the allegations of the 60 Day Notice, and denies that it is
22 has violated Proposition 65 and expressly denies that it has engaged in any wrongdoing
23 whatsoever, WHEREAS: Plaintiff seeks to provide the public with Proposition 65 warnings and
24 believes that this objective is achieved by the actions described in this Consent Judgment; and

25 WHEREAS: Plaintiff and Defendant wish to resolve their differences without the delay
26 and expense of litigation.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. On May 11, 2017, 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 proceeded to file 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 based on the facts alleged therein with respect to the Covered Products, 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 Notice, 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").

1.4. The Parties enter into this Consent Judgment as a full and final settlement of the 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 and agreeing to comply with its terms, 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 Defendant 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 denies 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. For each Covered Product, Defendant agrees to either undertake, or cause to be undertaken on its behalf, either (a) reformulation of the Covered Product to bring it within the Proposition 65 exemption identified in Section 3.2 below, or (b) provide a warning as prescribed in Sections 3.3-3.4 below. Compliance with this Section 3.1 will constitute compliance by Defendant with all requirements of Proposition 65 relating to lead exposure in the Covered Products:

3.2. Proposition 65 Exemption for the Covered Products

Subject to Section 3.5, any Covered Product that is sold, or offered for sale, to consumers 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 lead by direct contact during normal use of the Covered Product.

3.3. Warning Option

Subject to section 3.5, 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 Covered Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale to consumers by Defendant in the State of California, after the Effective Date. No Proposition 65 warning 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.

1
2 3.4. Warning Language

3 Where required to meet the criteria set forth in Section 3.3, Defendant shall provide one of
4 the following warning statements on or within the unit packaging of the Covered
5 Products, or affixed to the Covered Products, displayed in a reasonably conspicuous
6 manner:

- 7 (1) **[California Proposition 65] WARNING: This product**
8 **contains chemicals known to the state of California to**
9 **cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive**
10 **harm.**
11 (2) **[California Proposition 65] WARNING: This product may**
12 **expose you to chemicals including lead known to the State**
13 **of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other**
14 **reproductive harm. For more information go to**
15 **www.P65warnings.ca.gov**
16 (3) **WARNING:** This product contains a chemical known to the State
17 of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.
18 (4) **WARNING:** This product can expose you to lead, which is known
19 to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other
20 reproductive harm. For more info go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.
21 (5) **WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm –
22 www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

23 If Senco elects to use the warning statements identified in either (3) or (4) or (5)
24 above, it may also include a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a
25 yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline. Where the sign, label or shelf
26 tag for the product is not printed using the color yellow, the symbol may be printed
27 in black and white. The symbol shall be placed to the left of the text of the
28 warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word “WARNING”.

3.5. 90-Day Grace Period

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2 Although Defendant shall be deemed in compliance on the Effective Date, Defendant
3 shall have a ninety (90)-day grace period from the Effective Date to complete the
4 reformulation or warning steps provided in Sections 3.1 – 3.4.

5 **4. MONETARY RELIEF**

6 4.1. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall pay the total sum of
7 \$25,000 which includes \$4,000 in civil penalties and \$21,000 in payment of Plaintiff's
8 costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The \$4,000 civil penalty shall be apportioned
9 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.12 (d), with 75%, or \$3,000, paid to
10 the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and 25%, or
11 \$1,000, payable to Plaintiff.

12 4.2. The payments specified in Section 4.1. shall be made by wire transfer to Plaintiff's
13 counsel Custodio & Dubey LLP as set forth below.. Plaintiffs counsel will remit the
14 portions due to the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard
15 Assessment and to Plaintiff.

16 Bank: Bank of America, N.A.

17 Routing Transit No.: 026009593

18 Account No.: 325054144600

19 Beneficiary: Custodio & Dubey LLP

20 **5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASE**

21 5.1. This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Plaintiff, on
22 behalf of itself, and acting in the public interest, and Defendant, and all of Defendant's
23 parent companies, as well as all of Defendant's officers, directors, members,
24 shareholders, employees, attorneys, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,
25 affiliates, suppliers, franchisees, licensees, and retailers, their parent and all subsidiaries,
26 and affiliates, thereof, their respective employees, agents and assigns, as well as all other
27 upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain for any of the Covered
28 Products (including Amazon.com, Inc.), and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of
any of them (collectively, the "Released Parties"), for any alleged violation of

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2 Proposition 65, and its implementing regulations, for failure to provide Proposition 65
3 warnings for the Covered Products with respect to lead, and fully resolves all claims that
4 have been brought, or which could have been brought in this action up to and including
5 the Effective Date. Plaintiff on behalf of itself, and in the public interest, hereby
6 discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits,
7 demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs and expenses asserted, or that could
8 have been asserted, with respect to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 arising from
9 the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings about exposures to lead for any or all of
10 the Covered Products, through and including the Effective Date.

11 5.2. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts
12 contained in the 60-Day Notice, or alleged in the Complaint, relating to the Covered
13 Products, will hereafter be discovered or developed. Plaintiff, on behalf of itself only, on
14 the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Consent Judgment
15 is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims through and including the
16 Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. Plaintiff and Defendant
17 acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 may include unknown
18 claims, and nevertheless intend to release such claims, and in doing so waive California
19 Civil Code § 1542 which reads as follows:

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

25 5.3. Plaintiff understands and acknowledges that the significance and consequence of
26 this waiver of California Civil Code § 1542 is that even if Plaintiff suffers future damages
27 arising out of or resulting from, or related directly or indirectly to, in whole or in part, the
28 Covered Products, including but not limited to any exposure to, or failure to warn with

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2 respect to exposure to, the Covered Products, Plaintiff will not be able to make any claim
3 for those damages against any of the Released Parties.

4 5.4. Compliance by Defendant with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall constitute
5 compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to lead in the Covered Products
6 as set forth in the 60 Day Notice and/or the Complaint.

7 **6. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(F)**

8 6.1. Plaintiff and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements
9 referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

10 **7. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

11 7.1. When any Party is entitled to receive any notice or writing under this Consent
12 Judgment, the notice or writing shall be sent by first class certified mail with return
13 receipt requested, or by electronic mail, as follows:

14 To Defendant:
15 Shelley Hurwitz, Esq.
16 Holland & Knight LLP
17 400 South Hope Street, 8th Floor
18 Los Angeles, CA 90071
19 Email: shelley.hurwitz@hklaw.com

20 To Plaintiff:
21 Vineet Dubey, Esq.
22 Custodio & Dubey LLP
23 448 S. Hill St., Ste 612
24 Los Angeles, CA 90013
25 dubey@cd-lawyers.com

26 7.2. Any party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by
27 sending the other Party notice that is transmitted in the manner set forth in section 7.1.

28 **8. COURT APPROVAL**

8.1. Upon execution of his Consent Judgment by all parties, Plaintiff shall prepare and
file, at its sole cost and expense, a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment that
Defendant shall support. This Consent Judgment shall not become effective until
approved and entered by the Court. If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court,

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2 it shall be of no force or effect, and shall not be introduced into evidence or otherwise
3 used in any proceeding for any purpose.

4 **9. GOVERNING LAW AND CONSTRUCTION**

5 9.1. The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of
6 California.

7 **10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

8 10.1. This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding
9 of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior
10 discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are
11 hereby merged herein and therein.

12 10.2. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties
13 except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or
14 implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been
15 made by any Party hereto.

16 10.3. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or
17 otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. Any agreements
18 specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or
19 to bind any of the Parties hereto only to the extent that they are expressly incorporated
20 herein.

21 10.4. No supplementation, modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent
22 Judgment shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party to be bound thereby.

23 10.5. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed or
24 shall constitute a waiver of any of the other provisions hereof whether or not similar, nor
25 shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

26 **11. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

27 11.1. This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement or modify the
28 Consent Judgment.

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12. NO EFFECT ON OTHER SETTLEMENTS

12.1. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall preclude Plaintiff from resolving any claim against another entity on terms that are different from those contained in this Consent Judgment.

13. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS

13.1. This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and all of which, taken together, shall constitute the same document. Execution of the Consent Judgment by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means, shall constitute legal and binding execution and delivery. Any photocopy of the executed Consent Judgment shall have the same force and effect as the original.

14. AUTHORIZATION

14.1. The undersigned are authorized to stipulate to, enter into, and 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 Consent Judgment.

15. SEVERABILITY

15.1. 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 :

Ecological Alliance LLC

Date: 7/21/17
By: [Signature]

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AGREED TO :

Senco Brands, Inc.

Clifford Menting

Date: July 21, 2017

By: Clifford Menting
Vice President

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.

Dated: OCT 12 2017.

Mark V. Mooney
MARK V. MOONEY

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT