FILED Kimberly Gates Johnson, State Bar No. 282360 1 San Francisco County Superior Court Seven Hills LLP 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400 2 OCT 07 2022 San Francisco, CA 94111 Telephone: (415) 926-7247 3 CLERK OF THE COURT kimberly@sevenhillsllp.com 4 Deputy Clerk Attorneys for Plaintiff 5 KEEP ÁMERICA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL 6 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 7 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 8 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION 9 10 Case No. CGC-21-596440 KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL, 11 CONSENT JUDGMENT 12 Plaintiff, (Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq. and 13 V. Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6) RASHMAN CORPORATION.; and DOES 1-30, 14 inclusive, 15 Defendants. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

CONSENT JUDGMENT

## 1. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between plaintiff Keep America Safe and Beautiful, a California nonprofit corporation ("KASB"), and defendant Rashman Corporation ("Rashman"), with KASB and Rashman each individually referred to as a "Party" and, collectively, as the "Parties" to resolve the allegations in the November 18, 2020 60-Day Notice of Violation in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65").

### 1.1 The Parties

KASB is a California-based non-profit corporation organized for the purposes of seeking to protect the environment though the elimination or reduction of toxic chemicals utilized in the manufacture of consumer products and to increase public awareness of those chemicals by promoting environmentally sound practices and corporate responsibility. Rashman employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of Proposition 65, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(b).

## 1.2 Consumer Product Allegations

KASB alleges Rashman manufactures, imports, sells or distributes for sale sphygmomanometers with vinyl tubing containing diisononyl phthalate ("DINP") without the health hazard warning KASB alleges is required by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6. On December 20, 2013, the State of California listed DINP as a chemical known to cause cancer. The consumer products covered by this Agreement are aneroid sphygmomanometers with vinyl tubing, such as the *Prestige Medical Basic Aneroid Sphygmomanometer*, *Model 70-BLK*, *UPC* #7 86511 00070 7 that were manufactured, imported, sold or distributed for sale by Rashman prior to the Effective Date, referred to hereinafter as the "**Products**."

#### 1.3 Notice of Violation

On November 18, 2020, KASB served Rashman, the California Attorney General and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice"), alleging Rashman violated Proposition 65 when it failed to warn its customers and consumers in California the

\_ 21

Products can expose users to DINP. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced or is prosecuting an action to enforce the allegations set forth in the Notice.

## 1.4 Complaint

On November 18, 2021, KASB commenced the instant action ("Complaint"), naming Rashman as a defendant for the alleged violations of Proposition 65 that are the subject of the Notice.

#### 1.5 No Admission

Rashman denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and Complaint, and maintains the products it sold or distributed for sale in California, including the Products, have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as, nor shall compliance with this Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as, an admission by Rashman of any fact, finding, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. This section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Rashman's obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Consent Judgment.

## 1.6 Jurisdiction

For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate this Court has jurisdiction over Rashman as to the allegations contained in the Complaint; venue is proper in San Francisco County; and the Court has jurisdiction to enter and enforce the provisions of this Consent Judgment, pursuant to Proposition 65 and Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6.

#### 1.7 Execution Date

The term "Execution Date" is defined as the date on which all parties to this Consent Judgment execute the Agreement.

### 1.8 Effective Date

The term "Effective Date" shall mean the date on which the Court approves and enters this Consent Judgment.

# 2. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION OR WARNINGS</u>

## 2.1 Commitment to Reformulate or Warn

Commencing on the Effective Date and continuing thereafter, Rashman shall only manufacture or distribute for sale to consumers in California or to customers with either retail outlets in California

or e-commerce websites likely to ship to consumers in California, Products that are Reformulated Products, as defined by Section 2.2, below, or Products bearing a compliant health hazard warning, in accord with the following Sections 2.3 through 2.7.

# 2.2 Reformulation Standard & Reformulated Products Defined

For purposes of this Consent Judgment, "Reformulated Products" are defined as Products containing butyl benzyl phthalate ("BBP"), di-isodecyl phthalate ("DIDP"), di-n-butyl phthalate ("DBP"), di-n-hexyl phthalate ("DINP"), di(2ethylhexyl phthalate ("DEHP"), and/or diisononyl phthalate ("DINP") each in a maximum concentration of less than 0.1 percent (1,000 parts per million) when analyzed by a laboratory accredited by the State of California, a federal agency, or a nationally recognized accrediting organization ("Reformulation Standard".) For purposes of compliance with this reformulation standard, testing samples shall be prepared and extracted using Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") methodology CPSC-CH-C1001.09.4 and analyzed using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") methodologies 8270D, or other scientifically valid methodologies utilized by federal or state government agencies to determine phthalate content in a solid substance.

## 2.3 Clear and Reasonable Warnings

Commencing within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, for Products that are not Reformulated Products pursuant to Section 2.2, Rashman shall provide clear and reasonable warnings in accordance with this Section and pursuant to Title 27 California Code of Regulations § 25600, et seq. Each warning shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions before purchase or use and shall be provided in a manner such that it is clearly associated with the specific Product to which the warning applies.

- (a) Warning. The Warning shall consist of the following statement:
  - WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including [name of chemical or chemicals] which [is/are] known to the State of California to cause [cancer] [and] [birth defects or other reproductive harm.]For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

(b) Short-Form Warning. Rashman may, but is not required to, use one of the following short-form warnings as set forth in this subsection 2.3(b) ("Short-Form"), and subject to the additional requirements in Sections 2.5 and 2.6, as follows:

**⚠WARNING**: Cancer - www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

**⚠WARNING**: Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

**⚠WARNING**: Cancer and Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

(c) Foreign Language Requirement. Where a consumer product sign, label or shelf tag used to provide a warning includes consumer information in language(s) other than English, the warning must also be provided in the other language(s) in addition to English.

# 2.4 Product Warnings

Rashman shall affix or cause to be affixed a warning on the Product label or otherwise directly on each of the Product provided for sale to customers with retail outlets in California or sold via mail order catalog and/or the internet to customers located in California. For the purpose of this agreement, "Product label" means a display of written, printed or graphic material that is printed on or affixed to a Product or its immediate packaging, container or wrapper. A warning provided pursuant to section 2.3(a) or (b) must print the word "WARNING:" in all capital letters and in bold font. The warning symbol to the left of the word "WARNING:" must be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline, except that if the labeling does not use the color yellow, then the symbol may be in black and white. The entire warning shall appear in a type size of at least 6-point type and no smaller than the largest type size used for other consumer information on the product. The warning shall consist of either the Warning or the Short-Form described in subsection 2.3(a) or (b), respectively.

# 2.5 Mail Order Catalog Warnings

If, after the Effective Date, Rashman prints new catalogs and sells the Products through such mail order catalogs to customers located in, or with retail outlets located, in California, Rashman shall provide a warning for each of the Products both on the label in accordance with Section 2.4, and in the catalog in a manner that clearly associates the warning with the *specific* item being purchased. Any warning provided in a mail order catalog shall be in the same type size or larger than other consumer

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

information provided for the Products within the catalog and shall be provided on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the Products. The catalog warning may use the Short-Form content described in Section 2.3(b) if the warning provided on the Products label also uses the Short-Form Warning.

# 2.6 Internet Warnings

If, after the Effective Date, Rashman sells Products via the Rashman company internet website to customers located in California or sold directly by Rashman to websites such as Amazon.com, Ebay.com or similar that sell in or into California ("non-Rashman Websites"), Rashman shall provide warnings for each Product both on the label of the Product, in accordance with Section 2.4, and by prominently displaying the warning to the customer prior to completing the purchase on the internet website or during the internet purchase of the Products without requiring customers to seek out the warning. The warning or a clearly marked hyperlink to the warning using the word "WARNING" given in conjunction with the sale of the Products via the Rashman company internet website shall appear either: (a) on the same web page on which the Product is displayed; (b) on the same web page as the order form for the Product; (c) on the same page as the price for any Product; or (d) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser during the checkout process. The warning shall appear in any of the above instances adjacent to or immediately following the display, description or price of the Product for which it is given in the same type size or larger than other consumer information provided for the Product. The internet warning may use the Short-Form content described in Section 2.3(b) if the warning provided on the Product label also uses the Short-Form content. With respect to the non-Rashman Websites such as Amazon.com or similar that sell in or into California, Rashman shall require such websites as a condition of sale of Product to provide warnings for each Product both on the label of the Product, in accordance with Section 2.4, and by prominently displaying the warning to the customer prior to completing the internet purchase or during the internet purchase of the Products without requiring customers to seek out the warning.

27

## 2.7 Compliance with Warning Regulations

Rashman may, however, elect to comply with the warning requirements of this Section 2 by any other means authorized by Health and Safety Code 25249.5 et seq. and/or by adhering to the safe harbor guidelines published by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and set forth in Title 27, Div. 4, Chap. 1, Ar. 6 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing at § 25600 et seq, as may be amended from time to time. The Parties agree compliance with the injunctive terms of this Consent Judgment and with Proposition 65 generally constitutes a significant benefit in the public interest.

# 3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

# 3.1 Civil Penalty Payments

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), Rashman agrees to pay \$2,500 in civil penalties as follows. Rashman shall cause to be made or shall make its payments under this Section within six (6) business days after Written Notice of the occurrence of the Effective Date. The term Written Notice, is defined in the following Section 3.4. Rashman shall allocate this civil penalty payment according to Health and Safety Code § 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with seventy-five percent (75%) paid to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) retained by KASB. Rashman or counsel for Rashman holding client funds in trust shall issue two checks made payable as follows and delivered to the address listed in Section 3.4: (1) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$1,875; and (2) "Keep America Safe and Beautiful" in the amount of \$625. KASB's counsel shall promptly deliver to OEHHA and to KASB their respective checks for their respective portions of the civil penalty payments.

# 3.2 Reimbursement of Attorneys' Fees and Costs

KASB and its counsel offered to resolve the allegations in the Notice and Complaint without reaching terms on the amount of reimbursement of their attorneys' fees and costs. Shortly after the Parties finalized the other material settlement terms, they negotiated and reached an accord on the compensation to be paid to KASB's counsel, under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine, codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this Consent Judgment and entry of Judgment pursuant to its terms,

but exclusive of fees and costs on appeal, if any. Within six (6) business days after the written notification of the occurrence of the Effective Date, pursuant to Section 3.4, below, Rashman agrees to issue a check in the amount of \$27,565 made payable to "Seven Hills LLP" for as payment in full of all attorney fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to Rashman's attention, litigating, negotiating a settlement in the public interest, and obtaining the Court's approval of its terms pursuant to Section 5.

## 3.3 Payment Address

All payments required by this Consent Judgment shall be delivered to the following address:

Seven Hills LLP
Attn: Kimberly Gates Johnson

4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400

San Francisco, CA 94111

# 3.4 Additional Payment Requirements; Written Notice

Pursuant to this Section 3, counsel for KASB shall provide signed IRS Form W9s for all payees under this Agreement at the time this Consent Judgment is fully executed by the Parties, or the Execution Date. Payments under this Agreement are contingent on the provision of W9s allowing Rashman to comply with Federal tax reporting requirements. Form W9s shall be provided in an email by counsel for KASB to Rashman's counsel, and counsel for Rashman shall confirm receipt.

Additionally, Rashman shall be under no obligation to make any payments, irrespective of the preceding payment schedules set forth, until counsel for Rashman receives "written notice" of the Effective Date. "Written notice" means notice provided by counsel for KASB, including through electronic mail, alerting counsel for Rashman the Court granted the motion filed in support of this Consent Judgment. As used in this Section only, Written Notice does not require notice as that term is defined in Section 8. The date written notice is provided shall cue the obligation to make payments in conformity with the foregoing schedule.

# 4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

# 4.1 KASB's Release of Proposition 65 Claims

KASB, acting on its own behalf and in the public interest, and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors an assignees ("Releasors") releases Rashman and its

past and present parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, and attorneys and each entity to whom Rashman directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products including, but not limited to, its downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisers, cooperative members, licensors and licensees ("Releasees") for any violations arising under Proposition 65 for unwarned exposures to DINP from Products manufactured or distributed into the State of California by Rashman prior to the Effective Date, as set forth in the Notice. Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 by Rashman with respect to the alleged or actual failure to warn about exposures to DINP from Products manufactured or distributed by Rashman and offered for sale in California after the Effective Date.

#### 4.2 KASB's Individual Release of Claims

KASB, in its individual capacity only and *not* in its representative capacity, also hereby provides a release to Rashman and the Releasees which shall be effective as a full and final accord and satisfaction, as a bar to all actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, losses, claims, liabilities and demands of KASB of any nature, character or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, arising out of alleged or actual exposures to DINP in Products manufactured or distributed into the State of California by Rashman prior to the Execution Date. Nothing in this section shall affect KASB's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve Rashman's Products.

### 4.3 Rashman's Release of KASB

Rashman, on its own behalf and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives and releases any and all claims against KASB, its attorneys and other representatives, and Releasors, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by KASB and its attorneys and other representatives in the course of investigating the claims alleged in the Notices, seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to the Products.

2Ò

## 4.4 Mutual Waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542

The Parties each acknowledge familiarity with Section 1542 of the Civil Code, which provides as follows:

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

The Parties, each on its own behalf, and each on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, expressly waive and relinquish any and all rights and benefits which it/they may have under, or which may be conferred upon it/them by the provisions of Civil Code Section 1542 as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters, as specifically defined by Sections 4.2 and 4.3, above. Nothing in this section shall affect KASB's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve the Products.

## 5. COURT APPROVAL

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f)(4), KASB shall file a noticed motion for judicial approval of this Consent Judgment. The Parties agree to mutually employ their best efforts, and those of their counsel, to support the entry of this agreement as a judgment and to obtain judicial approval of their settlement in a timely manner. For purposes of this section, "best efforts" shall include, at a minimum, supporting the motion for approval, responding to any third-party objection, and appearing at the hearing before the Court if so requested.

### 6. **SEVERABILITY**

If, subsequent to the Court's approval and entry of this Consent Judgment as a judgment, any provision of this Consent Judgment is deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be adversely affected.

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

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event Proposition 65 is repealed, preempted, or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, then Rashman may provide KASB with written notice of any asserted change in the law and shall have no further injunctive obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment, with respect to, and to the extent that, the Products are so affected. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be interpreted to relieve Rashman from its obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal law or regulation.

#### 8. NOTICE

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required by this Consent Judgment shall be in writing and sent by: (i) personal delivery, (ii) first-class registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (iii) a recognized overnight courier to any Party by the other at the following addresses:

For Rashman:

For KASB:

Richard Rashman, CEO Rashman Corporation 8600 Wilbur Ave.

Kimberly Gates Johnson, Esq. Seven Hills LLP 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400

Northridge, CA 91324

San Francisco, CA 94111

With a Copy to:

18

Steve L. Feldman, Esq. Lewitt Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall, Harlan 16633 Venture Blvd., 11th Floor

19 Encino, CA 91436-1865

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

#### COUNTERPARTS, FACSIMILE AND PDF SIGNATURES 9.

This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts and by portable document format (pdf) signature, each of which shall be deemed an original and, all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 10.

KASB and its counsel agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

## 11. <u>ENTIRE AGREEMENT</u>

This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby merged herein and therein. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been made by any Party hereto. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto.

## 12. MODIFICATION

This Consent Judgment may be modified only by: (i) a written agreement of the Parties and the entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court thereon; or (ii) upon a successful motion of any party and the entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court thereon.

# 13. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood, and agreed to all of the terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment.

Δ	CR	FFT	TO:
~	1 T I 1		, , , ,

Date: Aug 04,2022

By: Ngoc-Bich Hoang Vo, CEO
Keep America Safe and Beautiful

Date: October 7 2022

**AGREED TO:** 

Date: <u>106 d</u>

Richard Rashman, CEO

RASHMAN CORPORATION

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT