#### LAW OFFICES

### **BRODSKY & SMITH, LLC**

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November 20, 2020

esmith@brodskysmith.com

President/CEO	Durai dant/CEO		
	President/CEO		
Met-Rx Nutrition, Inc.	Met-Rx Substrate Technology, Inc.		
c/o Corporation Service Company	c/o Corporation Service Company Which Will Do		
251 Little Falls Drive	Business In California As CSC-Lawyers		
Wilmington, DE 19808	Incorporating Service		
	2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N		
	Sacramento, CA 95833		
President/CEO	President/CEO		
Rexall Sundown, Inc.	Walmart, Inc.		
c/o Corporation Service Company	c/o The Corporation Trust Company		
1201 Hays Street	Corporation Trust Center		
Tallahassee, FL 32301	1209 Orange Street		
	Wilmington, DE 19801		
Member/Manager			
Walmart Apollo, LLC			
c/o The Corporation Trust Company			
Corporation Trust Center			
1209 Orange Street			
Wilmington, DE 19801			

AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.6, et seq.

To Whom It May Concern:

Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") represents Anthony Ferreiro ("Ferreiro"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and to improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items.

With respect to the product identified below, Ferreiro has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with this product. Section 25249.6 of the statute provides that "[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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to this listed chemical that results from contact

with this product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make an informed decision on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) their risk of exposure to the listed chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the product.

Please allow this letter to serve as notice of this violation to the alleged Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, Brodsky Smith intends to file a private enforcement action on behalf of Ferreiro sixty (60) days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies<sup>1</sup> have commenced and are earnestly prosecuting an action to redress these violations.

<u>Alleged Violator(s)</u>: The name of the company covered by this notice that Violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter "the Violator") is:

Met-Rx Nutrition, Inc. Met-Rx Substrate Technology, Inc. Rexall Sundown, Inc. Walmart, Inc. Walmart Apollo, LLC

**Product Category/Type:** The type of product causing this violation is:

Product <sup>2</sup>	Retailer(s)	Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)
Met-Rx Meal Replacement Extreme	Walmart, Inc.	Met-Rx Nutrition, Inc.
Chocolate	Walmart Apollo, LLC	Met-Rx Substrate Technology,
On Box: UPC# 786560187060		Inc.
On Box: Part# 30-43041		Rexall Sundown, Inc.
On Box: 18706 091 B67092		
On Box: 42921-01 N4		
On Package: UPC# 786560187046		
On Package: Part# 30-43042		
On Package: 18704 08 F B67092		
Best By 04/2022		
Walmart Order# 5672010-563721		

<u>Listed Chemicals</u>: This violation involves exposure to the chemicals lead and lead compounds. On February 27, 1987, the State of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause adverse developmental and reproductive effects in both males and females. On October 1, 1992, the state of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause cancer. These additions took place more than twenty (20) months before Ferreiro served this Notice.

<u>Violations</u>: The alleged Violator knowingly and intentionally exposed and continues to knowingly and intentionally expose consumers within the State of California to lead at levels that, upon reasonable use

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The specifically identified example of the type of product that is subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit to assist in its investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the listed chemical from other items within the product category. It is important to note that this example is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product of the type listed under "Product." Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific products within the type or category described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the relevant period so as to ensure that the requisite toxic warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

of the product, exceed the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (lead) without providing clear and reasonable warning of this exposure. In particular, the product does not warn that it contains lead a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity.

Route of Exposure: The exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the product. Consequently, the primary route of exposure to these chemicals is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with lead due to Met-Rx Meal Replacement Extreme Chocolate are consumed, ingestion of lead will occur which will increase BLLs.

<u>Duration of the Violations</u>: Each of these ongoing violations has occurred on every day since at least October 22, 2020; as well as every day since the product was introduced to the California marketplace and following the one-year anniversary date of the listing at issue; and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are removed from the product.

Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. §3100, a certificate of merit is attached hereto. Pursuant to Title 27, C.C.R. §25903(b), a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" is also enclosed.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, Ferreiro is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

Ferreiro has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this matter. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violations to my attention at the law office address and telephone number indicated on the letterhead.

Sincerely

Evan J. Smith

#### Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 2 Bala Plaza, Suite 805, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. I am employed in Montgomery County where the mailing occurred.

On November 20, 2020, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary on the following entities and individuals listed below by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

President/CEO Met-Rx Nutrition, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808	President/CEO Met-Rx Substrate Technology, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company Which Will Do Business In California As CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
President/CEO Rexall Sundown, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company 1201 Hays Street Tallahassee, FL 32301	Sacramento, CA 95833  President/CEO Walmart, Inc. c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street
Member/Manager Walmart Apollo, LLC c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801	Wilmington, DE 19801

On November 20, 2020, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary on each of the individuals on the service list attached hereto as Appendix B by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on November 20, 2020, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Evan J. Smith

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Evan J. Smith, hereby declare:

- (1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- (2) I am the attorney for the noticing party Anthony Ferreiro.
- I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.
- (4) Based on the information obtained through these consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator(s) will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- (5) The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: November 20, 2020

Evan J. Smith

Attorney for Anthony Ferreiro

## **SERVICE LIST**

The Honorable Nancy O'Mailey	The Honorable Stacey Montgomery	The Honorable Candice Hooper	The Honorable Gregg Cohen
Alameda County District Attorney	Lassen County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney	Tehama County District Attorney
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900	220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8	419 4th Street, Second Floor	444 Oak Street, Room L
Oakland, CA 94612	Susanville, CA 96130	Hollister, CA 95203	Red Bluff, CA 96080
The Honorable Terese Drabec	The Honorable Jackie Lacey	The Honorable Michael Ramos	The Honorable Eric Heryford
Alpine County District Attorney	Los Angeles County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney	Trinity County District Attorney
270 Laramie Street, PO BOX 248	211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200	303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor	P.O. Box 310
Markieeville, CA 96120	Los Angeles, CA 90012	San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502	Weaverville, CA 96093
The Honorable Todd Riebe	The Honorable David Linn	The Honorable Bonnie Dumanis	The Honorable Tim Ward Tulare County District Attorney 221 South Mooney Boulevard, Rm 224 Visalia, CA 93291-4593
Amador County District Attorney	Madera County District Attorney	San Diego County District Attorney	
708 Court Street	209 West Yosemite Avenue	330 W, Broadway Street	
Jackson, CA 95642	Madera, CA 93637	San Diego, CA 92101	
The Honorable Michael Ramsay	The Honorable Edward Berberian	The Honorable George Gascon	The Honorable Laura Krieg
Butte County District Attorney	Marin County District Attorney	San Francisco County District Attorney	Tuolumne County District Attorney
25 County Canter Drive	3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130	850 Bryant Street, Room 322	423 North Washington Street
Oroville, CA 95965	San Rafael, CA 34903	San Francisco, CA 94103	Sonora, CA 95370
The Honorable Barbara Yook	The Honorable Thomas Cooke	The Honorable Tori Verber Salazar	The Honorable Gregory Totten Ventura County District Attorney 800 South Victona Avenue Ventura, CA 93009
Calaveras County District Attorney	Mariposa County District Attorney	San Joaquin County District Attorney	
991 Mountain Ranch Road	5101 Jones Street, P.O. Box 730	222 East Weber Avenue, Room 202	
San Andreas, CA 95249	Mariposa, CA 95338	Stockton, CA 95201	
The Honorable John Poyner	The Honorable C, David Eyster	The Honorable Dan Dow	The Honorable Jeff Reisig
Colusa County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	San Luis Obispo County District Atty	Yolo County District Attorney
346 Fifth Street	100 North State Street, P.O. Box 1000	1035 Palm Street, 4th Floor	301 Second Street
Colusa, CA 95932	Ukiah, CA 95482	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Woodland, CA 95695
The Honorable Mark Peterson Contra Costa County District Attorney 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 The Honorable Dale Trigg	The Honorable Larry Morse II Merced County District Attorney 550 W. Main Street Merced, CA 95340	The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center, Third Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	The Honorable Patrick McGrath Yuba County District Attorney 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901
Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	The Honorable Jordan Funk Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street, Suite 202 Alturas, CA 96101	The Honorable Joyce Dudley Santa Barbara County District Attorney 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101	The Honorable Mike Feuer Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles 800 City Hall East 200 North Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
The Honorable Vern Pierson El Dorado County District Attorney 778 Pacific Street Placerville, CA 95667	The Honorable Tim Kendall	The Honorable Jeffrey Rosen	The Honorable James Sanchez
	Mono County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento
	P.O. Box 617	70 West Hedding Street, West Wing	915 I Street, 4th Floor
	Bridgeport, CA 93517	San Jose, CA 95110	Sacramento, CA 95814
The Honorable Lisa Smittramp Fresno County District Altorney 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno, CA 93721 The Honorable Dwayne Stewart	The Honorable Dean Flippo Monterey County District Attorney P.O. Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902	The Honorable Jeff Rosell Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	The Honorable Jan Goldsmith Office of the City Attorney, San Diego 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1820 San Diego, CA 92101
Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	The Honorable Allison Haley Napa County District Attorney 1127 First Street, Suite C Napa, CA 94559	The Honorable Stephen Carlton Shasta County District Attorney 1355 West Street ReddIng, CA 96001	The Honorable Dennis Herrera Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102
The Honorable Maggie Fleming Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5th Street, Fourth Floor Eureka, CA 95501 The Honorable Gilbert Otero	The Honorable Clifford Newell Nevada County District Attorney 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959	The Honorable Lawrence Allen Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square Downieville, CA 95936	The Honorable Richard Doyle Office of the City Altorney, San Jose 200 East Santa Clara Street,16th Floor San Jose, CA 95113
Imperial County District Attorney 940 West Main Street, Suite 102 El Centro, CA 92243	The Honorable Tony Rackauckas Orange County District Attorney 401 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701	The Honorable James Kirk Andrus Siskiyou County District Attorney P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Oakland, CA 94612-0550
The Honorable Thomas Hardy	The Honorable R. Scott Owens	The Honorable Krishna Abrams	Outling Off 04012 0000
Inyo County District Attorney	Placer County District Attorney	Solano County District Attorney	
P.O. Drawer D	10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240	675 Texas Street, Suite 4500	
Independence, CA 93526	Roseville, CA 95678	Fairfield, CA 94533	
The Honorable Lisa Green	The Honorable David Hollister	The Honorable Jill Ravitch	
Kern County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney	Sonoma County District Attorney	
1215 Truxtun Avenue	520 Main Street, Room 404	600 Administration Drive, Room 212J	
Bakersfield, CA 93301	Quincy, CA 95971	Santa Rosa, CA 95403	
The Honorable Keilh Fagundas	The Honorable Michael Hestrin	The Honorable Birgit Fladager	
Kings County District Attorney	Riverside County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney	
1400 West Lacey Boulevard	3960 Orange Street	832 12th Street, Suite 300	
Hanford, CA 9230	Riverside, CA 92501	Modesto, CA 95354	
The Honorable Donald Anderson	The Honorable Anne Marie Schubert	The Honorable Amanda Hopper	
Lake County District Attorney	Sacramento County District Attorney	Sutter County District Attorney	
255 North Forbes Street	901 G Street	463 Second Street, Suite 102	
Lakeport CA 95453	Sacramento CA 95814	Yuba City CA 95991	