

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Anthony Held and Blumenthal/Lansing Company, LLC

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E (hereinafter “Held”) and Blumenthal/Lansing Company, LLC (hereinafter “Blumenthal”), with Held and Blumenthal collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Held 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. Blumenthal employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of Proposition 65.

1.2 General Allegations

Held alleges that Blumenthal has manufactured, distributed and/or sold in the State of California vinyl buttons containing di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”). DEHP is listed pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code §§25249.5 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), as a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm, and thereby has an associated no significant risk level (“NSRLs”) and a maximum allowable dose level (“MADLs”). DEHP is referred to herein as the “Listed Chemical.”

1.3 Product Description

The products that are covered by this Settlement Agreement are defined as follows:
rubber buttons containing the Listed Chemical, including, but not limited to, *Le Bouton Buttons*,

Robot, #934 (#0 75160 00934 7). All such items shall be referred to herein as the “Covered Products.”

1.4 Notice of Violation

On or about March 5, 2008, Held served Blumenthal and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (the “Notice”) that provided Blumenthal and such public enforcers with notice that alleged that Blumenthal was in violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.6 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Products exposed users in California to the Listed Chemical. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Blumenthal of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Blumenthal of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Blumenthal. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities and duties of Blumenthal under this Settlement Agreement. This Settlement Agreement is entered into by the Parties to settle and compromise disputed issues and shall not be used for any other purpose or in any other matter.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Effective Date” shall mean August 31, 2009.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION AND RECALL

2.1 Reformulation Standards

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, Reformulated, or “Phthalate-Free” Products shall mean Covered Products containing less than or equal to 1,000 parts per million (“ppm”) of the Listed Chemical, when analyzed pursuant to Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C.

2.2 Reformulation Commitment

Blumenthal hereby commits that 100% of the Covered Products that they purchase and offer for sale in California after the Effective Date, shall qualify as Phthalate-Free.

2.3 Recall of Noticed Products

Blumenthal hereby agrees to recall all Covered Products distributed prior to the Effective Date remaining in inventory in California, if any, by contacting each of its direct customers for such Covered Products via certified mail. Each recall notice shall be mailed within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date and shall be made available to Dr. Held upon written request.

2.4 Product Warnings

After the Effective Date, Blumenthal shall not sell, ship, or offer to be shipped for sale in California, Covered Products containing the Listed Chemical unless such Products are shipped with the clear and reasonable warnings set out in Section 2.5 and 2.6, or comply with the reformulation requirements of Phthalate-Free Products set out in Section 2.1. If Blumenthal introduces any new products into commerce in California after the Effective Date that meet the definition of Covered Products herein, it shall comply with the reformulation or warning requirements hereunder.

Any warning issued for Products pursuant to Section 2.5 or 2.6, below, 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, for Products shipped directly to an individual in California, before use.

2.5 Warnings For Retail Store Sales

(a) **Product Labeling.** Blumenthal may perform its warning obligation by affixing a warning to the packaging of, labeling to, or, if no label exists, directly on each Covered Product sold in retail outlets in California by Blumenthal or its agents, that states:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

(b) **Point-of-Sale Warnings.** Blumenthal may perform its warning obligations by ensuring that signs are posted at retail outlets in the State of California where the Covered Products are sold. Point-of-sale warnings shall be provided through one or more signs posted in close proximity to the point of display of the Covered Products that states:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Where more than one Covered Product is sold in proximity to other like items or to those that do not require a warning (e.g., Phthalate-Free as defined in Section 2.1), the following

statement must be used:¹

WARNING: The following products contain DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm:

[list products for which warning is required]

2.6 Warnings For Mail Order Catalog and Internet Sales.

Blumenthal shall satisfy its warning obligations for Covered Products sold via mail order catalog or the Internet to California residents by providing a warning: (i) in the mail order catalog; or (ii) on the website. Warnings given in the mail order catalog or on the website shall identify the specific Covered Product to which the warning applies as further specified in subsections (a) and (b) below.

(a) **Mail Order Catalog Warning.** Any warning provided in a mail order catalog must be in the same type size or larger than the Covered Product description text within the catalog. The following warning shall be provided on the same page and in the same location as each display of the Covered Product:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Where it is impracticable to provide the warning on the same page and in the same location as the display of the Covered Product, Blumenthal may utilize a designated symbol (▲) to cross reference the applicable warning and shall define the term “designated symbol” with the

¹ For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, “sold in proximity to other like items” shall mean that the Product and another product are offered for sale close enough to each other so that the consumer, under customary conditions of purchase, could not reasonably determine which of the two products is subject to the warning sign.

following language on the inside of the front cover of the catalog and on the same page as any order form for the Covered Product(s):

WARNING: Certain products identified with this symbol ▲ and offered for sale in this catalog contain DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

The designated symbol must appear on the same page and in close proximity to the display or description of the Covered Product on such page. On each page where the designated symbol appears, Blumenthal must provide a reference directing the consumer to the warning language and definition of the designated symbol.

If Blumenthal elects to sell one or more Covered Products to consumers via mail order catalog after the Effective Date, then the warnings must be included in all catalogs distributed on or after January 1, 2010, containing the Covered Products which are distributed in California as of the Effective Date.

(b) **Internet Website Warning.** A warning may be given in conjunction with the sale of the Covered Product to a California consumer via the Internet, provided it appears either: (i) on the same web page on which the Covered Product is displayed; (ii) on the same web page as the order form for the Covered Product; (iii) on the same page as the price for any Covered Product; or (iv) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser during the checkout process. The following warning statement shall be used and 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 the Product description text:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Alternatively, the designated symbol may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, or price of the Covered Product for which a warning is being given, provided that the following warning statement also appears elsewhere on the same web page, as follows:

WARNING: Products identified on this page with the following symbol ▲ contain DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

2.7 Exceptions To Warning Requirements

The warning requirements set forth in Sections 2.5 through 2.6 shall not apply to:

- (i) any Covered Products received by Blumenthal prior to receipt of the Notice, provided that Blumenthal does not have actual knowledge, or reason from communications with its suppliers of the Products to believe, that the Listed Chemical is present in such Products in concentrations exceeding 1,000 ppm (0.1%) each;
- (ii) any Covered Products shipped by Blumenthal to its California customers before the Effective Date; or
- (iii) Phthalate-Free Products (as defined in Section 2.1).

3. PENALTIES PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(b)

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement against it, Blumenthal shall pay \$6,000 in civil penalties to be apportioned in accordance with California Health & Safety Code §25192, with 75% of these funds remitted to the State of

California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the remaining 25% of these penalty monies remitted to Held as provided by California Health & Safety Code §25249.12(d). Blumenthal shall issue two separate checks for the penalty payment: (a) one check made payable to Hirst & Chanler LLP in Trust for the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("Hirst & Chanler LLP in Trust for OEHHA") in the amount of \$4,500 representing 75% of the total penalty and (b) one check to "Hirst & Chanler LLP in Trust for A. Held" in the amount of \$1,500, representing 25% of the total penalty. Two separate 1099s shall be issued for the above payments: The first 1099 shall be issued to OEHHA, P.O. Box 4010, Sacramento, CA 95814 (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$4,500. The second 1099 shall be issued to Held in the amount of \$1,500, whose address and tax identification number shall be furnished, upon request, at least five calendar days before payment is due. The payments shall be delivered on or before the Effective Date, at the following address:

HIRST & CHANLER LLP
Attn: Proposition 65 Controller
2560 Ninth Street
Parker Plaza, Suite 214
Berkeley, CA 94710

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The parties reached an accord on the compensation due to Held and his counsel under the private attorney general doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, Blumenthal shall reimburse Held's counsel for fees and costs, incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Blumenthal's attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Blumenthal shall pay Held and his counsel \$24,500 for all attorneys' fees, expert and investigation fees, and related costs. The payment shall be issued in a third separate check made

payable to “Hirst & Chanler LLP” and shall be delivered on or before the Effective Date, at the following address:

HIRST & CHANLER LLP
Attn: Proposition 65 Controller
2560 Ninth Street
Parker Plaza, Suite 214
Berkeley, CA 94710

Blumenthal shall issue a separate 1099 for fees and cost paid in the amount of \$24,500 to Hirst & Chanler LLP, 2560 Ninth Street, Parker Plaza, Suite 214, Berkeley, California, 94710 (EIN: 20-3929984).

5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

5.1 Release of Blumenthal and Downstream Customers

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 above, Held, on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, and in the interest of the general public, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses or expenses (including, but not limited to, investigation fees, expert fees and attorneys’ fees) of any nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown, fixed or contingent (collectively “Claims”), against Blumenthal and each of its downstream distributors, wholesalers, licensors, licensees, auctioneers, retailers, franchisees, dealers, customers, owners, purchasers, users, parent companies, corporate affiliates, subsidiaries, and their respective officers, directors, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, agents, and employees, and sister and parent entities

(collectively "Releasees"). This release is limited to those claims that arise under Proposition 65, as such claims relate to Blumenthal's alleged failure to warn about exposures to or identification of DEHP contained in the Products.

The Parties further understand and agree that the above releases shall not extend upstream to any entities that manufactured the Products or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products or any component parts thereof to Blumenthal.

5.2 Blumenthal's Release of Held

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

6. SEVERABILITY

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

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, then Blumenthal shall provide written notice to Held of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent

that, the Products are so affected.

8. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement 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 Blumenthal:

Pramila Devi Shaheed, Co-President
Blumenthal/Lansing Company, LLC
1 Palmer Terrace
Carlstadt, NJ 07072

With copies to:

Nancy J. Rich, Esq.
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
525 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60661

For Held:

Proposition 65 Coordinator
Hirst & Chanler, LLP
2560 Ninth Street
Parker Plaza, Suite 214
Berkeley, CA 94710-2565

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; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile, each 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)

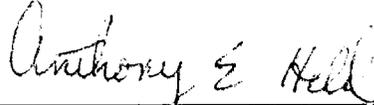
Held agrees to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in Health & Safety Code §25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

12. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:	AGREED TO:
Date: <u>September 2, 2009</u>	Date: _____
By: <u></u> Anthony Held	By: _____ Pramilla Devi Shaheed, Co-President Blumenthal/Lansing Company, LLC

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

Held agrees to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in Health & Safety Code §25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

12. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:	AGREED TO:
Date: _____	Date: <u>9/1/09</u>
By: _____ Anthony Held	By: <u></u> Pramila Devi Shaheed, Co-President Blumenthal/Lansing Company, LLC