

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.  
AND  
CUSTOM ACCESSORIES, INC.

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. (“CAG”) and Custom Accessories, Inc. (“Custom”), (CAG and Custom collectively referred to as, the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) to settle CAG’s allegations that Custom violated Proposition 65 for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation. The effective date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which it is fully executed by all Parties hereto (the “Effective Date”).

**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 CAG is a California-based entity that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

1.2 CAG alleges that Custom has manufactured, distributed and/or sold in the State of California, (1) Power Cords containing lead and (2) Steering Wheel Covers and Registration Holders containing Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) and that Custom did not provide a required warning in compliance with the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (*Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5, *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.3 The consumer product categories covered by this Settlement Agreement are (1) Power Cords, (2) Steering Wheel Covers, and (3) Registration Holders and which are offered for sale in the State of California (the “Covered Products”). The Covered Products are limited to those sold by Custom.

1.4 On October 1, 1992, the Governor of California added Lead and Lead compounds to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer. On February 27, 1987, the Governor of California added Lead to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive toxicity. These additions took place more than twenty (20) months before CAG served its “Sixty-Day Notice of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” which is further described below.

1.5 Lead and DEHP are referred to hereafter as the “Listed Chemicals.”

1.6 On or about June 15, 2011, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Power Cords exposes persons to lead.

1.7 On or about October 17, 2011, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of

Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Power Cords exposes persons to lead.

1.8 On or about May 11, 2012, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Power Cords exposes persons to lead.

1.9 On or about October 19, 2012, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Steering Wheel Covers exposes persons to DEHP.

1.10 On or about November 30, 2012, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Steering Wheel Covers exposes persons to DEHP.

1.11 On or about November 30, 2012, CAG served Custom and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Custom violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Registration Holders exposes persons to DEHP.

1.12 The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between the Parties as set forth below concerning the Parties’ and the Covered Products’ compliance with Proposition 65 (the “Dispute”).

1.13 By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties do not admit any facts or conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, any facts or conclusions of law regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by Custom, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries or affiliated corporations, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that CAG or Custom may have

against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Dispute or claims released herein.

## **2.0 Release**

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between CAG, on the one hand, and (a) Custom, and its owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (collectively “Releasees”) and (b) all entities to whom Releasees directly or indirectly provide, distribute or sell the Covered Products, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, Customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees (“Downstream Releasees”), on the other hand, of any violation or claimed violation of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been or could have been asserted against the Releasees and Downstream Releasees regarding exposing persons to the Listed Chemicals and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemical arising only in connection with the Covered Products manufactured, shipped and/or otherwise distributed prior to the Effective Date, even if sold by Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date. The Covered Products are only limited to those sold by Custom. Custom’s compliance with this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the Listed Chemicals in the Covered Products for both Releasees and Downstream Releasees for any Covered Products distributed and/or sold by Releasees or Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date.

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Products all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, 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) (collectively "Claims"), against Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law claims that were or could have been asserted, only to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemicals contained in the Covered Products or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemicals contained in the Covered Products.

It is intended by the Parties that the releases provided in this Paragraph 2.0 shall prevent CAG from asserting any Claims against Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law, to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemicals or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemicals in the Covered Products.

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, provide a general release herein 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 any nature, character or kind, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, against Releasees and Downstream Releasees arising under Proposition 65, only to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemicals in the Covered Products, and the failure to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemicals contained in the Covered Products sold by Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees through the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement. CAG acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of Civil Code, which provides as follows:

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

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees expressly waives and relinquishes any and all rights and benefits which it may have under, or which may be conferred on it by the provisions of Civil Code § 1542 as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent that it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters.

### 3.0 **Custom's Duties**

3.1 Custom agrees, promises, and represents that by two (2) months after the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, Custom shall not manufacture,

distribute, or sell in California any Power Cords that exceed maximum level of lead, by weight, of 100 parts per million or any Steering Wheel Covers and Registration Holders that exceed maximum concentration, by weight, of DEHP, of 0.1% (1,000 parts per million) or less, in a poly vinyl chloride or other soft plastic, vinyl, or synthetic leather component of those Covered Products, or shall carry warnings on such Covered Products that comply with Proposition 65 as further set forth in Section 3.2 below.

3.2 Custom agrees, promises, and represents that, as of the Effective Date, to the extent it ships any Covered Products in inventory that has not been reformulated, it will provide warnings on such Covered Products that comply with Proposition 65. The warnings shall be provided in such a conspicuously and prominent manner that will assure the message is made available and likely to be read, seen, or heard by the consumer prior to or at the time of the sale or purchase. The Parties agree that product labeling stating that “This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, or birth defects, or other reproductive harm” shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Products for any Covered Products in inventory that had not been reformulated and was distributed and/or sold by Releasees or Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date.

#### **4.0 Payments**

4.1 Custom agrees, to pay a total of sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000.00) within five (5) days of the Effective Date by separate checks apportioned as follows:

4.1.1 Payment to CAG: six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) shall be paid to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212. By the Effective Date, CAG shall provide Custom with CAG's Employer Identification Number.

4.1.2 Attorneys' Fees and Costs: fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000.00) of such payment shall be paid to Yeroushalmi & Associates, as CAG's attorneys, for reasonable investigation fees and costs, attorneys' fees, and any other costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Custom's attention. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212. By the Effective Date, Yeroushalmi & Associates shall provide Custom with its Employer Identification Number.

4.1.4 Penalty: Custom shall issue two separate checks for a total amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) as penalties pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.12: (a) one check made payable to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the amount of seven hundred and fifty (\$750.00),

representing 75% of the total penalty; and (b) one check to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), 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 95184 (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$750.00. The second 1099 shall be issued in the amount of \$250.00 to CAG and delivered to: Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

4.2 Custom agrees to pay a second and final penalty of \$10,000.00 on or before December 31, 2013. As incentive for Custom Accessories to reformulate its Products, however, this second and final civil penalty shall be waived in its entirety if an Officer of Custom Accessories certifies in writing that it, as of December 31, 2013, Custom will not sell, ship, and offer for sale in California Power Cords, if Custom knows they exceed maximum level of lead, by weight, of 100 parts per million, or Steering Wheel Covers and Registration Holders if Custom knows they exceed maximum concentration, by weight, of DEHP, of 0.1% (1,000 parts per million) or less, in a poly vinyl chloride or other soft plastic, vinyl, or synthetic leather component of those Covered Products. Such certification must be received by CAG on or before December 31, 2013.

4.2.1 Payment to CAG: two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be paid to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212. By the

Effective Date, CAG shall provide Custom with CAG's Employer Identification Number.

4.2.2 Penalty: Custom shall issue two separate checks for a total amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) as penalties pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.12: (a) one check made payable to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the amount of five thousand six hundred and twenty five dollars (\$5,625.00), representing 75% of the total penalty; and (b) one check to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. in the amount of one thousand eight hundred and seventy five dollars (\$1,875.00), 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 95184 (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$750.00. The second 1099 shall be issued in the amount of \$250.00 to CAG and delivered to: Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

## **5.0 Authority to Enter Into Settlement Agreement**

5.1 CAG represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind CAG to this Settlement Agreement.

5.2 Custom represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind Custom to this Settlement Agreement.

**6.0 Report of the Settlement Agreement to the Office of the Attorney General Of California**

6.1 CAG shall report this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General's Office within five (5) days of the Parties' execution of this Settlement Agreement.

**7.0 Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile**

7.1 This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature shall be as valid as the original.

**8.0 Entire Agreement**

8.1 This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind any of the Parties.

**9.0 Modification of Settlement Agreement**

9.1 Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.

**10.0 Application of Settlement Agreement**

10.1 This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, CAG and the Releasees and Downstream Releasees identified in Section 2 above.

**11.0 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement**

11.1 Any party may file suit before the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in paragraphs 11.2 and 11.3 of this Settlement Agreement, to enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Settlement Agreement. The prevailing party shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with such enforcement.

11.2 No action to enforce this Settlement Agreement may be commenced or maintained, and no notice of violation related to the Covered Products may be served or filed against Custom by CAG, unless the party seeking enforcement or alleging violation notifies the other party of the specific future acts alleged to breach this Settlement Agreement at least 90 days before serving or filing any action or Notice of Violation and the entity receiving the notice fails to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 11.3 below. Any notice to Custom must contain (a) the name of the product, (b) specific dates when the product was sold after the Effective Date in California without either reformulation or a Proposition 65 compliant warning, (c) the store or other place at which the product was available for sale to consumers, and (d) any other evidence or other support for the allegations in the notice.

11.3 Within 30 days of receiving the notice described in Section 11.2, Custom shall either (1) send the store or other place at which the product was available for sale to the public a letter directing that the offending product be immediately removed from inventory and returned to Custom for full credit, including shipping costs, or (2) refute the information provided under Section 11.2. Should the parties be unable to resolve the dispute, any party may seek relief under Section

## **12.0 Notification Requirements**

12.1 Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective only if given in writing and delivered in person, certified or registered mail return receipt requested, or traceable overnight delivery service, to the following designees:

For CAG:

Reuben Yeroushalmi  
YEROUSHALMI & ASSOCIATES  
9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

For Custom:

Edward Matthew, M.D.  
Custom Accessories  
5900 Ami Drive  
Richmond, IL 60071

and

Joshua G. Simon  
Morrison & Foerster LLP  
12531 High Bluff Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92130-2040

Any party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing written notice of such change pursuant to this section.

## **13.0 SEVERABILITY**

13.1 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.

## **14.0 GOVERNING LAW**

14.1 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, preempted or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Listed Chemicals and/or the Covered Products, then Custom shall provide written notice to CAG 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 Covered Products are so affected.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: 1-2-13

By: 

Printed Name: MICHEL SASSOON

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CUSTOM ACCESSORIES, INC.

Dated: 12-31-12

By: 

Printed Name: Glenn Fingerhut

Title: C.F.O.