

1 1.4 “Manufactured” and “Manufactures” means to manufacture, produce, or
2 assemble.

3 1.5 “Paint or other Surface Coatings” means a fluid, semi-fluid, or other material,
4 with or without a suspension of finely divided coloring matter, which changes to a solid film
5 when a thin layer is applied to a metal, wood, stone, paper, leather, cloth, plastic, or other surface.
6 This term does not include printing inks or those materials which actually become a part of the
7 substrate, such as the pigment in a plastic article, or those materials which are actually bonded to
8 the substrate, such as by electroplating or ceramic glazing.

9 1.6 “Vendor” means a person or entity that Manufactures, imports, distributes, or
10 supplies a Covered Product to Settling Defendant.

11 **2. INTRODUCTION**

12 2.1 The parties to this Consent Judgment (“Parties”) are the Center for
13 Environmental Health (“CEH”) and defendant New Ashley Stewart, Inc. (“Settling Defendant”).

14 2.2 More than sixty (60) days prior to naming Settling Defendant in the applicable
15 actions, CEH served 60-Day Notices of Violation under Proposition 65 (The Safe Drinking Water
16 and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.5, *et seq.*),
17 alleging that Settling Defendant violated Proposition 65 by exposing persons to Lead contained in
18 Covered Products, without first providing a clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning.

19 2.3 Settling Defendant manufactures, distributes and/or offers for sale Covered
20 Products in the State of California or has done so in the past.

21 2.4 On June 24, 2009, CEH filed the action entitled *CEH v. Lulu NYC LLC, et al.*,
22 Case No. RG 09-459448, alleging Proposition 65 violations as to wallets, handbags, purses and
23 clutches. The Court has consolidated the *Lulu* matter with a number of other related Proposition
24 65 cases. On December 5, 2012, CEH filed the action entitled *CEH v. Fashion Eden*, Case No.
25 RG 12-658652, naming Settling Defendant as a defendant in the action. The Complaint in the
26 *Fashion Eden* action is hereby amended to include allegations as to Settling Defendant only as to
27 Lead in all Covered Products.
28

1 2.5 For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this
2 Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the *Fashion Eden* Complaint
3 and personal jurisdiction over Settling Defendant as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that
4 venue is proper in the County of Alameda, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this
5 Consent Judgment.

6 2.6 Nothing in this Consent Judgment is or shall be construed as an admission by
7 the Parties of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law or violation of law, nor shall compliance
8 with the Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact,
9 conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall
10 prejudice, waive or impair any right, remedy, argument or defense the Parties may have in any
11 other legal proceeding. This Consent Judgment is the product of negotiation and compromise and
12 is accepted by the Parties for purposes of settling, compromising and resolving issues disputed in
13 this action.

14 **3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

15 3.1 **Specification Compliance Date.** To the extent it has not already done so, no
16 more than 30 days after the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall provide the Lead Limits to its
17 Vendors of Covered Products and shall instruct each Vendor to use reasonable efforts to provide
18 Covered Products that comply with the Lead Limits on a nationwide basis.

19 3.2 **Lead Limits.** Commencing on the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall
20 not purchase, import, Manufacture, supply to an unaffiliated third party, or sell or offer for sale
21 any Covered Product that will be sold or offered for sale to California consumers that contains a
22 material or is made of a component that exceeds the following Lead Limits:

23 3.2.1 Paint or other Surface Coatings: 90 parts per million (“ppm”).

24 3.2.2 Polyvinyl chloride (“PVC”): 200 ppm.

25 3.2.3 All other materials or components other than cubic zirconia (sometimes
26 called cubic zirconium, CZ), crystal, glass or rhinestones: 300 ppm.

27 For purposes of this Section 3.2, when Settling Defendant’s direct customer sells or offers for sale
28 to California consumers a Covered Product after the Effective Date, Settling Defendant is deemed

1 to “offer for sale to California consumers” that Covered Product.

2 **3.3 Action Regarding Specific Products.**

3 3.3.1 On or before the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall cease selling the
4 following specific products in California: (i) Handbag with Flower in Orange, SKU No. 4-
5 02007-71205-2; (ii) Python Wallet in Red, SKU No. 4-02007-61596-4; (iii) Matte
6 Crocodile Wallet in Red, SKU No. 4-02007-61583-4; (iv) Purse with Flower in Yellow,
7 SKU No. 4-02007-76792-2; (v) Ashley Stewart Chain Trim Purse in Yellow; and (vi)
8 Ashley Stewart Mixed Stud Wristlet in Red (collectively, the “Section 3.3 Products”). On
9 or before the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall also: (i) cease shipping the Section
10 3.3 Products to any of its stores and/or customers that resell the Section 3.3 Products in
11 California, and (ii) send instructions to its stores and/or customers that resell the Section
12 3.3 Products in California instructing them either to: (a) return all of the Section 3.3
13 Products to Settling Defendant for destruction; or (b) directly destroy the Section 3.3
14 Products.

15 3.3.2 Any destruction of the Section 3.3 Products shall be in compliance with all
16 applicable laws.

17 3.3.3 Within sixty days of the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall provide
18 CEH with written certification from Settling Defendant confirming compliance with the
19 requirements of this Section 3.3.

20 **4. ENFORCEMENT**

21 4.1 Any Party may, after meeting and conferring, by motion or application for an
22 order to show cause before this Court, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent
23 Judgment. Enforcement of the terms and conditions of Section 3.2 of this Consent Judgment
24 shall be brought exclusively pursuant to Sections 4.2 through 4.3.

25 4.2 **Notice of Violation.** CEH may seek to enforce the requirements of Section
26 3.2 by issuing a Notice of Violation pursuant to this Section 4.2.

27 4.2.1 **Service of Notice.** CEH shall serve the Notice of Violation on Settling
28 Defendant within 45 days of the date the alleged violation(s) was or were observed,

1 provided, however, that: (i) CEH may have up to an additional 45 days to provide Settling
2 Defendant with the test data required by Section 4.2.2(d) below if it has not yet obtained it
3 from its laboratory; and (ii) CEH may serve a Notice of Violation to a supplier of a
4 Covered Product so long as: (a) the identity of the supplier cannot be discerned from the
5 labeling of the Covered Product; and (b) the Notice of Violation to the supplier is served
6 within 45 days of the date the supplier is identified by CEH.

7 **4.2.2 Supporting Documentation.** The Notice of Violation shall, at a minimum,
8 set forth for each Covered Product: (a) the date(s) the alleged violation(s) was observed,
9 (b) the location at which the Covered Product was offered for sale, (c) a description of the
10 Covered Product giving rise to the alleged violation, and of each material or component
11 that is alleged not to comply with the Lead Limits, including a picture of the Covered
12 Product and all identifying information on tags and labels, and (d) all test data obtained by
13 CEH regarding the Covered Product and related supporting documentation, including all
14 laboratory reports, quality assurance reports and quality control reports associated with
15 testing of the Covered Products. Such Notice of Violation shall be based at least in part
16 upon total acid digest testing performed by an independent accredited laboratory. Wipe,
17 swipe, x-ray fluorescence, and swab testing are not by themselves sufficient to support a
18 Notice of Violation, although any such testing may be used as additional support for a
19 Notice. The Parties agree that the sample Notice of Violation attached hereto as Exhibit A
20 is sufficient in form to satisfy the requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of this Section
21 4.2.2.

22 **4.2.3 Additional Documentation.** CEH shall promptly make available for
23 inspection and/or copying upon request by and at the expense of Settling Defendant, all
24 supporting documentation related to the testing of the Covered Products and associated
25 quality control samples, including chain of custody records, all laboratory logbook entries
26 for laboratory receiving, sample preparation, and instrumental analysis, and all printouts
27 from all analytical instruments relating to the testing of Covered Product samples and any
28 and all calibration, quality assurance, and quality control tests performed or relied upon in

1 conjunction with the testing of the Covered Products, obtained by or available to CEH that
2 pertains to the Covered Product’s alleged noncompliance with Section 3 and, if available,
3 any exemplars of Covered Products tested.

4 **4.2.4 Multiple Notices.** If Settling Defendant has received more than four
5 Notices of Violation in any 12-month period, at CEH’s option, CEH may seek whatever
6 fines, costs, penalties, or remedies are provided by law for failure to comply with the
7 Consent Judgment. For purposes of determining the number of Notices of Violation
8 pursuant to this Section 4.2.4, the following shall be excluded:

9 (a) Multiple notices identifying Covered Products Manufactured for or
10 sold to Settling Defendant from the same Vendor; and

11 (b) A Notice of Violation that meets one or more of the conditions of
12 Section 4.3.3(b).

13 **4.3 Notice of Election.** Within 30 days of receiving a Notice of Violation
14 pursuant to Section 4.2, including the test data required pursuant to 4.2.2(d), Settling Defendant
15 shall provide written notice to CEH stating whether it elects to contest the allegations contained in
16 the Notice of Violation (“Notice of Election”). Failure to provide a Notice of Election shall be
17 deemed an election to contest the Notice of Violation. Any contributions to the Fashion
18 Accessory Testing Fund required under this Section 4.3 shall be made payable to The Center for
19 Environmental Health and included with Settling Defendant’s Notice of Election.

20 **4.3.1 Contested Notices.** If the Notice of Violation is contested, the Notice of
21 Election shall include all then-available documentary evidence regarding the alleged
22 violation, including any test data. Within 30 days the parties shall meet and confer to
23 attempt to resolve their dispute. Should such attempts at meeting and conferring fail,
24 CEH may file an enforcement motion or application pursuant to Section 4.1. If Settling
25 Defendant withdraws its Notice of Election to contest the Notice of Violation before any
26 motion concerning the violations alleged in the Notice of Violation is filed pursuant to
27 Section 4.1, Settling Defendant shall make a contribution to the Proposition 65 Fashion
28 Accessory Testing Fund in the amount of \$12,500 and shall comply with all of the non-

1 monetary provisions of Section 4.3.2. If, at any time prior to reaching an agreement or
2 obtaining a decision from the Court, CEH or Settling Defendant acquires additional test or
3 other data regarding the alleged violation, it shall promptly provide all such data or
4 information to the other Party.

5 4.3.2 **Non-Contested Notices.** If the Notice of Violation is not contested,
6 Settling Defendant shall include in its Notice of Election a detailed description of
7 corrective action that it has undertaken or proposes to undertake to address the alleged
8 violation. Any such correction shall, at a minimum, provide reasonable assurance that the
9 Covered Product will no longer be offered by Settling Defendant or its customers for sale
10 in California. If there is a dispute over the sufficiency of the proposed corrective action or
11 its implementation, CEH shall promptly notify Settling Defendant and the Parties shall
12 meet and confer before seeking the intervention of the Court to resolve the dispute. In
13 addition to the corrective action, Settling Defendant shall make a contribution to the
14 Fashion Accessory Testing Fund in the amount of \$10,000, unless one of the provisions of
15 Section 4.3.3 applies.

16 4.3.3 **Limitations in Non-Contested Matters.**

17 (a) If it elects not to contest a Notice of Violation before any motion
18 concerning the violation(s) at issue has been filed, the monetary liability of Settling
19 Defendant shall be limited to the contributions required by Section 4.3.2 and this Section
20 4.3.3, if any.

21 (b) The contribution to the Fashion Accessory Testing Fund shall be:

22 (i) One thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) if Settling
23 Defendant, prior to receiving and accepting for distribution or sale the
24 Covered Product identified in the Notice of Violation, obtained test results
25 demonstrating that all of the materials or components in the Covered
26 Product identified in the Notice of Violation complied with the applicable
27 Lead Limits, and further provided that such test results meet the same
28 quality criteria to support a Notice of Violation as set forth in Section 4.2.2

1 and that the testing was performed within two years prior to the date of the
2 sales transaction on which the Notice of Violation is based. Settling
3 Defendant shall provide copies of such test results and supporting
4 documentation to CEH with its Notice of Election; or

5 (ii) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) if Settling
6 Defendant is in violation of Section 3.2 only insofar as that Section deems
7 Settling Defendant to have “offer for sale to California consumers” a
8 product sold at retail by Settling Defendant’s customer, provided however,
9 that no contribution is required or payable if Settling Defendant has already
10 been required to pay a total of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) pursuant to
11 this subsection. This subsection shall apply only to Covered Products that
12 Settling Defendant demonstrates were shipped prior to the Effective Date;
13 or

14 (iii) Not required or payable, if the Notice of Violation identifies
15 the same Covered Product or Covered Products, differing only in size or
16 color, that have been the subject of another Notice of Violation within the
17 preceding 12 months.

18 **5. PAYMENTS**

19 **5.1 Payments by Settling Defendant.** Within five (5) business days of the Effective
20 Date, Settling Defendant shall pay the total sum of \$50,000 as a settlement payment. The total
21 settlement amount for Settling Defendant shall be paid in three separate checks and delivered to
22 the offices of the Lexington Law Group (Attn: Eric Somers), 503 Divisadero Street, San
23 Francisco, California 94117-2212, and made payable and allocated as follows:

24 5.1.1 Settling Defendant shall pay the sum of \$6,600 as a civil penalty pursuant
25 to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). CEH shall apportion this payment in accordance with
26 Health & Safety Code § 25249.12 (25% to CEH and 75% to the State of California’s Office of
27 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment). The civil penalty check shall be made payable to the
28 Center For Environmental Health.

1 5.1.2 Settling Defendant shall pay the sum of \$9,900 as a payment in lieu of civil
2 penalty to CEH pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), and California Code of
3 Regulations, Title 11, § 3203(b). CEH shall use such funds to continue its work educating and
4 protecting people from exposures to toxic chemicals, including heavy metals. In addition, as part
5 of its Community Environmental Action and Justice Fund, CEH will use four percent of such
6 funds to award grants to grassroots environmental justice groups working to educate and protect
7 people from exposures to toxic chemicals. The method of selection of such groups can be found
8 at the CEH web site at www.ceh.org/justicefund. The payment pursuant to this Section shall be
9 made payable to the Center For Environmental Health.

10 5.1.3 Settling Defendant shall also separately pay the sum of \$33,500 to the
11 Lexington Law Group as reimbursement of a portion of CEH's reasonable attorneys' fees and
12 costs. The attorneys' fees and cost reimbursement check shall be made payable to the Lexington
13 Law Group.

14 **6. MODIFICATION**

15 6.1 **Written Consent.** This Consent Judgment may be modified from time to
16 time by express written agreement of the Parties with the approval of the Court, or by an order of
17 this Court upon motion and in accordance with law.

18 6.2 **Meet and Confer.** Any Party seeking to modify this Consent Judgment shall
19 attempt in good faith to meet and confer with all affected Parties prior to filing a motion to
20 modify the Consent Judgment.

21 **7. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

22 7.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final and binding resolution between CEH on
23 behalf of itself and the public interest and Settling Defendant, and its parents, subsidiaries,
24 affiliated entities that are under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, and attorneys
25 (“Defendant Releasees”), and each entity to whom they directly or indirectly distribute or sell
26 Covered Products, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers,
27 franchisees, cooperative members, licensors, and licensees (“Downstream Defendant Releasees”)
28 of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted in the Complaint against

1 Settling Defendant, Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Defendant Releasees, based on failure
2 to warn about alleged exposure to Lead contained in Covered Products that were sold by Settling
3 Defendant prior to the Effective Date.

4 7.2 Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment by Settling Defendant
5 constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to Lead in Settling Defendant's Covered
6 Products.

7 7.3 Nothing in this Section 7 affects CEH's right to commence or prosecute an
8 action under Proposition 65 against any person other than a Settling Defendant, Defendant
9 Releasee, or Downstream Defendant Releasee.

10 7.4 Nothing in Section 7 affects CEH's right to commence or prosecute an action
11 under Proposition 65 against a Downstream Defendant Releasee that: (a) is not a direct customer
12 of Settling Defendant under Section 3.2.3; and (b) sells or offers for sale a Covered Product to
13 California consumers that does not comply with the Lead Limits after the applicable Final Retail
14 Compliance Date set forth in Section 3.2.3.

15 **8. NOTICE**

16 8.1 When CEH is entitled to receive any notice under this Consent Judgment, the
17 notice shall be sent by first class and electronic mail to:

18 Eric S. Somers
19 Lexington Law Group
20 503 Divisadero Street
21 San Francisco, CA 94117
22 esomers@lexlawgroup.com

23 8.2 When Settling Defendant is entitled to receive any notice under this Consent
24 Judgment, the notice shall be sent by first class and electronic mail to:

25 James Munisteri
26 Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP
27 1000 Louisiana, Ste. 3400
28 Houston, TX 77000-5011
jmunisteri@gardere.com

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Margaret Carew Toledo
Mennemeier, Glassman & Stroud LLP
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814
toledo@mgslaw.com

8.3 Any Party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by sending each other Party notice by first class and electronic mail.

9. COURT APPROVAL

9.1 This Consent Judgment shall become effective upon entry by the Court. CEH shall prepare and file a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment and Settling Defendant shall support entry of this Consent Judgment.

9.2 If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court, it shall be of no force or effect and shall never be introduced into evidence or otherwise used in any proceeding for any purpose other than to allow the Court to determine if there was a material breach of Section 9.1.

10. ATTORNEYS' FEES

10.1 Should CEH prevail on any motion, application for an order to show cause or other proceeding to enforce a violation of this Consent Judgment, CEH shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of such motion or application. Should Settling Defendant prevail on any motion application for an order to show cause or other proceeding, Settling Defendant may be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as a result of such motion or application upon a finding by the Court that CEH's prosecution of the motion or application lacked substantial justification. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term substantial justification shall carry the same meaning as used in the Civil Discovery Act of 1986, Code of Civil Procedure §§ 2016, *et seq.*

10.2 Except as otherwise provided in this Consent Judgment, each Party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

10.3 Nothing in this Section 10 shall preclude a Party from seeking an award of sanctions pursuant to law.

1 **11. TERMINATION**

2 11.1 This Consent Judgment shall be terminable by CEH or by Settling Defendant
3 at any time after January 1, 2019, upon the provision of 30 days advanced written notice; such
4 termination shall be effective upon the subsequent filing of a notice of termination with Superior
5 Court of Alameda County.

6 11.2 Should this Consent Judgment be terminated pursuant to this Section, it shall
7 be of no further force or effect as to the terminated parties; provided, however that if CEH is the
8 terminating Party, the provisions of Sections 5 and 7 shall survive any termination and provided
9 further that if Settling Defendant is the terminating Party, the provisions of Sections 5 and 7.1
10 shall survive any termination.

11 **12. OTHER TERMS**

12 12.1 The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State
13 of California.

14 12.2 This Consent Judgment shall apply to and be binding upon CEH and Settling
15 Defendant, and the successors or assigns of any of them.

16 12.3 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and
17 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior
18 discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby
19 merged herein and therein. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between
20 the Parties except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or
21 implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been made by any
22 Party hereto. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or
23 otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. No supplementation,
24 modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent Judgment shall be binding unless executed in
25 writing by the Party to be bound thereby. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent
26 Judgment shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any of the other provisions hereof
27 whether or not similar, nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

28 12.4 Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall release, or in any way affect any rights

1 that Settling Defendant might have against any other party, whether or not that party is a Settling
2 Defendant.

3 12.5 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement or modify the
4 Consent Judgment.

5 12.6 The stipulations to this Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts
6 and by means of facsimile or portable document format (pdf), which taken together shall be
7 deemed to constitute one document.

8 12.7 Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully
9 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment and to enter into
10 and execute the Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally to bind that
11 Party.

12 12.8 The Parties, including their counsel, have participated in the preparation of
13 this Consent Judgment and this Consent Judgment is the result of the joint efforts of the Parties.
14 This Consent Judgment was subject to revision and modification by the Parties and has been
15 accepted and approved as to its final form by all Parties and their counsel. Accordingly, any
16 uncertainty or ambiguity existing in this Consent Judgment shall not be interpreted against any
17 Party as a result of the manner of the preparation of this Consent Judgment. Each Party to this
18 Consent Judgment agrees that any statute or rule of construction providing that ambiguities are to
19 be resolved against the drafting Party should not be employed in the interpretation of this Consent
20 Judgment and, in this regard, the Parties hereby waive California Civil Code § 1654.

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IT IS SO ORDERED:

Dated: _____

Judge of the Superior Court

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IT IS SO STIPULATED:

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature

CHARLIE PIZZANO

Printed Name

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Title

NEW ASHLEY STEWART, INC.

Signature

Printed Name

Title

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IT IS SO STIPULATED:

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Signature

Printed Name

Title

NEW ASHLEY STEWART, INC.



Signature

Michael A. Abate

Printed Name

VP / TREASURER

Title

Exhibit A



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OFFICE

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STATE

365 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 201
Tech Center: 2441 Constitution Drive
Livermore CA 94551



925-828-1440
www.TheNFL.com

Analytical Report

August 03, 2011

Lexington Law Group
503 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Analytical Report No.: CL3573-33
Analysis Dates: 07/26/11 - 08/03/11

Listed below are the results of our analyses for sample(s) received on July 26, 2011.

CEH ID#AB789L, [REDACTED] Wallet (Orange Surface Material On Main Part Of W
NFL ID AF02363

Analyte	Result	Units	Method Ref.
Lead	67500	ppm	NIOSH 7082

A portion of the sample was digested in a microwave oven with concentrated nitric acid and analyzed by ICP-MS.

Sample(s) were received in good condition unless and results are reported based on the sample(s) as received, unless otherwise noted. Please note that these results apply only to the sample(s) submitted for this report. Samples from a different portion of the same lot may produce different results.

The National Food Lab services are provided subject to our standard terms and conditions, which can be found on our website, www.TheNFL.com. Should you have any questions concerning these results, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for using the services of the National Food Lab.

Sincerely,

Grace Bandong, Division Manager, Food Contaminants -Chemistry

cc: The NFL's Accounts Receivable