

# **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Russell Brimer and Larsen Supply Co.**

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Russell Brimer (“Brimer”) and Larsen Supply Co. (“Larsen”), with Brimer and Larsen collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Brimer is an individual residing in California who seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Larsen employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.5 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

### **1.2 General Allegations**

Brimer alleges that Larsen has manufactured, imported, distributed and/or sold in the State of California valve handles with vinyl/PVC grips containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”). DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

### **1.3 Product Description**

The products that are covered by this Settlement Agreement are defined as valve handles with vinyl/PVC grips containing DEHP, specifically the *Magnus Ball Valve, #01-5194, UPC #0 52151 28299 6*, the *1/4-1/2 Ball Valve Lever Handle, #01-5190*, and the *3/4-1 Ball Valve Lever Handle, #01-5192*, which are manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Larsen in the State of California, hereinafter the “Products.”

### **1.4 Notice of Violation**

On December 13, 2013, Brimer served Larsen and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”) that provided the recipients with notice that Larsen was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 for failing

to warn consumers that the Products exposed users in California to DEHP. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the Notice.

**1.5 No Admission**

Larsen denies the material, factual and legal allegations contained in Brimer's Notice and maintains that all products that it has sold and distributed in California, including the Products, have been and are in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Larsen 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 Larsen of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

**1.6 Effective Date**

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean June 30, 2014.

**2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; REFORMULATION AND WARNINGS**

**2.1 Reformulation Standards**

Reformulated Products are defined as those Products containing DEHP in concentrations less than 0.1 percent (1,000 parts per million) when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C or any other methodology utilized by federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining the DEHP content in a solid substance.

**2.2 Reformulation Commitment**

As of the Effective Date, Larsen shall not manufacture, import, distribute, sell or offer the Products for sale in the State of California unless they are Reformulated Products pursuant to Section 2.1 above, or shall carry the Proposition 65 warnings specified in Section 2.3 below.

## 2.3 Product Warnings

Commencing on June 30, 2014, Larsen shall provide clear and reasonable warnings for all Products as set forth in subsections 2.3(a) and (b) for all products that do not qualify as Reformulated Products. 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. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user understands to which *specific* Product the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion. The parties understand that Larsen has already implemented a warning program, however, after June 30, 2014, Larsen shall not order, produce, or cause to be ordered or produced, warning labels with language that is not in compliance with the language of subsections 2.3(a) and (b).

### (a) **Retail Store Sales.**

(i) **Product Labeling.** Larsen shall affix a warning to the packaging, labeling, or directly on each Product provided for sale in retail outlets in California that states:

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

(ii) **Point-of-Sale Warnings.** Alternatively, Larsen may provide warning signs in the form below to its customers in California with instructions to post the warnings in close proximity to the point of display of the Products. Such instruction sent to Larsen's customers shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

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 Product is sold in proximity to other like items or to those that do not require a warning (*e.g.*, Reformulated Products as defined in Section 2.1), the following

statement shall be used:<sup>1</sup>

**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]*

**(b) Mail Order Catalog and Internet Sales.** In the event that Larsen sells Products via mail order catalog and/or the internet, to customers located in California, after the Effective Date, that are not Reformulated Products, Larsen shall provide warnings for such Products sold via mail order catalog or the internet to California residents. Warnings given in the mail order catalog or on the internet shall identify the *specific* Product to which the warning applies as further specified in Sections 2.3(b)(i) and (ii).

**(i) Mail Order Catalog Warning.** Any warning provided in a mail order catalog shall be in the same type size or larger than the Product description text within the catalog. The following warning shall be provided on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the 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 and/or description of the Product, Larsen may utilize a designated symbol to cross reference the applicable warning and shall define the term “designated symbol” with the following language on the inside of the front cover of the catalog or on the same page as any order form for the Product(s):

**WARNING:** Certain products identified with this symbol ▼ and offered for sale in this catalog contain DEHP,

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

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 and/or description of the Product. On each page where the designated symbol appears, Larsen must provide a header or footer directing the consumer to the warning language and definition of the designated symbol.

(ii) **Internet Website Warning.** A warning shall be given in conjunction with the sale of the Products via the internet, which warning shall appear either: (a) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed; (b) on the same web page as the order form for a 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 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 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:** This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Larsen shall pay a total of \$12,000 in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. Each penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the funds remitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) and the remaining 25% of the penalty remitted to Brimer, as follows:

### **3.1 Initial Civil Penalty**

Larsen shall pay an initial civil penalty in the amount of \$4,000 on or before June 30, 2014. Larsen shall issue two separate checks to: (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$3,000; and (b) "Russell Brimer, Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$1,000. All penalty payments shall be delivered to the addresses listed in Section 3.3 below.

### **3.2 Final Civil Penalty**

Larsen shall pay a final civil penalty of \$8,000 on or before September 15, 2014. The final civil penalty shall be waived in its entirety, however, if, no later than August 15, 2014, an officer of Larsen provides Brimer with written certification that, as of the date of such certification and continuing into the future, Larsen has met the reformulation standard specified in Section 2.1 above, such that all Products manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and offered for sale in California by Larsen are Reformulated Products. Brimer must receive any such certification on or before August 15, 2014. The certification in lieu of a final civil penalty payment provided by this Section is a material term, and time is of the essence. Larsen shall issue two separate checks for its final civil penalty payments to: (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$6,000; and (b) "Russell Brimer, Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$2,000.

### **3.3 Payment Procedures**

**3.3.1. Issuance of Payments.** Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(a) All payments owed to Brimer, pursuant to Sections 3.1 through 3.2,

shall be delivered to the following payment address:

The Chanler Group  
Attn: Proposition 65 Controller  
2560 Ninth Street  
Parker Plaza, Suite 214  
Berkeley, CA 94710

(b) All payments owed to OEHHA, pursuant to Sections 3.1 through 3.2,

shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo line "Prop 65

Penalties") at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics  
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
P.O. Box 4010  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics  
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

With a copy of the checks payable to OEHHA mailed to The Chanler Group at the address set forth above in 3.3.1(a), as proof of payment to OEHHA.

**4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS**

The parties acknowledge that Brimer and his counsel offered to resolve this dispute without reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them, thereby leaving this fee issue to be resolved after the material terms of the agreement had been settled. Brimer then expressed a desire to resolve the fee and cost issue shortly after the other settlement terms had been finalized. The parties then attempted to (and did) reach an accord on the compensation due to Brimer and his 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 agreement. Larsen shall pay \$23,500 for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Larsen's attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Larsen shall deliver payment on or before June 30, 2014, to the address listed in Section 3.3.1 above.

**5. RELEASES**

**5.1 Brimer's Release of Larsen**

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Brimer and

Larsen of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Brimer on behalf of himself his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, against Larsen, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, attorneys and each entity to whom Larsen directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products including, but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees (“Releasees”), based on their failure to warn about alleged exposures to DEHP contained in the Products that were manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Larsen in California before the Effective Date.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, Brimer on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives all of his rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims that he may have 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, but exclusive of fees and costs on appeal -- limited to and arising under Proposition 65 with respect to DEHP in the Products manufactured, imported distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Larsen before the Effective Date (collectively “claims”), against Larsen and Releasees. Brimer gives this release on his individual behalf and not on behalf of the public.

## **5.2 Larsen’s Release of Brimer**

Larsen, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Brimer and his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Brimer and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter 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 deemed 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 if any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are rendered inapplicable or no longer required as a result of any such repeal or preemption or rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally as to the Products, then Larsen shall provide written notice to Brimer 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. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be interpreted to relieve Larsen from any obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal toxics control law.

**8. NOTICES**

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and: (i) personally delivered; (ii) sent by first-class (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (iii) sent by overnight courier, to one party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Larsen:

Albert Israel  
Israel Law Group, PC  
111 W Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

For Brimer:

Proposition 65 Coordinator  
The Chanler Group  
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 AND SIGNATURES**

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or pdf signature, 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)**

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

**11. MODIFICATION**

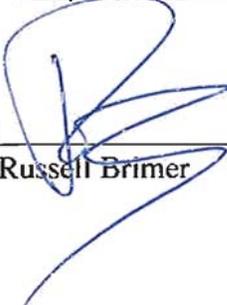
This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

**12. AUTHORIZATION**

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions contained herein.

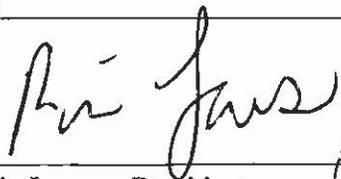
**AGREED TO:**

Date: July 1, 2014

By:   
Russell Brimer

**AGREED TO:**

Date: 6-30-14

By:  PRESIDENT  
Ric Larsen, President,  
Larsen Supply Co.