

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

AND

MACVAD LTD. AND MACVAD USA, LLC

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. (“CAG”) and Macvad Ltd. and Macvad USA, LLC (“Macvad”), (CAG and Macvad collectively referred to as, the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation to settle CAG’s allegations that Macvad violated Proposition 65. 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. Macvad previously sold, at various times, String Lights, including: “100 Solar Powered LED String Lights”; “Oasis living”; “Ultra Bright L.E.D Light Emitting Diode”; “Dual Function Static Flashing”; “Complete with remote solar panel; auto-on at dusk; 1 AA rechargeable battery included; Lead wire 65”; last up to 8 hrs”; “No Wiring Required Install Anywhere”; Ross; D1075 C6659; Comparable Value \$20.00; Ross Price \$9.99; 925; 400146078381; No UPC Code

Settlement Agreement Between  
Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. and Macvad Ltd. And Macvad USA, LLC

(Referred to throughout as the “Covered Product”). The Covered Product is with respect to and limited to those sold by Macvad only.

1.1 CAG alleges that Covered Product contains Lead and Lead Compounds (“Lead”), and that Macvad 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”)).

1.2 On February 27, 1987, the Governor of California added Lead to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c)). Lead is known to the State to cause developmental, female, and male reproductive toxicity. 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 (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(b)). These additions took place more than twenty (20) months before CAG served its several “Sixty-Day Notice of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” which are further described below.

1.3 Lead is referred to hereafter as the “Listed Chemical”.

1.4 On or about May 8, 2017 CAG served, Macvad Ltd.; Macvad USA, LLC.; Ross Dress for Less, Inc.; Ross Stores, Inc.; The Gerson Company; and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with documents entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” regarding Car Mount Kits containing the Listed Chemicals.

1.5 The Sixty-Day Notice referred to in paragraph 1.4 (referred to as “Notice”) alleged that Macvad and the other noticed parties violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Covered Product exposes persons to the Listed Chemical.

1.6 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”).

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

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## 2.0 **Release**

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between (a) CAG, acting in its individual capacity, on the one hand, and Macvad, 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(s) or claimed violation(s) of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been, could have been or may in the future be asserted against the Releasees and Downstream Releasees regarding exposing persons to the Listed Chemicals and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemicals arising only in connection with the Covered Product manufactured, shipped, and/or otherwise distributed prior to the Effective Date, even if sold by Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date. The Covered Product is limited to those sold by Macvad.

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Product 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"), whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, 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 in respect of any Covered Product sold up to the Effective Date, only to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Product or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Products. 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 OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER 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. The release in this section shall have no force or effect until the full amount of payments set forth in Section 4.0 below are paid in full.

### **3.0 Macvad's Duties**

3.1 Macvad agrees, promises, and represents that Macvad shall reformulate any Covered Product manufactured after the Effective Date and offered for sale in California to a point where the level of Lead in the Covered Product does not exceed 0.01% by weight and 100 parts per million.

3.2 Macvad agrees, promises, and represents that, as of the Effective Date, to the extent it ships or sells any Covered Product in existing inventory that have not been reformulated, it will provide warnings on such Covered Product that complies 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 "WARNING: This product contains lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects, or other reproductive harm". The warning must also contain a triangular yellow warning symbol. This shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product for any Covered Product in existing inventory that had not been reformulated and were distributed and/or sold by Releasees or Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date.

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any other costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Macvad's attention. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, California 90212. By the Effective Date, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi shall provide Macvad with its Employer Identification Number.

**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 Macvad represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind Macvad 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

#### **4.0 Payments**

4.1 Macvad agrees, to pay a total of Fifty-four thousand dollars (\$54,000) by separate checks apportioned as follows:

4.1.1 Penalty: Macvad shall issue two separate checks for a total amount of Twelve-thousand dollars (\$12,000) as follows: (a) one check made payable to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the amount of Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) representing 75% of the total penalty; and (b) one check to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. in the amount of Three thousand dollars (\$3,000), representing 25% of the total penalty. OEHHA's check shall be delivered to Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010, Attn: Mike Gyurics. CAG's check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, California 90212. Additionally, two separate 1099s shall be issued for the above payments: The first 1099 shall be issued to OEHHA, P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010, Attn: Mike Gyurics (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$9,000. The second 1099 shall be issued in the amount of \$3,000 to CAG and delivered to Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

4.1.2 Attorneys' Fees and Costs: Forty-Two Thousand dollars (\$42,000) of such payment shall be paid to Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, as CAG's attorneys, for reasonable investigation fees and costs, attorneys' fees, 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 Product may be served or filed against Macvad by CAG, unless the party seeking enforcement or alleging violation notifies the other party of the specific acts alleged to breach this Settlement Agreement at least 60 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 Macvad must contain

(a) the name of the product, (b) specific dates when the product was sold after the Effective Date in California without reformulation, (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, Macvad 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 Macvad 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 11.1.

## **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, Esq.  
YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI  
9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

For Macvad:

Hamish Miller  
Divisional Manager  
MACVAD Canada USA Limited  
39 Rawene Rd,  
Birkenhead, Auckland, 0626, New Zealand



CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: 06/29/18 By: Michael Marcus  
Printed Name: Michael Marcus  
Title: Director

MACVAD LTD. AND MACVAD USA, LLC

Dated: 29 June 2019 By: [Signature]  
Printed Name: STEPHEN KUMAR  
Title: Managing Director