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8  
9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
10 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

11 ANTHONY FERREIRO,  
12 Plaintiff,  
13 v.  
14 MECO CORPORATION, TARGET  
15 CORPORATION,  
16 Defendant.

Case No.: RG20049823  
**CONSENT JUDGMENT**  
Judge: Stephen Pulido  
Dept.: 517  
Hearing Date: July 30, 2020  
Hearing Time: 3:00 PM  
Reservation #: R-2181365

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1           **1. INTRODUCTION**

2           1.1     **The Parties.** This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between Anthony  
3     Ferreiro acting on behalf of the public interest (hereinafter “Ferreiro”) and MECO Corporation  
4     (“MECO” or “Defendant”) with Ferreiro and Defendant collectively referred to as the “Parties”  
5     and each of them as a “Party.” Ferreiro is an individual residing in California that seeks to promote  
6     awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating  
7     hazardous substances contained in consumer products. MECO is alleged to be a person in the course  
8     of doing business for purposes of Proposition 65, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 et seq.

9           1.2     **Allegations and Representations.** Ferreiro alleges that Defendant has exposed  
10    individuals to di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) from its sales of Aussie Outdoor Living grill  
11    covers without providing a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to Proposition 65.  
12    DEHP is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer  
13    and reproductive toxicity.

14          1.3     **Notice of Violation/Complaint.** On or about January 10, 2019, Ferreiro served  
15    MECO and various public enforcement agencies with documents entitled “60-Day Notice of  
16    Violation” pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) (the “Notice”), alleging that MECO  
17    violated Proposition 65 for failing to warn consumers and customers that use of Aussie Outdoor  
18    Living grill covers expose users in California to DEHP. No public enforcer has brought and is  
19    diligently prosecuting the claims alleged in the Notice. On January 10, 2020, Ferreiro filed a  
20    complaint (the “Complaint”) in the matter.

21          1.4     For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this Court has  
22    jurisdiction over Defendant as to the allegations contained in the Action, that venue is proper in the  
23    County of Alameda, and that this Court has jurisdiction to approve, enter, and oversee the  
24    enforcement of this Consent Judgment as a full and final binding resolution of all claims which  
25    were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein and/or in the  
26    Notice.

1           1.5     Defendant denies the material allegations contained in the Action and maintains that  
2 it has not violated Proposition 65. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an  
3 admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance  
4 with this Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact,  
5 finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Defendant.  
6 However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and  
7 duties of Defendant under this Consent Judgment.

8           **2.     DEFINITIONS**

9           2.1     **Covered Products.** The term “Covered Products” means Aussie Outdoor Living  
10 grill covers that are manufactured, distributed and/or offered for sale in California by MECO.

11           2.2     **Effective Date.** The term “Effective Date” means the date this Consent Judgment is  
12 entered as a Judgment of the Court.

13           **3.     INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNINGS**

14           3.1     **Reformulation of Covered Products.** As of the date this Consent Judgment is  
15 signed by both Parties, and continuing thereafter, Covered Products that MECO directly  
16 manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California shall either: (a) be  
17 Reformulated Products pursuant to § 3.2, below; or (b) be labeled with a clear and reasonable  
18 exposure warning pursuant to §§ 3.3 and 3.4, below. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, a  
19 “Reformulated Product” is a Covered Product that is in compliance with the standard set forth in §  
20 3.2 below. The warning requirement set forth in §§ 3.3 and 3.4 shall not apply to any Reformulated  
21 Product.

22           3.2     **Reformulation Standard.** “Reformulated Products” shall mean Covered Products  
23 that contain concentrations less than or equal to 0.1% (1,000 parts per million (ppm)) of DEHP  
24 when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A  
25 and 8270C or other methodology utilized by federal or state government agencies for the purpose  
26 of determining the phthalate content in a solid substance.  
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1           3.3     **Clear and Reasonable Warning.** As of the date this Consent Judgment is signed  
2 by both Parties, and continuing thereafter, MECO shall be responsible for providing a clear and  
3 reasonable exposure warning as set forth in this §§ 3.3 and 3.4 for all Covered Products that  
4 Defendant manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California that is not a  
5 Reformulated Product. There shall be no obligation for Defendant to provide a warning for Covered  
6 Products that enter the stream of commerce prior to the date this Consent Judgment is signed by  
7 both Parties. The warning shall consist of either the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** described  
8 in §§ 3.3(a) or (b), respectively, or by any other warning permitted by amendments to Proposition  
9 65, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 et seq.:

10           (a)     **Warning.** The “Warning” shall consist of the statement:

11           ⚠ **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including di(2-  
12 ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which is known to the State of California to cause  
13 cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to  
[www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

14           (b)     **Alternative Warning:** Meco may, but is not required to, use the alternative short-  
15 form warning as set forth in this § 3.3(b) (“**Alternative Warning**”) as follows:

16           ⚠ **WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm - [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

17           3.4     A **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** provided pursuant to § 3.3 must print the word  
18 “**WARNING:**” in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to  
19 the left of the word “**WARNING:**” must be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral  
20 triangle with a black outline, except that if the sign or label for the Covered Product does not use  
21 the color yellow, the symbol may be in black and white. The symbol must be in a size no smaller  
22 than the height of the word “**WARNING:**”. The warning shall be affixed to or printed on the  
23 Covered Product’s packaging or labeling, providing that the warning is displayed with such  
24 conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be  
25 read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. A  
26 warning may be contained in the same section of the packaging, labeling, or instruction booklet  
27 that states other safety warnings, if any, concerning the use of the Covered Product and shall be at  
28 least the same size as those other safety warnings.

1 If MECO sells Covered Products via an internet website to customers located in California,  
2 the warning requirements of this section shall be satisfied if the foregoing warning appears either:  
3 (a) on the same web page on which a Covered Product is displayed and/or described; (b) on the  
4 same page as the price for the Covered Product; or (c) on one or more web pages displayed to a  
5 purchaser prior to purchase during the checkout process. Alternatively, a symbol consisting of a  
6 black exclamation point in a yellow or white equilateral triangle may appear adjacent to or  
7 immediately following the display, description, price, or checkout listing of the Covered Product,  
8 if the warning statement appears elsewhere on the same web page in a manner that clearly associates  
9 it with the product(s) to which the warning applies.

10 3.5 **Compliance with Warning Regulations.** Defendant shall be deemed to be in  
11 compliance with this Consent Judgment by either adhering to §§ 3.3 and 3.4 of this Consent  
12 Judgment or by complying with warning requirements adopted by the State of California’s Office  
13 of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) after the Effective Date.

14 **4. MONETARY TERMS**

15 4.1 **Civil Penalty.** Meco shall pay \$1,500.00 as a Civil Penalty pursuant to Health and  
16 Safety Code section 25249.7(b), to be apportioned in accordance with California Health & Safety  
17 Code § 25192, with 75% of these funds remitted to OEHHA and the remaining 25% of the Civil  
18 Penalty remitted to Ferreiro, as provided by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(d).

19 4.1.1 Within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date, Meco shall issue two  
20 separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$1,125.00; and  
21 to (b) “Brodsky & Smith, LLC in Trust for Ferreiro” in the amount of \$375.00. Payment owed to  
22 Ferreiro pursuant to this Section shall be delivered to the following payment address:

23 Evan J. Smith, Esquire  
24 Brodsky & Smith, LLC  
25 Two Bala Plaza, Suite 510  
26 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

26 Payment owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486) pursuant to this Section shall be delivered directly  
27 to OEHHA (Memo Line “Prop 65 Penalties”) at one of the following address(es):

28 For United States Postal Service Delivery:

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

6 For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

7 Mike Gyurics  
8 Fiscal Operations Branch Chief  
9 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
10 1001 I Street  
11 Sacramento, CA 95814

12 A copy of the check payable to OEHHA shall be mailed to Brodsky & Smith, LLC at the address  
13 set forth above as proof of payment to OEHHA.

14 4.2 **Attorneys' Fees.** Within ten business (10) days of the Effective Date, Meco shall  
15 pay \$16,000.00 to Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") as complete reimbursement for  
16 Ferreiro's attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to  
17 Meco attention, litigating and negotiating and obtaining judicial approval of a settlement in the  
18 public interest, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

19 **5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

20 5.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Ferreiro  
21 acting on his own behalf, and on behalf of the public interest, and MECO, and its predecessor,  
22 successors, parents, subsidiaries, sister companies, and affiliates, and each of their divisions,  
23 subdivision, shareholders, members, directors, officers, managers, employees, representatives,  
24 agents, attorneys, and any other persons working on their behalf ("Defendant Releasees"), and all  
25 entities from whom they obtain and to whom they directly or indirectly distribute or sell Covered  
26 Products, including but not limited to manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, customers  
27 (including but not limited to Target Corporation), licensors, licensees retailers, franchisees, and  
28 cooperative members ("Downstream Releasees"), of all claims for violations of Proposition 65  
based on exposure to DEHP from Covered Products as set forth in the Notice, with respect to any  
Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by MECO prior to the Effective Date. This  
Consent Judgment shall have preclusive effect such that no other person or entity, whether

1 purporting to act in his, her, or its interests or the public interest shall be permitted to pursue and/or  
2 take any action with respect to any violation of Proposition 65 that was alleged in the Complaint,  
3 or that could have been brought pursuant to the Notice against MECO and/or the Downstream  
4 Releasees of the Covered Products (“Proposition 65 Claims”). Compliance with the terms of this  
5 Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with regard to the Covered Products.

6           5.2     In addition to the foregoing, Ferreiro, on behalf of himself, his past and current  
7 agents, representatives, attorneys, and successors and/or assignees, and *not* in his representative  
8 capacity, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of  
9 legal action and releases MECO, Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Releasees from any and  
10 all manner of actions, causes of action, claims, demands, rights, suits, obligations, debts, contracts,  
11 agreements, promises, liabilities, damages, charges, losses, costs, expenses, and attorneys’ fees, of  
12 any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, in law or equity, fixed or contingent, now or in the  
13 future, with respect to any alleged violations of Proposition 65 related to or arising from Covered  
14 Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by MECO, Defendant Releasees or Downstream  
15 Releasees. With respect to the foregoing waivers and releases in this paragraph, Ferreiro hereby  
16 specifically waives any and all rights and benefits which he now has, or in the future may have,  
17 conferred by virtue of the provisions of § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as  
18 follows:

19           A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE  
20 CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO  
21 EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE  
22 RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE  
23 MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE  
24 DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

25           5.3     MECO waives any and all claims against Ferreiro, his attorneys and other  
26 representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been  
27 taken or made) by Ferreiro and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of  
28 investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter,  
and/or with respect to Covered Products.

1       **6. INTEGRATION**

2           6.1     This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and  
3 any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been  
4 merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist  
5 or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

6       **7. GOVERNING LAW**

7           7.1     The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of  
8 California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or  
9 is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to Covered Products, then  
10 Defendant shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and  
11 to the extent that, Covered Products are so affected.

12       **8. NOTICES**

13           8.1     Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided  
14 pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by: (i) first-  
15 class, (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (ii) overnight courier on any party  
16 by the other party at the following addresses:

17 For Defendant:

18           Bethany Gayle Lukitsch  
19           McGuireWoods LLP  
20           Wells Fargo Center  
21           South Tower  
22           355 S. Grand Ave., Suite 4200  
23           Los Angeles, CA 90071-3103

24 And

25 For Ferreiro:

26           Evan Smith  
27           Brodsky & Smith, LLC  
28           9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900  
              Beverly Hills, CA 90212

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.



1 **9. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES**

2 9.1 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile, each of  
3 which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and  
4 the same document.

5 **10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)/COURT**  
6 **APPROVAL**

7 10.1 Ferreiro agrees to comply with the requirements set forth in California Health &  
8 Safety Code § 25249.7(f) and to promptly bring a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment.  
9 Defendant agrees it shall support approval of such Motion.

10 10.2 This Consent Judgment shall not be effective until it is approved and entered by the  
11 Court and shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved by the Court. In such case, the  
12 Parties agree to meet and confer on how to proceed and if such agreement is not reached within 30  
13 days, the case shall proceed on its normal course.

14 10.3 If the Court approves this Consent Judgment and is reversed or vacated by an  
15 appellate court, the Parties shall meet and confer as to whether to modify the terms of this Consent  
16 Judgment. If the Parties do not jointly agree on a course of action to take, the case shall proceed on  
17 its normal course on the trial court's calendar.

18 **11. MODIFICATION**

19 11.1 This Consent Judgment may be modified only by further stipulation of the Parties  
20 and the approval of the Court or upon the granting of a motion brought to the Court by either Party.

21 **12. ATTORNEY'S FEES**

22 12.1 A Party who unsuccessfully brings or contests an action arising out of this Consent  
23 Judgment shall be required to pay the prevailing party's reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

24 12.2 Nothing in this Section shall preclude a Party from seeking an award of sanctions  
25 pursuant to law.

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**13. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

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

**14. AUTHORIZATION**

14.1 The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this document and certify that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to execute the Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party. Except as explicitly provided herein each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.

**AGREED TO:**

**AGREED TO:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: May 12, 2020

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY FERREIRO

By: [Signature]  
MECO CORPORATION

**IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of Superior Court

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**AGREED TO:**

**AGREED TO:**

Date: May 15, 2020

Date: May 12, 2020

By: Anthony Ferreiro  
ANTHONY FERREIRO

By: [Signature]  
MECO CORPORATION

**IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Supreme Court