

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Dennis Johnson (“Johnson”) and Hontus, Ltd. (“Hontus”), with Johnson and Hontus each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” Johnson is an individual residing in the State of California who seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances used in consumer products. Johnson alleges that Hontus is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

Johnson alleges that Hontus manufactures, sells, and distributes for sale in California, handheld scales with vinyl components containing the phthalate chemical di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”). DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Johnson alleges that Hontus failed to provide the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65 for exposures to DEHP.

1.3 Product Description

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are handheld scales with vinyl components containing DEHP that are manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by Hontus including, but not limited to, the “*Mia Toro iTouch Scale*”; UPC 8 41795 11557 5 (hereinafter referred to as “Products”).

1.4 Notice of Violation

On March 12, 2019, Johnson served Hontus and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation (“Notice”), alleging that Hontus violated Proposition 65 when it failed to warn its customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to DEHP from its Products. No public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Hontus denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that all of the 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 Hontus of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Hontus of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Hontus. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Hontus’ obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Effective Date” shall mean October 30, 2019.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION/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 methodologies 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, Hontus 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 or contain appropriate health hazard warnings pursuant to Section 2.3. The Parties agree and intend that compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to DEHP from the Products.

2.3 Product Warnings

As of the Effective Date, all Products Hontus sells and/or distributes for sale in California which do not qualify as Reformulated Products shall bear a clear and reasonable warning pursuant to this Section. The warning shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness when 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 of use. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a clear and reasonable warning for the Products shall consist of a warning affixed directly to the product or product packaging, label, or tag, for Products sold in California and containing one of the following statements:

⚠ WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals, including DEHP, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

OR

⚠ WARNING: Cancer and Reproductive Harm- www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Civil Penalty Payment

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of all claims alleged in the Notice or referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Hontus agrees to pay, no later than the Effective Date, \$3,000 in civil penalties. The penalty payment will

be allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount remitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) and the remaining 25% of the penalty amount paid to Johnson, and delivered to the address in Section 3.3 herein. Hontus will provide its payment, no later than the Effective Date, in two checks as follows: (1) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$2,250; and (2) “Dennis Johnson” in the amount of \$750.

3.2 Attorneys’ Fees and Costs

The Parties acknowledge that Johnson 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 the issue to be resolved after the material terms of the agreement had been settled. Shortly after the other settlement terms had been reached, Hontus expressed a desire to resolve Johnson’s fees and costs. The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to Johnson’s counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine codified at Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 for all work performed in this matter. Under these legal principles, Hontus agrees to pay, \$14,500 to “Voorhees & Bailey, LLP,” for all fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Hontus’ management, and negotiating a settlement. The fee payment shall be made via six checks to Voorhees & Bailey, LLP, such that they are received by Voorhees & Bailey, LLP on the following schedule: (i) \$2,500 on or before November 29, 2019; (ii) \$2,500 on or before December 30, 2019; (iii) \$2,500 on or before January 29, 2020; (iv) \$2,500 on or before February 28, 2020; (v) \$2,500 on or before March 30, 2020; and (vi) \$2,000 on or before April 30, 2020.

Hontus shall provide Johnson’s counsel with tracking numbers for the payments made pursuant to this section. In the event that the above payments are not received by Voorhees & Bailey, LLP as scheduled, all remaining payments shall immediately be due

and Hontus shall be responsible for reimbursing Voorhees & Bailey, LLP for any fees and expenses incurred collecting the unpaid amounts.

3.3 Payment Address

All payments under this Settlement Agreement shall be delivered to the following address:

Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
990 Amarillo Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 Johnson's Release of Proposition 65 Claims

Johnson, acting on his own behalf, and *not* on behalf of the public, releases Hontus, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, agents employees, attorneys, and each entity to whom Hontus directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products, including, but not limited, to downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, importers, and licensees (collectively, "Releasees"), from all claims for violations of Proposition 65 through the Effective Date based on unwarned exposures to DEHP in the Products. The Parties further understand and agree that this Section 4.1 release shall not extend upstream to any entities that manufactured the Products or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products or any component parts thereof to Hontus.

4.2 Johnson's Individual Release of Claims

Johnson, in his individual capacity only and *not* in his representative capacity, provides a 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 Johnson of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to all failure to warn claims, arising out of alleged or actual

exposures to DEHP in the Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by Hontus prior to the Effective Date. The Parties further understand and agree that this Section 4.2 release shall not extend upstream to any entities that manufactured the Products, or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products, or any component parts thereof to Hontus. Nothing in this Section affects Johnson's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve Hontus' Products.

4.3 Hontus' Release of Johnson

Hontus, on its own behalf, and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Johnson and his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by Johnson and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to the Products.

5. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any provision of this Settlement Agreement is deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be adversely affected.

6. 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 as to the Products, then Hontus may provide written notice to Johnson of any asserted change in the law and shall have no further injunctive obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Products are so affected.

7. **NOTICE**

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and sent by: (a) personal delivery; (b) first-class, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (c) a recognized overnight courier on any Party by the other at the following addresses:

For Hontus:

Haroon Sheikh, CEO
Hontus, Ltd.
11450 NW 122 St., Bldg 100
Miami, FL 33178

For Johnson:

Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
Proposition 65 Coordinator
990 Amarillo Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Any Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

8. **COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES**

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

9. **COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)**

Johnson and his attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f).

10. **MODIFICATION**

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

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11. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understand, and agreed to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: October 17, 2019

Date: October 16, 2019

By: _____

DENNIS JOHNSON

By: _____

HONTUS, LTD.