# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN APS&EE, LLC AND ROBINSON TECH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

#### 1. RECITALS

#### 1.1 The Parties

- 1.1.1 This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between APS&EE, LLC ("APS&EE") and Robinson Tech International Corporation ("RTI"). APS&EE and RTI shall hereinafter collectively be referred to as the "Parties".
- 1.1.2 APS&EE is an organization based in California with an interest in protecting the environment, improving human health and the health of ecosystems, and supporting environmentally sound practices, which includes promoting awareness of exposure to toxic chemicals and reducing exposure to hazardous substances found in consumer products.
- 1.1.3 APS&EE alleges that RTI is a person in the course of doing business as the term is defined in California *Health & Safety Code* section 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65").

#### 1.2 Allegations

- 1.2.1 APS&EE alleges that RTI distributed, sold or made available for sale in the State of California RTI Corp ("Robtec") AllFenz hardware cloth (also known as wire mesh), including poultry mesh, such as 24"x5', 1/2", 19ga, HC240051219 (hereinafter, the "Product(s)") causing users in California to be exposed to hazardous levels of lead without providing "clear and reasonable warnings", in violation of Proposition 65. Lead is potentially subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements because it is listed under that statute as known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- 1.2.2 On September 21, 2020, APS&EE served a Sixty-Day Notice of Violation ("60-Day Notice"), along with a Certificate of Merit, to RTI, as well as Home Depot, U.S.A., Inc., Home Depot, Inc., and Home Depot Product Authority, LLC

(collectively, the "Home Depot entities"), and the various public enforcement agencies regarding the alleged violation of Proposition 65 with respect to the Products.

## 1.3 No Admissions

RTI denies all allegations in APS&EE's 60-Day Notice and maintains that the Products have been, and are, in compliance with all laws, and that RTI has not violated Proposition 65. This Agreement shall not be construed as an admission of liability by RTI but to the contrary as a compromise of claims that are expressly contested and denied. However, nothing in this section shall affect the Parties' obligations, duties, and responsibilities under this Agreement.

## 1.4 Compromise

The Parties enter into this Agreement in order to resolve the controversy described above in a manner consistent with prior Proposition 65 settlements and consent judgments that were entered on behalf of the public interest and to avoid prolonged and costly litigation between them.

#### 1.5 Effective Date

The "Effective Date" shall be the date upon which a complete and fully executed copy of the Agreement is delivered to each Party or its counsel.

#### 2. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF</u>

#### 2.1 Reformulation Standard

After the Effective Date, RTI shall not distribute for sale in California, sell or offer for sale the Products in California unless (a) the galvanizing solution in which the Products are submerged contains no more than 100 parts per million (0.01%) of Lead ("Reformulated Product"), or (b) the Product is distributed, sold, or offered for sale with a clear and reasonable warning as described below in Section 2.2.

#### 2.2 Proposition 65 Warnings

**2.2.1** Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Section 2.1, RTI shall use a warning with the capitalized and emboldened wording substantially similar to the following:

**WARNING:** This product can expose you to Lead, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to <a href="https://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov">www.P65Warnings.ca.gov</a>.

The warning shall be accompanied by a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline. Where the label for the product is not printed using the color yellow, the symbol may be printed in black and white. The symbol shall be placed to the left of the text of the warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word "WARNING".

- 2.2.2 Internet Sales. A Product that is sold by RTI on the internet to persons located in California shall provide the warning message by a clearly marked hyperlink on the product display page, or otherwise prominently displayed to the purchaser before the purchaser completes his or her purchase of the Product. For Products that RTI provides for a downstream entity to sell on the internet, RTI shall include an instruction that the entity comply with the warning requirements of this section.
- 2.2.3 Phone Sales. A Product that is sold by RTI via telephone to persons located in California shall provide the warning message to the purchaser in a clearly stated voice before the purchaser completes his or her purchase of the Product. For Products that RTI provides for a downstream entity to sell via telephone, RTI shall include an instruction that the entity comply with the warning requirements of this section.
- 2.2.4 Brick And Mortar Sales. Should RTI sell the Products, or intentionally cause to have the Products sold, from brick and mortar stores located in California, then the Products shall carry said warning directly on each unit, label, or package, with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary consumer prior to sale.

## 3. PAYMENTS

3.1 Civil Penalty Pursuant To Proposition 65

In settlement of all claims referred to in this Agreement, RTI shall pay a total civil penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to be apportioned in accordance with *Health and Safety Code* section 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with 75% (\$2,250.00) for State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"), and the remaining 25% (\$750.00) for APS&EE.

RTI shall issue these payments collectively as part of the first installment described below in section 3.2 via wire transfer to Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak. After receipt of the wire transfer, Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak shall be responsible for forwarding the respective payments to OEHHA and APS&EE.

#### 3.2 Reimbursement Of APS&EE's Fees And Costs

RTI shall reimburse APS&EE's reasonable experts' and attorney's fees and costs incurred in prosecuting the instant action, for all work performed through execution of this Agreement, in the amount of twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000.00).

Accordingly, including the civil penalty described in section 3.1, RTI shall remit total payment in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) via wire transfer in two (2) installments as follows: (1) along with the civil penalty described in section 3.1, a wire transfer in the amount of \$12,500.00 within five (5) business days of the Effective Date; and (2) a second wire transfer in the amount of \$12,500.00 within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date, to Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak. Wire instructions shall be exchanged between the parties following execution of this Agreement.

#### 4. RELEASES

#### 4.1 APS&EE's Release Of RTI

APS&EE, in consideration of the promises and monetary payments contained herein, hereby releases RTI, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated companies, shareholders, directors, members, managers, officers, partners, agents, employees, representatives, attorneys, successors and assignees, as well as its downstream distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and franchisees, including the Home Depot entities (collectively, "Released

Parties"), from any alleged Proposition 65 violation claims asserted in APS&EE's 60-Day Notice regarding failure to warn about lead exposure from the Products sold or distributed by RTI for sale or potential sale in California before and up to the Effective Date.

## 4.2 RTI's Release Of APS&EE

RTI, by this Agreement, waives all rights to institute any form of legal action against APS&EE, its shareholders, directors, members, officers, employees, attorneys, experts, successors and assignees for actions or statements made or undertaken, whether in the course of investigating claims or seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against RTI in this matter. If any Released Parties should institute any such action, then APS&EE's release of said Released Party in this Agreement shall be rendered void and unenforceable.

#### 4.3 Waiver Of Unknown Claims

Each of the Parties acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of California Civil Code which provides as follows:

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

Each of the Parties waives and relinquishes any right or benefit it has or may have under Section 1542 of California Civil Code or any similar provision under the statutory or non-statutory law of any other jurisdiction to the full extent that it may lawfully waive all such rights and benefits. The Parties acknowledge that each may subsequently discover facts in addition to, or different from, those that it believes to be true with respect to the claims released herein. The Parties agree that this Agreement and the releases contained herein shall be and remain effective in all respects notwithstanding the discovery of such additional or different facts.

## 5. <u>SEVERABILITY</u>

Should any part or provision of this Agreement for any reason be declared by a Court to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remaining portions and provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

# 6. **GOVERNING LAW**

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

# 7. NOTICES

All correspondence and notices required to be provided under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered personally or sent by first class or certified mail addressed as follows:

TO RTI: Gary Xu Robinson Tech International Corp. 310 Fairfield Road Fairfield, NJ 07004	TO APS&EE: Lucas Novak, Esq. Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak 8335 W Sunset Blvd., Suite 217 Los Angeles, CA 90069

## 8. **COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute the same document. Execution and delivery of this Agreement by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means shall constitute legal and binding execution and delivery. Any photocopy of the executed Agreement shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

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## 9. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties. Each Party has read, understood, and agrees to all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Each Party warrants to the other that it is free to enter into this Agreement and is not subject to any conflicting obligation that will or might prevent or interfere with the execution or performance of this Agreement by said Party.

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Date:

By:

Authorized Representative of APS&EE, LLC

AGREED TO:

Date:

11/24/2020

By:

Authorized Representative of Robinson Tech International

Corporation