

## **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Consumer Protection Group, LLC and Plaid Enterprises, Inc.**

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Consumer Protection Group, LLC ("CPG"), on the one hand, and Plaid Enterprises, Inc. ("Plaid"), on the other hand, with CPG and Plaid collectively referred to as "Parties."

#### **1.2 General Allegations**

CPG alleges that Plaid manufactured and distributed and offered for sale a paper stencil reusable PVC carry case in the State of California containing Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ("DEHP"), that such product did not include warnings pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"). On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive toxicity

#### **1.3 Product Description**

The product that is covered by this Settlement Agreement is defined as paper stencil reusable PVC carry case – UPC No. 028995329838 (the "Subject Product") that Plaid has sold, offered for sale, or distributed in California and that contains DEHP.

#### **1.4 Notice of Violation**

CPG served Plaid, Ross Stores, Inc., and the requisite public enforcement agencies eligible to initiate Proposition 65 actions on behalf of the People of the State of California,

with a document entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" (the "Notice") that provided Ross Stores, Inc. and such public enforcers with notice that Plaid was allegedly in violation of California Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Subject Product exposed users in California to DEHP. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced or is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 **No Admission**

By execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaid, and each of their respective affiliates and subsidiaries, parents, directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, successors, and assigns and each entity to whom Plaid directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Subject Product, including but not limited to downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, marketplace retailers, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees (collectively, the "Releasees"), 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 Releasees 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 the Releasees 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 CPG or Plaid, may

have against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the dispute or claims released herein. Notwithstanding the allegations in the Notices, Releasees maintain that they have not knowingly manufactured or distributed, or caused to be manufactured or distributed, the Subject Product for sale in California in violation of Proposition 65.

1.6 **Effective Date**

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this agreement has been fully executed.

2. **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNING**

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).

2.2 **Commitment to Reformulate or Warn**

As of the Effective Date, Plaid shall not sell or offer the Subject Product for sale in the State of California unless they are Reformulated Products or Plaid provides warnings that comply with Proposition 65 law.

2.3 **Warning**

The Subject Product shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 2.4 below as of the Effective Date. The warning requirements set forth in Section 2.4 below shall apply only to the Subject Product that are distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale in the State of California. Plaid further agrees, promises and represents that, as of the

Effective Date, to the extent it ships or sells any of the Subject Product in existing inventory that have not been reformulated, it will provide warnings that comply with Proposition 65 law. The warning or reformulation requirement shall not apply to any of the Subject Product that is already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date.

2.4 **Warning Language**

The warnings shall be provided in such a conspicuous and prominent manner that will ensure 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. Where required, Plaid shall have an option to provide the following Proposition 65 warnings:

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

**Or**

⚠ **WARNING:** Cancer [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

This shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the chemical in the Subject Product for any Subject Product in Plaid's existing inventory.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Plaid shall pay a total of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code section 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 CPG. CPG's counsel shall be responsible for delivering OEHHA's portion of any penalty payment made under this Settlement Agreement.

4. **REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS**

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to CPG and its counsel under the Private Attorney General doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, Plaid shall reimburse CPG's counsel for fees and costs, incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Plaid's attention. Plaid shall pay Consumer Protection's counsel forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000.00) for all attorneys' fees, expert and investigation fees, and related costs associated with this matter and the Notice.

5. **PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, Plaid shall make a total payment of forty-seven thousand dollars (\$47,000.00) for the civil penalties and attorney's fees/costs by wire transfer to Plaintiff's counsel, Blackstone Law APC:

Bank: First Republic Bank  
Routing No.: 321081669  
Account No.: 80006597266  
Beneficiary: Blackstone Law APC IOLTA

Other than this payment, each side is to bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

**6. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

6.1 Release of Plaid, Downstream Customers and Upstream Vendors

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to Sections 3, 4 and 5 above, CPG, in its representative capacity, and on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims relating to the Subject Product, 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) of any nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown, fixed or contingent (collectively "Claims"), against (a) Plaid and its officers, directors, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, agents and employees, (b) each of Plaid' downstream distributors (including without limitation Ross Stores, Inc.), wholesalers, vendors, licensors, licensees, auctioneers, retailers, franchisees, dealers, shareholders, cooperative members, customers, owners, purchasers, users, (c) Plaid's parent companies, corporate affiliates, subsidiaries, and their respective officers, directors, attorneys, representatives,

shareholders, agents, and employees, and sister and parent entities, and (d) to the extent not otherwise described, the Releasees.

CPG also, in its capacity, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees and *not* in its representative capacity, provides a general 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 any nature, character or kind, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, against Plaid and the Releasees with regards to the Subject Product. Plaid acknowledges that it is familiar with California Civil Code section 1542, 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 RELEASING PARTY.

CPG in its capacity only, and on behalf of itself, 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 California Civil Code section 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 above Sections 3, 4 and 5 are paid in full by Plaid.

6.2 **Plaid Release of Consumer Protection Group, LLC.**

Plaid waives any and all claims against CPG, its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken, or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by CPG and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter, and/or with respect to the Subject Product. Plaid represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind Plaid to this Settlement Agreement.

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 as to the Subject Product, then Plaid shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, but also shall have no recourse to claw back payments already made in accordance with Section 3, 4 and 5 of this Settlement Agreement.

8. **NOTICES**

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



For Plaid: Dan R. Musick  
General Counsel – Plaid Enterprises, Inc.  
3225 Westech Dr,  
Norcross, GA 30092  
[dmusick@plaidonline.com](mailto:dmusick@plaidonline.com)

For CPG: Jonathan M. Genish, Esq.  
Blackstone Law APC  
8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 745  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
[jgenish@blackstonepc.com](mailto:jgenish@blackstonepc.com)

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/E-SIGNATURES**

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or e-signatures, 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 SECTION 25249.7(f)**

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

**11. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related



prior discussions, negotiations, commitments and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind either of the Parties.

**12. MODIFICATION**

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

**13. AUTHORIZATION**

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGREED TO:</b></p> <p>Date: February 3 , 2021</p> <p>By:  On Behalf of Consumer Protection Group, LLC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGREED TO:</b></p> <p>Date: February 3, 2021</p> <p>By:  On Behalf of Plaid Enterprises, Inc.</p>
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