

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between EnviroProtect, LLC (“EP”) on the one hand and Illinois Industrial Tool, Inc., d/b/a Great Lakes Wholesale (“GLW”) on the other hand, with GLW and EP each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

1.2 Introduction and General Allegations.

1.2.1 EP is a limited liability company duly organized and existing in the State of California, which seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances used in consumer products.

1.2.2 EP alleges that Ningbo Motor Industrial Co., Ltd. (“NINGBO”) and/or Ross Stores, Inc., d/b/a DD’s Discounts (“DD’s”), employ ten or more persons, and EP alleges that NINGBO 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”).

1.2.3 GLW represents that it is an Illinois Corporation duly organized and existing in the State of Illinois, which purchases and resells various products, including the Ningbo Copap Seat Covers, which it sold to DD’s.

1.2.4 EP alleges that DD’s imported, sold, and/or distributed for sale in California Covered Products, as defined below, that contain Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”), a chemical pursuant to Proposition 65 listed by the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity. EP further alleges that DD’s failed to provide the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65 for exposures to DEHP from the Covered Products.

1.3 **Product Description.**

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are the NINGBO Copap Seat Covers, which were imported, sold and/or distributed for sale in California by GLW and DD's ("Covered Products").

1.4 **60 Day Notice of Violation and Exchange of Information.**

On March 25, 2021, EP served NINGBO, DD's and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice"), related to the Covered Products, alleging that NINGBO and DD's violated Proposition 65. The Notice alleged that NINGBO and DD's had failed to warn their customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to DEHP from the import, sale and/or distribution of the Covered Products.

EP subsequently provided DD's with test results in EP's possession concerning its allegations. DD's provided EP with sales data related to the Covered Products. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 **No Admission.**

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. Specifically, EP alleges that DD's imported, manufactured, sold or distributed for sale in the state of California, Covered Products which contained DEHP without first providing the clear and reasonable exposure warning required by Proposition 65. GLW and DD's deny that such a warning is required under Proposition 65 or any otherwise applicable law.

GLW and DD's further deny the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintain that all of the products that they have imported, manufactured and/or sold and distributed in California, including the Covered Products, have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by DD's and/or GLW 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 DD's and/or GLW of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being

specifically denied by NINGBO. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect GLW's obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date.

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date the Agreement is fully executed by the Parties.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATED PRODUCTS

2.1 Reformulation Standard. Commencing on the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Covered Products that GLW imports, manufactures, ships to be sold or offers for sale or purchase in or into California, or sells in California shall be deemed to comply with Proposition 65, and be exempt from any Proposition 65 warning requirements with respect to DEHP if the Products meet the standard of "Reformulated Products." "Reformulated Products" shall mean Covered Products containing less than or equal to 1,000 parts per million (0.1%) DEHP in each Accessible Component when analyzed pursuant to Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C, CPSC-CH-C1001-09.3 or equivalent methodologies utilized by federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining DEHP content in a solid substance ("Reformulation Standard"). Covered Products, currently in the channels of distribution with distributors and retailers may continue to be sold-through. However, as of the Effective Date, GLW may not distribute or sell new Covered Products in California that are not Reformulated Products or do not contain the warnings set forth in Paragraph 2.3.

2.2 Warning Option. Covered Products that are not reformulated or do not meet the Reformulation Standard set forth in Section 2.1 above shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 2.3 below. This warning shall only be required as to Covered Products that are sold or shipped out to consumers, retailers, or distributors in California after the Effective Date. No Proposition 65 warning for DEHP shall be required as to any Covered Products that are already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date.

2.3 Warning Language. Commencing on the Effective Date, NINGBO shall ensure that any unreformulated Covered Products that it ships to California retailers or for sale in

California include a clear and reasonable warning. The warning shall be affixed to the packaging or labeling using language similar to the warnings below:

⚠ **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which are 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.

OR

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

The warning shall be prominently displayed with such conspicuousness as 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 before purchase or use. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user is reasonably likely to understand to which specific Product the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion. In the event that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment promulgates one or more regulations requiring or permitting warning text and/or methods of transmission different than those set forth above, GLW shall be entitled to use, at its discretion, such other warning text and/or methods of transmission without being deemed in breach of this Agreement

2.4 **Accessible Component.** The term “Accessible Component” shall mean any component of the Covered Product that could be touched by a person during reasonably foreseeable use.

3. **CIVIL PENALTY PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(b)**

GLW shall pay a civil penalty of \$500 to be apportioned in accordance with California Health & Safety Code §§25249.12(c) & (d), with 75% of these funds remitted to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) and the remaining 25% of the penalty remitted to EP. GLW shall issue two separate checks for the penalty payment: (a) one check made payable to the Kawahito Law Group in Trust for the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“in Trust for OEHHA”) in the amount of \$375 representing 75% of the initial civil penalty and (b) one check to “Kawahito Law Group in Trust for EnviroProtect” in the amount of \$125, representing 25% of the initial civil penalty. Two separate 1099s shall be issued for the above payments: The first 1099 shall be

issued to OEHHA, P.O. Box 4010, Sacramento, CA 95814 (EIN: 68-0284486). The second 1099 shall be issued to Kawahito Law Group APC, who shall furnish a W-9 at least five business days before payment is due. The payment shall be delivered on or before July 1, 2021 to the following address:

James Kawahito, Esq.
Kawahito Law Group APC
222 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. Suite 2222
El Segundo, CA 90245

Payment may also be made by wire or ACH or wire transfer. Instructions will be provided separately upon request.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The parties reached an accord on the compensation due to EP and its counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine codified at California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this agreement. More specifically, GLW shall pay the total amount of \$16,500 for fees and costs incurred by EP as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of DD's, and negotiating a settlement. DD's shall wire the funds (instructions will be provided upon request) or make payment by check payable to "Kawahito Law Group APC." The payment shall be delivered on or before July 1, 2021 to the following address:

James Kawahito, Esq.
Kawahito Law Group APC
222 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. Suite 2222
El Segundo, CA 90245

To allow for the issuance of a timely payment to be rendered pursuant to the above, EP shall provide GLW with a completed IRS Form W-9 for the Kawahito Law Group APC at least five business days prior to payment.

5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

5.1 Full, Final and Binding Resolution of Proposition 65 Allegations.

EP, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, releases GLW, DD's and NINGBO of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by EP against NINGBO, DD's, GLW, and their parents,

subsidiaries, affiliated entities that are under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, agents, principals, insurers, accountants, representatives, attorneys, predecessors, successors, assignees, licensors, each manufacturer or other entity supplying DD's with the Covered Products, and each entity to which NINGBO directly or indirectly distributes, ships or sells the Covered Products, including, but not limited to DD's, its downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees and their owners, directors, officers, employees, agents, principals, insurers, accountants, representatives, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assignees (collectively "Releasees") for any and all claims based on their alleged or actual failure to warn about alleged exposures to DEHP contained in the Covered Products that were allegedly manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by NINGBO, GLW and DD's either directly or through the Releasees) in California before the Effective Date. The Release shall also cover any Covered Products that were in the stream of commerce prior to the Effective. However, as of the Effective Date, no new Products shall be shipped to or distributed in California that are not Reformulated Products or contain the warnings set forth in Sections 2.2 and 2.3. This release is provided in EP's individual capacity and is not a release on behalf of the public.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, EP on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, also hereby waives all of its rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims against NINGBO, DD's and GLW and Releasees that it or they may have including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses, expenses, investigative fees, expert fees, and attorneys' fees for any and all claims arising under Proposition 65, and regarding the alleged or actual failure to warn about exposures to DEHP in the Covered Products allegedly manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale before the Effective Date by DD's or Releasees.

5.2 Release of EP.

GLW on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against EP, its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by EP and its attorneys and

other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter with respect to the Covered Products.

5.3 Public Benefit.

It is GLW's contention that the commitments it has agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by GLW under this Settlement Agreement, would confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Cal. Admin. Code tit. 11, § 3201. As such, it is the intent of GLW that to the extent any other private party initiates any action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to DD's and/or the Releasees relating to the Covered Products they have manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale in California and that are subject to this Settlement, such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public provided that GLW is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

5.4 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement.

Any party may file suit before the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles 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.

6. 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.

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.

8. 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; (c) a recognized overnight courier; or (d) by email to designated agent of Party indicated below, to the other Party at the following addresses:

For Notices to GLW:	Great Lakes Wholesale Lance Ericson 16410 John Ln Crossing #400 Lockport, IL 60441 lericson@glwholesale.com
With a copy to:	Christopher T. Sheean Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP 330 N. Wabash Ave., Ste. 3300 Chicago, IL 60611 csheean@smbtrials.com
For Notices to EP:	EnviroProtect, LLC. 3142 W. 59 th Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90043 Email: enviroprotectca@gmail.com
with a copy to:	James K. Kawahito, Esq. Kawahito Law Group APC Attn. EP v. NINGBO 222 N. Pacific Coast Hwy., Suite 2222 El Segundo, CA 90245 jkawahito@kawahitolaw.com

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.

9. 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.

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

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

11. MODIFICATION

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

12. 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:

Date: June 16, 2021

By: Emilio Zelaya
EnviroProtect, LLC

AGREED TO:

Date: June 16, 2021

By: [Signature]
Illinois Industrial Tool, Inc.