

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Audrey Donaldson (“Donaldson”) and H&H Asia Ltd. (“H&H”), with Donaldson and H&H each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” Donaldson 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. Donaldson alleges that H&H 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

Donaldson alleges that H&H manufactures, sells, and distributes for sale in California, ceramic bowls with exterior designs containing lead. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Donaldson alleges that H&H failed to provide the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65 for exposures to lead.

1.3 Product Description

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are specifically defined as, and limited to: (i) the *Coco + Lola Premium Collection Ceramic Bowls (Set of 4)*; UPC: 1280-030127577-001299-16-9; SKU: 1280-030127577-00800 18, that are manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by H&H (hereinafter referred to as “Bowl Products”); and (ii) the ceramic mug contained in the *Coco + Lola Mug and Ring Holder Set*; UPC: 1280-099932370-000599-17-9; SKU: 8028—2896—720404—81, that are manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by H&H (hereinafter referred to

as “Mug Products”). The Bowl Products and Mug Products shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as the “Products”.

1.4 Notices of Violation

On October 1, 2021, Donaldson served The TJX Companies, Inc. (“TJX”), and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation, alleging that it violated Proposition 65 when it failed to warn its customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead from the Mug Products.

On December 2, 2021, Donaldson served TJX, and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation, alleging that it violated Proposition 65 when it failed to warn its customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead from the Bowl Products. The October 1, 2021, Notice of Violation and December 2, 2021 Notice of Violation shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as the “Notices.” No public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notices.

H&H was subsequently identified as the manufacturer/supplier of the products identified in the Notices. Counsel for H&H indicated their interest in resolving certain allegations contained therein.

1.5 No Admission

H&H denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notices 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 H&H 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 H&H of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by H&H. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect H&H’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 February 15, 2022.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

2.1 Reformulation Standards

“Reformulated Products” are defined as those Products that: (a) contain no more than 90 parts per million (“ppm”) lead in any decoration, colored artwork, designs and/or marking on the surface of the Products when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3050B or equivalent methodologies utilized by federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining lead content in a solid substance; (b) yield no more than 1.0 microgram of lead on any surface sampled and analyzed pursuant to the NIOSH 9100 testing protocol. In addition, for the Mug Products to qualify as “Reformulated Products” they shall also yield a result of non-detect (defined as no more than 25 ppm by weight of lead) for any decorations located in the upper 20 millimeters of a Product, i.e., the “Lip-and-Rim” area when analyzed pursuant to EPA testing methodologies 3050B and 6010B, or equivalent methodologies used by state and federal agencies to determine lead content in a solid substance.

If the decoration is tested after it is affixed to the Products, the percentage of the lead by weight must related only to the decorating materials and must not include any quantity attributable to non-decorating material (e.g., ceramic substrate).

2.2 Reformulation/Warning Commitment

As of the Effective Date, H&H 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 bear a warning pursuant to Section 2.3.


2.3 Warnings

As of the Effective Date, all Products H&H sells and/or distributes for sale in California that do not qualify as Reformulated Products, shall bear a clear and reasonable

warning pursuant to this Section. H&H further agrees that the warning will 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 purchase or use. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, a clear and reasonable warning for the Products shall contain one of the following statements:

 **WARNING:** Reproductive Harm- www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

OR

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to 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 as consideration for the releases contained in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 below, H&H agrees to pay \$2,500 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) in civil penalties no later than the Effective Date. 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 Donaldson and delivered to the address in Section 3.3 herein. H&H will provide its payment as follows: (1) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$1,875 (One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars); and (2) “Audrey Donaldson” in the amount of \$625 (Six Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars).

3.2 Attorneys’ Fees and Costs

The Parties acknowledge that Donaldson and her counsel offered to resolve this dispute without reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed, 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, H&H expressed a desire to

resolve the attorney's fees and costs. The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to Donaldson'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, on or before the Effective Date, H&H agrees to pay \$27,000 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Dollars), payable to "Voorhees & Bailey, LLP," for all fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of H&H's management, and negotiating a settlement.

3.3 Payment Address

All payments under this Settlement Agreement shall be made as one combined payment via wire transfer, with Voorhees & Bailey then distributing the payments pursuant to Sections 3.1 and 3.2 accordingly. Voorhees & Bailey shall provide wiring instruction on or before the Effective Date.

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 Donaldson's Release of Proposition 65 Claims

Donaldson acting on her own behalf, and not on behalf of the public, releases H&H, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, agents employees, attorneys, and each entity to whom H&H directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products, including, but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers including, but not limited to TJX (and its parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates), franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees (collectively, "Releasees"), from all claims for violations of Proposition 65 through the Effective Date based on unwarned exposures to lead in the Products.

4.2 Donaldson's Individual Release of Claims

Donaldson in her individual capacity only and not in her 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 Donaldson of any

nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, limited to and arising out of alleged or actual exposures to lead in the Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by H&H prior to the Effective Date. Nothing in this Section affects Donaldson's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve H&H's Products.

4.3 H&H's Release of Donaldson

H&H, 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 Donaldson and her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken, or statements made by Donaldson and her 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.

4.4 Waiver of Civil Code Section 1542

With respect to the foregoing waivers and releases in this Settlement Agreement, the Parties hereby specifically waive any and all rights and benefits which they now have, or in the future may have, conferred by virtue of the provisions of Section 1542 of the 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.

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 H&H may provide written notice to Donaldson 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 H&H:

Kimberly F. Rich
Baker & McKenzie LLP
1900 North Pearl Street, Suite 1500
Dallas, TX 75201

For Donaldson:

Audrey Donaldson
c/o Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
535 Ramona Street; Suite 5
Palo Alto, CA 94301

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)

Donaldson and her 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.

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: Feb 15. 2022

Date: _____

By:  _____
AUDREY DONALDSON

By: _____
H&H ASIA LTD.

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AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: _____

Date: Feb 15, 2022.
H & H ASIA LTD,

By: _____
AUDREY DONALDSON


.....
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
H&H ASIA LTD.