

# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Dennis Johnson (“Johnson”) and Eccolo Ltd.(“Eccolo”), with Johnson and Eccolo 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 Eccolo 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 Eccolo manufactures, sells, and/or distributes for sale in California, pencil cups and trays with brass components containing lead. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Johnson alleges that Eccolo 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 the following products manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by Eccolo: (i) “*Martha Stewart Pencil Cup*” UPC: 8 26635 19314 2; (ii) “*Martha Stewart Small Linen Tray*”; UPC: 8 26635 19313 5; and (iii) “*Martha Stewart Large Linen Tray*”; UPC: 8 26635 19312 8 (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Products”).

#### **1.4 Notices of Violation**

On August 27, 2021, Johnson served Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc., Staples, Inc., and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation, alleging that they violated Proposition 65 when they failed to warn their customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead from the pencil cup products. Eccolo was subsequently identified as the manufacturer/supplier of those products and indicated that they wanted to resolve certain allegations contained in the August 27, 2021 Notice.

On March 25, 2022, Johnson served Staples, Inc., and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation, alleging that they violated Proposition 65 when they failed to warn their customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead from the tray products. Eccolo was subsequently identified as the manufacturer/supplier of the tray products and indicated that they wanted to resolve certain allegations contained in the March 25, 2022 Notice.

The August 27, 2021 and March 25, 2022 Notices of Violation shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as the “Notices”. No public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notices.

#### **1.5 No Admission**

Eccolo 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 Eccolo 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 Eccolo of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Eccolo. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Eccolo’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 August 9, 2022.

## **2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION/WARNINGS**

### **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 accessible component 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; *and* (b) yield no more than 1.0 microgram of lead on any surface sampled and analyzed pursuant to the NIOSH 9100 testing protocol.

### **2.2 Reformulation/Warning Commitment**

As of the Effective Date, Eccolo 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 below.

### **2.3 Product Warnings**

As of the Effective Date, all Products Eccolo 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. Eccolo further agrees that 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 Consent Judgment, 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 contain one of the following statements:

⚠ **WARNING:** Reproductive Harm- [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

**OR**

⚠ **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which are known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://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, Eccolo agrees to pay \$2,300 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 Johnson. Eccolo shall make its payment in two checks, delivered to the address in section 3.3, as follows: (1) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$1,725; and (2) “Dennis Johnson” in the amount of \$575.

#### **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 his counsel, 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, Eccolo 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, on or before the Effective Date, Eccolo agrees to pay \$19,400, in the form of a check made payable to “Voorhees &

Bailey, LLP,” for all fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Eccolo’s management, and negotiating a settlement.

### **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 Eccolo, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, agents employees, attorneys, and each entity to whom Eccolo directly or indirectly distributes or sells the 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 lead in the Products. The Parties 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 Eccolo.

### **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 lead in the Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by Eccolo prior to the Effective Date. The Parties 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 Eccolo. Nothing in this Section affects Johnson's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve Eccolo's Products.

#### **4.3 Eccolo's Release of Johnson**

Eccolo, 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 Eccolo 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 Eccolo:**

Jeffrey Dweck  
The Law Firm Of Jeffrey S. Dweck, P.C.  
43 West 33rd Street, Suite 304  
New York, New York 10001

**For Johnson:**

Dennis Johnson  
Voorhees & Bailey, LLP  
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.

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.

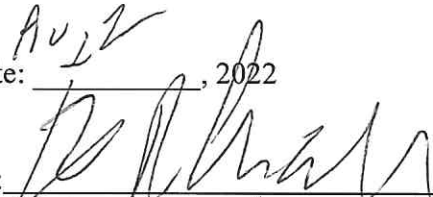
AGREED TO:

Date: August 2, 2022

By:   
DENNIS JOHNSON

AGREED TO:

Date: Aug 2, 2022

By:   
ECCOLO LTD. Steven Sharmah P.R.S.