

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Michael DiPirro on the one hand, (“DiPirro”) and Blazer, LLC (“Blazer”) on the other hand, with DiPirro and Blazer individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” Blazer is also referred to herein as the “Noticed Party.” DiPirro is an individual residing in California who allegedly seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Blazer employs ten or more persons in the State of Nebraska, and allegedly qualifies as a “person” doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

DiPirro alleges that the Noticed Party manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes for sale in the State of California shot carriers containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”) without first providing the clear and reasonable exposure warning required by Proposition 65. DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical that is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm (hereinafter the “Listed Chemical”).

1.3 Product Description

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are the shot carriers containing the Listed Chemical that are manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by the Noticed Party, including, but not limited to the *Two Shot* Carrier including, without limitation, the Two Shot Carriers purchased by DiPirro’s agent on May 7, 2022 (invoice date May 9, 2022) and July 17, 2022

(the “Products”).

1.4 Notice of Violation

On or about October 14, 2022, DiPirro served Blazer and certain requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation (the “Notice”), a document that informed the recipients of DiPirro’s allegation that Blazer violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn its customers and consumers in California that the Products expose users to the Listed Chemical. 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 Noticed Party denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that all of the products it has manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale 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 the Noticed Party of any fact, finding, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by the Noticed Party of any fact, finding, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law, the same being specifically denied by the Noticed Party. This section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect the Noticed Party’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 day the final requisite signature is applied to the Settlement Agreement.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: PRODUCT WARNINGS

2.1 Product Warnings. Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, for all Products that contain the Listed Chemical, and are shipped to a California address for sale by the Noticed Party, or any agent, distributor, or affiliated company working on behalf of the Noticed Party, the

Noticed Party shall provide a clear and reasonable warning as set forth below in Section 2.3, or in compliance with Proposition 65. Each warning shall be displayed with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices as to render it likely to be seen, read, and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use.


2.2 Internet Warnings. For all Products that the Noticed Party offers for sale directly to consumers in California via the Internet, they shall provide a warning for such Products to the California consumer by including the warning set forth below in Section 2.3 on the Product packaging, and on either the product display page, or by otherwise prominently displaying the warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase.

2.3 Text of the Warning. The text of the warning shall be printed in black ink on a light background, in a font that is easy to read and legible, but in no case less than a size 6 font. The Noticed Party shall use one of the two warning language options as set forth below, which shall include a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline as shown below (the symbol may be black or white if the color yellow is otherwise not used on the Product's packaging).



WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including 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

For Internet warnings, the Noticed Party may provide either of the aforementioned warnings in full as stated above or via a clearly marked hyperlink using the word “WARNING” on the product display page.

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

3.1 Civil Penalty Payment Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). The Noticed Party shall make a civil penalty payment of \$1,000.00, in accordance with this section, within ten (10) business days from the Effective Date. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 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 DiPirro in accordance with Section 3.2 below. The penalty payment shall be remitted in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 3.2.

3.2 Payments. All payments shall be delivered within ten (10) business days from the Effective Date to the office of Jeremy Fietz, Attorney at Law, 4241 Montgomery Drive, #123, Santa Rosa CA 95405, in the form of two separate checks, for the following amounts made payable to:

- (a) “Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment” in the amount of \$750.00 (dollars) for payment of civil penalty to OEHHA. Counsel for DiPirro agree to forward such funds to OEHHA in a timely manner. Alternatively, at Blazer’s option, it can choose to deliver a certified or cashier’s check made payable to “Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.”
- (b) “Jeremy Fietz, Attorney at Law ” in the amount of \$250.00 (dollars), as payment of civil penalty to Michael DiPirro. Counsel for DiPirro agree to forward such funds to Mr. DiPirro in a timely manner. Alternatively, at Blazer’s option, it can choose to deliver a certified or cashier’s check

made payable to “Michael DiPirro.”

- (c) “Jeremy Fietz, Attorney at Law” in the amount of \$45,000 (USD) as payment for attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to Section 4 below.

For any payment that is returned for any reason, including insufficient funds, a payment must be made by Blazer in form of a cashier’s check within five (5) business days of notification of insufficient funds, plus a 5% service fee paid to DiPirro’s attorneys. Any payment that is not actually received by the due date will also be subject to a 5% late fee.

3.3 Issuance of 1099 Forms. The Noticed Party shall provide DiPirro’s counsel with a 1099 form for “Jeremy Fietz, Attorney at Law” whose address and tax identification number shall be furnished upon request after this Agreement has been fully executed by the Parties.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The Parties acknowledge that DiPirro and his counsel offered to resolve this dispute without reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them, thereby leaving this fee issue to be resolved after the material terms of the Settlement Agreement had been settled. The Noticed Party then expressed a desire to resolve the fee and cost issue shortly after the other settlement terms had been finalized. The Parties then attempted to (and did) reach an accord on the compensation due to DiPirro and his counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this Settlement Agreement. The Noticed Party shall pay a total of \$45,000 USD for fees and costs incurred by DiPirro’s counsel as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to the Noticed Party’s attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. The Noticed Party shall deliver payment to the address listed in Section 3.2 above.

5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

5.1 DiPirro's Release of Blazer

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between DiPirro and the Noticed Party of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by DiPirro, on behalf of himself, or on behalf of his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, against the Noticed Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, and each entity to whom either Noticed Party directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products ("Releasees"), including its downstream distributors and retailers and upstream manufacturers and suppliers, for unwarned exposures to the Listed Chemical from the Products manufactured, distributed, sold or distributed for sale in California by the Noticed Party prior to the Effective Date.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, DiPirro, on his own behalf and on behalf of his 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 that he may have against the Noticed Party and Releasees, including, without limitation, all actions and causes of action, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses, or expenses, including, without limitation, investigation fees, expert fees, and attorneys' fees arising under Proposition 65 for exposures to the Listed Chemical from Products distributed, sold, or distributed for sale in California by the Noticed Party prior to the Effective Date.

5.2 Noticed Party's Release of DiPirro

The Noticed Party, on its own behalf and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and assignees, hereby waives any and all claims that it may have against DiPirro and his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by DiPirro and his

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

6. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any provision of this Settlement Agreement is held 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. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed, modified, or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, then the Noticed Party may provide written notice to DiPirro of any asserted change in the law, and have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, with respect to, and to the extent that, the Products are so affected. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be interpreted to relieve Noticed Party from any obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal toxics control laws.

8. NOTICES

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

For Blazer:

Sedina Banks, Esq.
Sherry Jackman, Esq.
Greenberg Glusker LLP
2049 Century Park East, Suite 2600
Los Angeles, CA 90067

For Michael DiPirro:

Jeremy Fietz, Attorney-at-Law
4241 Montgomery Drive, #123
Santa Rosa CA 95405

Either Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other Party 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. In addition, the Parties agree that electronic or facsimile signatures shall carry the same weight and effect as originals.

10. POST-EXECUTION ACTIVITIES

DiPirro or his counsel agrees to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

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

Continued on next page.

12. 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.

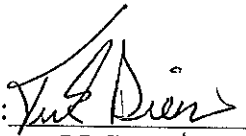
AGREED TO:

Date: 2/7/23

By: 
Michael DiPirro

AGREED TO:

Date: 2/7/23

By: 
Blazer, LLC
Print Name: KIRK DIERS
Title: PRESIDENT