

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1 The Parties.** This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Ema Bell (“Bell”) and IG Design Group Americas, Inc., for itself and its subsidiary The Lang Companies, Inc. (collectively, “IG Design”). Together, Bell and IG Design are collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Bell is an individual who alleges that she resides in the State of California, and that she seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Bell alleges that IG Design is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq. (“Proposition 65”).

**1.2 General Allegations.** Bell alleges that IG Design has exposed individuals to lead and/or di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) from its sales of (a) Holiday Time bags, UPC # 018697925391, and (b) *Lang*® by Design Group ceramic dinnerwares, Style # 722977, without first providing users and consumers of the product with a clear and reasonable health hazard exposure warning as required pursuant to Proposition 65. Lead and DEHP are listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

**1.3 Product Description.** The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are (a) Holiday Time bags, UPC # 018697925391, and (b) *Lang*® by Design Group ceramic dinnerware, Style # 722977, (the “Products”) that have been imported, distributed, offered for sale and/or sold in California by IG Design.

**1.4 Notices of Violation.** On December 19, 2022, Bell served Walmart, Inc., Walmart Apollo, LLC (collectively “Walmart”), IG Design, and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq.” (the “December Notice”). The December Notice provided IG Design and such others, including public enforcers, with notice that Bell alleged that IG Design was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to warn California consumers and customers that use of the Holiday Time

bags, UPC # 018697925391, will expose them to DEHP. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the December Notice.

On May 17, 2023, Bell served Homegoods, Inc., The TJX Companies, Inc. (collectively "TJX"), IG Design, and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled "Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq." (the "May Notice"). The May Notice provided IG Design and such others, including public enforcers, with notice that Bell alleged that IG Design was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to warn California consumers and customers that use of the *Lang*® by Design Group ceramic dinnerwares, Style # 722977, will expose them to lead. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the May Notice.

The December Notice and the May Notice are collectively referred to herein as, the "Notices."

**1.5 No Admission.** IG Design denies the material factual and legal allegations contained in the Notices and maintains that, to the best of its knowledge, all products that are or have been sold and distributed in California, including the Products, have been and are in compliance with all applicable laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by IG Design of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by IG Design of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by IG Design. However, this § 1.5 shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Settlement Agreement. Notwithstanding the allegations in the Notices, IG Design maintains that it has not knowingly manufactured, or caused to be manufactured, the Products 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 is last executed by the Parties.

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

**2.1 Reformulation of Products or Warnings.** As of the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Products that IG Design directly manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale


in California shall either be: (a) reformulated Products pursuant to § 2.2, below; or (b) labeled with a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to §§ 2.3 and 2.4, below. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a “Reformulated Product” is a Product that is in compliance with the standard set forth in § 2.2, below. The warning requirement set forth in §§ 2.3 and 2.4 shall not apply to any Reformulated Product. Products in IG Design’s inventory or otherwise in the stream of commerce prior to the Effective Date, or 90 days thereafter, are exempt from the requirements of Section 2, as they have been included in the calculation of civil penalties requires pursuant to Section 3.1 below.

**2.2 Reformulation Standard.** With respect to the Holiday Time bags, UPC # 018697925391, “Reformulated Products” shall mean Products that contain concentrations less than or equal to 0.1% (1,000 parts per million (ppm)) of DEHP when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C or other methodology utilized by federal or state government agencies for the purpose of determining the phthalate content in a solid substance.


With respect to the *Lang*® by Design Group ceramic dinnerwares, Style # 722977, “Reformulated Products” shall mean 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; or (b) produce a wipe test result no higher than 1 microgram (µg) of lead when analyzed pursuant to NIOSH method no. 9100.

**2.3 Clear and Reasonable Warning.** As of 90 days from the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, a clear and reasonable exposure warning as set forth in this §§ 2.3 and 2.4 must be provided for all Products that IG Design manufacturers, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California that is not a Reformulated Product. There shall be no obligation for IG Design to provide an exposure warning for Products that entered the stream of commerce prior to the Effective Date. The warning shall consist of either the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** described in §§ 2.3(a)-(c):


(a) **Warning.** With respect to the Holiday Time bags, UPC # 018697925391, the “Warning” shall consist of the statement:

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to 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).

(b) **Warning.** With respect to the *Lang*® by Design Group ceramic dinnerwares, Style # 722977, the “Warning” shall consist of the statement:

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to lead, 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).

(c) **Alternative Warning:** IG Design may, but is not required to, use the alternative short-form warning as set forth in this § 2.3(c) (“**Alternative Warning**”) as follows:

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

**2.4** A **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** provided pursuant to § 2.3 must print the word “**WARNING:**” in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to the left of the word “**WARNING:**” must be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline, except that if the sign or label for the Products does not use the color yellow, the symbol may be in black and white. The symbol must be in a size no smaller than the height of the word “**WARNING:**”. The **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** shall be affixed to or printed on the Products’ packaging or labeling, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or automatic process, provided that the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. The **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** may be contained in the same section of the packaging, labeling, or instruction booklet that states other safety warnings, if any, concerning the use of the Product and shall be at least the same size as those other safety warnings. If “consumer information,” as that term is defined in Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 25600.1(c) as it may be amended from time to time, is provided in a foreign language, IG Design shall provide the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** in the foreign language in accordance with applicable warning regulations adopted by OEHHA.

In addition to affixing the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** to the Product's packaging or labeling, IG Design shall post the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** on websites that it owns or controls where IG Design offers Products for sale to consumers in California. The requirements of this Section shall be satisfied if the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning**, or a clearly marked hyperlink using the word "**WARNING**," appears on the product display page, or by otherwise prominently displaying the warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase. To comply with this Section, IG Design shall (a) post the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** on its own website and any third-party website over which IG Design has control; and (b) if it does not have the ability to post the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** on the websites of its third-party internet sellers, provide such sellers with written notice in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 25600.2.

The Parties acknowledge that the warnings required by this section are not the exclusive methods of providing Proposition 65 warnings and agree that IG Design may utilize "safe harbor" warning language and methods of transmission, applicable to the Product and the exposures at issue after the Effective Date, promulgated by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") without being deemed in breach of this Settlement Agreement.

**2.5 Compliance with Warning Regulations.** The Parties agree that IG Design shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Settlement Agreement by either adhering to § 2 of this Settlement Agreement or by complying with warning regulations adopted by the State of California's OEHHA applicable to the Product and the exposures at issue after the Effective Date.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, IG Design shall pay \$2,000.00 as a Civil Penalty in accordance with this Section. The Civil Penalty payment shall be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with 75% of the Penalty remitted to OEHHA and the remaining 25% of the Penalty remitted to Bell. The Civil Penalty payment(s) shall be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below. For all amounts due and owing that are not received within the payment times set forth below, IG Design shall pay a late

civil penalty payment fee equal to \$100/day to be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(c)(1) and (d).

**3.1 Civil Penalty.** Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, IG Design shall issue two (2) separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$1,500.00; and to (b) “Ema Bell” in the amount of \$500.00. The Civil Penalty payment(s) shall be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below.

**3.2 Payment Procedures.**

**(a) Issuance of Payments.** Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(i) All payments owed to Bell, pursuant to § 3.1 shall be delivered to the following payment address:

Evan J. Smith, Esquire  
Brodsky Smith  
Two Bala Plaza, Suite 805  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

(ii) All payments owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486), pursuant to § 3.1 shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line “Prop 65 Penalties”) at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics  
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
P.O. Box 4010  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics  
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**(b) Copy of Payments to OEHHA.** IG Design agrees to provide Bell’s counsel with a copy of the checks payable to OEHHA, simultaneous with its penalty payments to Bell, to be delivered to the address provided in § 3.2(a)(i), as proof of payment to OEHHA.

(c) **Tax Documentation.** IG Design agrees to provide a completed IRS 1099 for its payments to, and Bell agrees to provide IRS W-9 forms for, each of the following payees under this Settlement Agreement:

(i) “Ema Bell” whose address and tax identification number shall be provided within five (5) days after this Settlement Agreement is fully executed by the Parties;

(ii) “Brodsky Smith” (EIN: 23-2971061) at the address provided in Section 3.2(a)(i); and

(iii) “Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment” 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

#### 4. **REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS**

The Parties acknowledge that Bell and her counsel offered to reach preliminary agreement on the material terms of this dispute before reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them. The Parties thereafter reached an accord on the compensation due to Bell and her counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine and principles codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this agreement. Under these legal principles, IG Design shall reimburse Bell’s counsel for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to the attention of IG Design, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, IG Design shall issue a check payable to “Brodsky Smith” in the amount of \$20,000.00 for delivery to the address identified in § 3.2(a)(i), above.

#### 5. **RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

**5.1 Release of IG Design and Downstream Customers and Entities.** This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Bell, acting on her own behalf, and IG Design, of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Bell or on behalf of her past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assigns (“Releasers”) for failure to provide warnings for alleged exposures to DEHP and/or lead from use of the Products, and

Releasors hereby release any such claims against IG Design and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities, shareholders, marketplaces, directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, successors and assignees, and each entity to whom IG Design directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products, including but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, and internet marketplaces, including but not limited to The TJX Companies, Inc., Homegoods, Inc., Walmart Inc., Wal-Mart Stores East, Inc., Wal-Mart Stores East, LP, Walmart Apollo, LLC, Wal-Mart.com USA LLC, and each of their respective direct or indirect subsidiaries, affiliates and parents, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees, as well as their past, present and future owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, insurers, representatives, successors, assigns (collectively, the "Releasees"), from all claims, liabilities, alleged liabilities, and potential liabilities for violations of Proposition 65 based on exposure to DEHP and/or lead from use of the Products.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to §§ 3 and 4 above, Bell, on behalf of herself, her past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby covenants not to sue and waives any right to institute, participate in, litigate, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims that she may have, including without limitation, all actions and causes of action in law and in equity, all obligations, expenses (including without limitation all attorneys' fees, expert fees, and investigation fees, and costs), damages, losses, liabilities and demands against any of the Releasees of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, limited to and arising out of the alleged or actual exposure to DEHP and/or lead from use of the Products.

**5.2 IG Design's Release of Bell.** IG Design, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Bell, her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by Bell and/or her attorneys and other representatives in the course of investigating claims, seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to exposure to DEHP and/or lead from use of the Products.



**5.3 California Civil Code § 1542.** It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notices and relating to the Products will develop or be discovered. Bell on behalf of herself only, on one hand, and IG Design, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefor. The Parties acknowledge that the claims released in §§ 5.1 and 5.2, above, may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code § 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code § 1542 reads 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 HIS 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.

Bell and IG Design each acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code § 1542.

**5.4 Deemed Compliance with Proposition 65.** The Parties agree that compliance by IG Design with this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance by IG Design with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to DEHP and/or lead from use of the Products.

**5.5. Public Benefit.** It is IG Design's understanding that the commitments it has agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by IG Design under this Settlement Agreement, 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 IG Design that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to IG Design's failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to DEHP and/or lead prior to use of the Products it has manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale in California, or will manufacture, distribute, sell, or offer for sale in California, such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public as to those Products addressed in this Settlement Agreement, provided that IG Design is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

**6. SEVERABILITY**

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected but only to the extent the deletion of the provision deemed unenforceable does not materially affect, or otherwise result in the effect of the Settlement Agreement being contrary to the intent of the Parties in entering into this Settlement Agreement.

**7. GOVERNING LAW**

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the law 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 or limited by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, IG Design shall provide written notice to Bell of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, a Product is so affected.

**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; or (ii) overnight or two-day courier on any party by the other party to the following addresses:

For IG Design:

Joseph Orzano  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Two Seaport Lane, Ste. 1200  
Boston, MA 02210

For Bell:

Evan J. Smith  
Brodsky Smith  
Two Bala Plaza, Suite 805  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Either 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: SIGNATURES**

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or .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)**

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

**11. MODIFICATION**

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

**12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

**13. AUTHORIZATION**

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions contained of this Settlement Agreement.

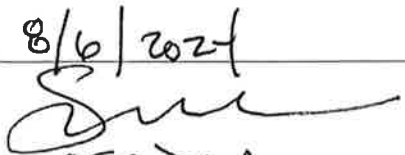
**AGREED TO:**

**AGREED TO:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8/6/2021 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erna Bell

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
CFO, DGA  
IG Design Group Americas, Inc. for itself and its subsidiary The Lang Companies, Inc.

**9. COUNTERPARTS: SIGNATURES**

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or .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)**

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

**11. MODIFICATION**

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

**12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

**13. AUTHORIZATION**

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions contained of this Settlement Agreement.

**AGREED TO:**

**AGREED TO:**

Date: 8 | 7 | 24

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Emma Bell

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
IG Design Group Americas, Inc. for itself and its subsidiary The Lang Companies, Inc.