

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1 The Parties.** This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Ema Bell (“Bell”) and Ceramica Cuore Srl (“Ceramica Cuore”). Together, Bell and Ceramica Cuore are collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Bell is alleged to be an individual who resides in the State of California, and 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 Ceramica Cuore 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 Ceramica Cuore has exposed individuals to lead from its sales of Ceramica Cuore spoonrests, Style # 696007 and Style # 809821, and 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 is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical 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 Ceramica Cuore spoonrests, Style # 696007 and Style # 809821 (collectively, the “Products”) that have been imported, distributed, offered for sale and/or sold in California by Ceramica Cuore.

**1.4 Notices of Violation.** On August 18, 2022, Bell served Homegoods, Inc. (“Homegoods”), Ceramica Cuore, and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq.” (the “August 2022 Notice”). The August 2022 Notice provided Ceramica Cuore and such others, including public enforcers, with notice that alleged that Ceramica Cuore was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to warn California consumers and customers that use of the Ceramica Cuore spoonrests, Style # 696007, will expose them to lead. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the August 2022 Notice.

On August 31, 2023, Bell served The TJX Companies, Inc. ("TJX"), Ceramica Cuore, and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled "Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq." (the "August 2023 Notice"). The August 2023 Notice provided Ceramica Cuore and such others, including public enforcers, with notice that alleged that Ceramica Cuore was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to warn California consumers and customers of the health hazards associated with exposure to lead from Ceramica Cuore spoonrests, Style # 809821. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the August 2023 Notice.

**1.5 No Admission.** Ceramica Cuore 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 laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Ceramica Cuore 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 Ceramica Cuore of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Ceramica Cuore. 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, Ceramica Cuore 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 Settlement Agreement is executed by all Parties.

**2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION AND/OR WARNINGS**


**2.1 Reformulation of Products.** Commencing within sixty (60) days after the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Products that Ceramica Cuore 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 - 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 - 2.4 shall not apply to any Reformulated Product. The Parties agree and intend that Ceramica Cuore's compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall constitute its compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures from lead from the Products. Products that are already in the stream of commerce do not need to comply with the injunctive relief requirements set forth in Section 2.

**2.2 Reformulation Standard.** "Reformulated Products" shall mean Products that produce a wipe test result no higher than 1 microgram ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) of lead when analyzed pursuant to NIOSH method no. 9100.

**2.3 Clear and Reasonable Warning.** Commencing within 60 days after 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 Ceramica Cuore manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California that is not a Reformulated Product. There shall be no obligation for Ceramica Cuore to provide an exposure warning for Products that entered the stream of commerce within 60 days after the Effective Date. The warning shall consist of either the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** described in §§ 2.3(a) or (b), respectively:

(a) **Warning.** The "Warning" shall consist of the statement:

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

(b) **Alternative Warning:** Ceramica Cuore may, but is not required to, use the alternative short-form warning as set forth in this § 2.3(b) ("**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 Products 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, Ceramica Cuore shall provide the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** in the foreign language in accordance with applicable warning regulations adopted by the State of California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“**OEHHA**”).

In addition to affixing the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** to the Product’s packaging or labeling, the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** shall be posted on websites where Ceramica Cuore 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, Ceramica Cuore shall (a) post the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** on its own website and, if it has the ability to do so, on the websites of its third-party internet sellers; 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. Third-party internet sellers of the Products that have been provided with written notice in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 25600.2 are not released in Section 5 of this Agreement if they fail to meet the warning requirements of this Section.

**2.5 Compliance with Warning Regulations.** The Parties agree that Ceramica Cuore 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 Products and the exposure at issue.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Ceramica Cuore shall pay \$500.00 as a Civil Penalty within 14 business days of the Effective Date and upon receipt of appropriate W-9 forms, whichever is later, 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

**3.1 Civil Penalty.** Within 14 business days of the Effective Date and upon receipt of appropriate W-9 forms, whichever is later, Ceramica Cuore shall issue two (2) separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$375.00; and to (b) "Ema Bell" in the amount of \$125.00. 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.** Upon request, Ceramica Cuore agrees to provide Bell's counsel with a copy of the checks (if paying by check) 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.** If appropriate, Ceramica Cuore 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.

Ceramica Cuore may also agree to pay all payments via wire transfer. Counsel for Bell shall provide wire instructions upon request and be responsible for allocating the payments as appropriate.

#### 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, Ceramica Cuore shall reimburse Bell's

counsel \$14,500.00 for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to the attention of Ceramica Cuore, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest.

Payment pursuant to this Section is as follows: Within fourteen (14) business days of the Effective Date, Ceramica Cuore shall issue three (3) settlement checks payable to "Brotsky Smith" for delivery to the address identified in § 3.2(a)(i), above. Each settlement check shall be dated for deposit on the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month beginning with December 28, 2024. The December 28, 2024 settlement check shall be in the amount of \$4,500.00. The next two (2) settlement checks shall be in the amount of \$5,000.00 each beginning with January 28, 2025. The final settlement check of \$5,000.00 shall be dated for deposit on February 28, 2025. Total payment pursuant to this Section shall equal \$14,500.00.

Ceramica Cuore may also agree to pay all payments via wire transfer. The first payment of \$5,000 will be due 14 business days from the Effective date. The next payment shall be in the amount of \$5,000.00 on or before January 28, 2025. The final payment of \$5,000.00 is due on or before February 28, 2025. Counsel for Bell shall provide wire instructions upon request and be responsible for allocating the payments as appropriate.

5. **RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

**5.1 Release of Ceramica Cuore and Downstream Customers and Entities.** This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Bell, acting on her own behalf, and Ceramica Cuore, 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 lead from use of the Products, and Releasers hereby release any such claims against Ceramica Cuore and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities, shareholders, marketplaces, directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, successors and assignees, and each entity to whom Ceramica Cuore directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products, including but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, including but not limited to TJX, Homegoods (and its respective parents, subsidiaries, and affiliated entities), franchisees, cooperative members, licensors, and licensees (collectively, the

“Releasees”), from all claims for violations of Proposition 65 within 60 days after the Effective Date based on exposure to 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, 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 lead from use of the Products.

**5.2 Ceramica Cuore’s Release of Bell.** Ceramica Cuore hereby waives any and all claims against Bell, her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Bell and/or her attorneys and other representatives that relates to seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter or with respect to exposure to lead from 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, acknowledge that this Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through 60 days after the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefor. Bell acknowledges that the claims released in §§ 5.1 and 5.2, above, may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waives 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 HER OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HER OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.





Bell acknowledges and understands 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 Ceramica Cuore with this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance by Ceramica Cuore with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to lead from use of the Products.

**5.5. Public Benefit.** It is Ceramica Cuore's understanding that the commitments it has agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by Ceramica Cuore 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 Ceramica Cuore that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to Ceramica Cuore's failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to 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 Ceramica Cuore 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.

**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 Ceramica Cuore:

Eva Yang  
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP  
555 S. Flower St., 41<sup>st</sup> Fl.  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

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)**

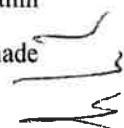
Bell agrees to comply with the reporting requirements referenced in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

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: 15-12-2024

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Ema Bell

Ceramica Cuore Srl

**CERAMICA CUORE S.r.l.**  
Sede legale : Via di Grotte Portella , 12  
00044 Frascati ( RM )  
Sede op.: Via Civita Castellana,snc (VT)  
01030 Castel Sant'Elia (VT)  
P.Iva : 12497481007

**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: 12 / 17 / 24

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

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Ema Bell

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ceramica Cuore Srl