

SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Green Initiative, LLC and Hot Focus, Inc.

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Green Initiative, LLC ("Initiative"), on the one hand, and Hot Focus, Inc. ("Hot Focus"), on the other hand, with Initiative and Hot Focus collectively referred to as the "Parties."

1.2. General Allegations

Initiative alleges that Hot Focus manufactured and/or distributed and/or offered for sale in the State of California kid's cosmetics bags that allegedly contain Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate [DEHP] (the "Product") and that such sales have not included warnings pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"). California has identified and listed DEHP under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

1.3. Product Description

The Product that is covered by this Settlement Agreement is defined as kid's cosmetics bags that allegedly contain DEHP that Hot Focus has sold, offered for sale or distributed in California.

1.4. Notice of Violation

On February 29, 2024, Initiative served Hot Focus, Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc., and the requisite public enforcement agencies eligible to initiate Proposition 65 actions on behalf of the People of the State of California with documents entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" ("Notice") that provided Hot Focus and such public enforcers with notice that Hot

Focus was allegedly in violation of California Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Product exposed users in California to DEHP. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced or is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5. No Admission

The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between them as set forth herein and in the Notice concerning Hot Focus's compliance with Proposition 65. Specifically, Hot Focus denies the material factual and legal allegations contained in Initiative's Notice and maintains that all products that it has manufactured, distributed or sold in California, including the Product, have been and are in compliance with Proposition 65 or any other statutory, regulatory, common law or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Hot Focus of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of

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aw; nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Hot Focus of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Hot Focus. However, nothing in this section shall diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of Hot Focus under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6. Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this Settlement Agreement is fully executed.

2. **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNING**


2.1. **Warning**


No later than the sixty (60) days after the Effective Date, Hot Focus will not purchase Products for sale into California unless (1) the Products are accompanied by a warning as described in Section 2.2 below, or (2) contain no more than 1000 ppm DEHP. The warning requirements set forth in Section 2.2 below shall apply only to Products that are distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale in the State of California. The warning requirement shall not apply to Products that are already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date or that Hot Focus places into the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date.

2.2. **Warning Language**

Where required, Hot Focus shall provide Proposition 65 warnings as follows:

(a) Hot Focus may use any of the following warning statements in full compliance with this Section:

(1)  **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including 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 info go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

(2)  **WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

(b) Where the sign, label or shelf tag for the product is not printed using the color yellow, the symbol may be printed in black and white. The symbol shall be placed to the left of the text of the warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word “WARNING”.

(c) The requirements for warnings, set forth in subsection (a) above are imposed pursuant to the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties recognize that these are not the exclusive methods of providing a warning under Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations.

(d) If Proposition 65 warnings for DEHP should no longer be required, Hot Focus shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

(e) In the event that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment promulgates one or more regulations requiring or permitting warning text and/or methods of transmission different than those set forth above, Hot Focus shall be entitled to use, at their discretion, such other warning text and/or method of transmission without being deemed in breach of this Agreement.

(f) Foreign Languages. Additionally, if a Covered Product's labeling is provided in a language other than English, the warning will be provided in that language in addition to English.

(g) Online Sales. If Hot Focus sells Products via an internet website it controls to customers located in California, the warning requirements of this section shall be satisfied if the foregoing warning appears either: (a) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed and/or described; (b) on the same page as the price for the Product; (c) on one or more web pages displayed to a California purchaser prior to purchase during the checkout process; or (d) via a hyperlink taking the customer to a separate page containing the warning language, provided that the hyperlink appears on the same page as either the product description or product price are displayed, or appears prior to completion of the

sale at checkout. Alternatively, a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow or white equilateral triangle may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, price, or checkout listing of the Product, if the warning statement appears elsewhere on the same web page in a manner that clearly associates it with the product(s) to which the warning applies.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Hot Focus shall pay a total of \$200 in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code section 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 Initiative. Initiative's counsel shall be responsible for delivering OEHHA's portion of any penalty payment made under this Settlement Agreement.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to Initiative and its counsel under the private attorney general doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, Hot Focus shall reimburse Initiative's counsel for fees and costs, incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Hot Focus's attention. Hot Focus shall pay Initiative's counsel \$12,000 for all attorneys' fees, expert and investigation fees, and related costs associated with this matter and the Notice.

5. PAYMENT INFORMATION

By May 3, 2024, Hot Focus shall make a total payment of Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$12,200) for the civil penalties and attorney's fees / costs by wire transfer to Plaintiff's counsel Custodio & Dubey LLP:

Bank: Bank of America, N.A.

Routing No.: 026009593

Account No.: 325149324377

Beneficiary: Custodio & Dubey LLP

Other than this payment, each side is to bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

6. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

6.1. Release of Hot Focus, Downstream Customers and Upstream Vendors

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 above, Initiative, on behalf of itself, its 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 relating to the Product, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses or expenses (including, but not limited to, investigation fees, expert fees and attorneys' fees) of any nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown, fixed or contingent (collectively "Claims"), against (a) Hot Focus, (b) each of Hot Focus's downstream distributors (including but not limited to Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. and its respective parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates), wholesalers, vendors, licensors, licensees, auctioneers, retailers, franchisees, dealers, shareholders, cooperative members, customers, owners, purchasers, users, and (c) Hot Focus's

parent companies, corporate affiliates, subsidiaries, and their respective officers, directors, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, agents, and employees, and sister and parent entities. (collectively "Releasees").

Initiative also, in its capacity, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees and *not* in its representative capacity, provides a general 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 any nature, character or kind, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, against Hot Focus and the Releasees. Initiative acknowledges that it is familiar with California Civil Code section 1542, 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.

Initiative, in its capacity only, and on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees expressly waives and relinquishes any and all rights and benefits which it may have under, or which may be conferred on it by the provisions of California Civil Code section 1542 as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent that it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters.

6.2. Hot Focus's Release of Initiative

Hot Focus waives any and all claims against Initiative, its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been

taken or made) by Initiative and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter, with respect to the Product as related to Proposition 65 only.

6.3. **Deemed Compliance with Proposition 65.** The Parties agree that compliance by Hot Focus with this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to DEHP from use of the Products.

6.4. **Public Benefit.** It is the Parties' understanding that the commitments agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by Hot Focus 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 Parties' intent that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to an alleged failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to DEHP prior to use of the Hot Focus Products distributed, sold, or offered 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 Hot Focus is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

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 or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Product, then Hot Focus shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

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; (ii.) email; or (iii) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Hot Focus: Ivan Tether,
Tether Law
41 Winchester Drive, Unit 304
Portland, ME 04103

For Initiative: Vineet Dubey, Esq.
Custodio & Dubey LLP
445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Any 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; FACSIMILE/E-SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or e-signatures, 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 SECTION 25249.7(f)

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

11. ENTIRE AGREEMENT


This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind either of the Parties.

12. MODIFICATION

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


13. 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">AGREED TO:</p> <p>Date: April 29, 2024</p> <p>By:  On Behalf of Green Initiative, LLC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGREED TO:</p> <p>Date: April 29, 2024</p> <p>By: _____ On Behalf of Hot Focus Inc.</p>
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13. **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.

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