

## SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Initiative for Safer Cosmetics and Jocott Brands, Inc.

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Initiative for Safer Cosmetics (“IFSC”), on the one hand, and Jocott Brands, Inc. and Jocott Brands International, Inc. (together, “Jocott”), on the other hand, with IFSC and Jocott collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

#### 1.2. General Allegations

IFSC alleges that Jocott manufactured and distributed and offered for sale in the State of California “CocoKids coconut watermelon Pre-Swim Leave-In Detangler” containing Diethanolamine (DEA), 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.* and its implementing regulations (“Proposition 65”). California has identified and listed Diethanolamine under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer.

#### 1.3. Product Description

The products that are covered by this Settlement Agreement are defined as CocoKids coconut watermelon Pre-Swim Leave-In Detangler that Jocott has manufactured, imported, sold, offered for sale or distributed in California. All such items shall be referred to herein as the “Products.”

#### 1.4. Notice of Violation

On 07/26/2024 IFSC served Jocott Brands, Inc.; Marshalls of CA, LLC; The TJX Companies, Inc. dba Marshalls and the requisite public enforcement agencies eligible to initiate Proposition 65 actions on behalf of the People of the State of California with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”) that provided Jocott and such public enforcers with notice that Jocott was allegedly in violation of California Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Products exposed users in California to Diethanolamine. 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 Jocott's compliance with Proposition 65. Jocott denies the material factual and legal allegations contained in IFSC's Notice and maintains that all products that it has manufactured for sale and distribution in California, including the Products, 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 Jocott 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 Jocott of any fact, binding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Jocott on its behalf. However, nothing in this section shall diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of Jocott 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: DEA FREE PRODUCT AND WARNINGS**

As of the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Products that Jocott directly manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California shall either: (a) comply with § 2.1, below; or (b) labeled with a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to §§ 2.2 and 2.3, below. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a "DEA Free Product" is a Product that is in compliance with the standard set forth in § 2.1, below. The warning requirements set forth in §§ 2.2 and 2.3 shall not apply to any DEA Free Product or to any Product manufactured prior to the Effective Date.

### **2.1. DEA Free Standards**

To qualify as a "DEA Free Product," the Product must meet the following standard: DEA content that is either not detectable (i.e., zero) or below the Reporting Limit (defined herein) when the Product is analyzed pursuant to liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), inductively coupled mass spectroscopy (ICP-MS) or other method of analysis utilized by the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) for qualitative or quantitative screening of cosmetics and cosmetic raw materials.

#### **2.1.1 Reporting Limit**



The "Reporting Limit" is 0.10 ppm in a sample of a Product tested by an accredited testing laboratory employing LC-MS/MS, ICP-MS or other reliable method of analysis utilized by the ISO for qualitative and quantitative screening of cosmetics and cosmetic raw materials.

### **2.2. Warning Option**

Products that do not meet the warning exemption standard set forth in Section 2.1 above shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 2.3 below. This warning requirement shall only be required as to Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, imported, sold, shipped for sale or offered for sale to consumers by Jocott in the State of California. No Proposition 65 warning shall be required for any Products that are supplied or contracted to be supplied to third parties by Jocott prior to 6 months after the Effective Date, and all such Products are hereby deemed to be exempt from Proposition 65 enforcement.

### **2.3. Warning Language**

(a) Where required to meet the criteria set forth in Section 2.2, Jocott shall display one of the following warning statements on the packaging label of the Products that do not meet the warning exemption standard set forth in Section 2.1 above:

- (1)  **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including Diethanolamine, which is [are] known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)
- (2)  **WARNING:** Cancer - [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

Jocott may use “cancer and” in the warning at its option. Jocott may include the names of additional chemicals in the warning if they are present in the Products at a level that Jocott reasonably believes would require a Proposition 65 warning.

(b) 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. Jocott shall be deemed to be in compliance with the warning requirements of this Settlement Agreement by either adhering to this Section 2.3 or by complying with the Proposition 65 warning requirements adopted by the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) as of or after the Effective Date.

(c) If Proposition 65 warnings for Diethanolamine should no longer be required, Jocott shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

(d) INTERNET - Product that is sold by Jocott Brands, Inc. on the Internet to persons located in California shall also provide the warning message by a clearly marked hyperlink on the product display page, or otherwise prominently displayed to the purchaser before the purchaser completes his or her purchase of the Product.

(e) FOREIGN LANGUAGE - If the Product has consumer information in a foreign language, then the package must also contain the WARNING in the foreign language.

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

In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties and attorney’s fees, costs and any other expenses incurred by IFSC or its counsel. Jocott shall pay the total Settlement amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) (The “Settlement Amount”) as set forth below.

#### **3.1 Civil Penalties to Health & Safety Code 25249.7 (B):**

Two Thousand Dollars of the Settlement Amount shall be considered a “civil penalty” pursuant to California Health and Safety Code. Jocott shall issue two separate checks within ten (10) days of the Effective Date for a total amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) as follows, and all payments shall be delivered to the addresses listed below.

3.1 (a) One Check made payable to the State of California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazzard Assessment (“OEHHA”) in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500), representing 75% of the total civil penalty; and

3.1 (b) One check payable to “Initiative for Safer Cosmetics” in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), representing 25% of the total civil penalty.

**3.2 Attorney’s Fees and Costs:**

Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) of the total Settlement Amount shall be paid to Cliffwood Law Firm, PC within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, as IFSC’s attorneys, for reasonable investigation fees, and costs, attorney’s fees, and any other cost incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Jocott’s attention.

**4. PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

4.1 All Payments owed to OEHHA, pursuant to section 3.1(a) shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo line “Prop 65 Penalties NOV #2024-03168”) at the following address:

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

4.2 All Payments owed to IFSC, pursuant to Section 3.1(b) shall be delivered to:

IFSC  
% Cliffwood Law Firm, PC  
Attn: Elham Shabatian  
12100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

4.3 All Payments owed to Cliffwood Law Firm, PC pursuant to Section 4.3, shall be delivered to:

Cliffwood Law firm, PC  
Attn: Elham Shabatian  
12100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

#### **4.4 PROOF OF PAYMENT**

A copy of each check payable to OEHHA, shall be mailed to Cliffwood Law firm, PC, simultaneous with payment to Cliffwood Law Firm, PC at the address set forth above, as proof of payment to OEHHA.

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

##### **5.1. Release of Jocott, 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, IFSC, on behalf of itself and its respective owners, principals, shareholders, officers, directors, employees, parents, subsidiaries its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees (collectively, "Releasors"), hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and fully releases all claims relating to the Products, 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) Jocott (b) each of Jocott's downstream distributors in the stream of commerce (including but not limited to Marshalls of CA, LLC; The TJX Companies, Inc. dba Marshalls and any other upstream or downstream entities in the distribution chain for the Products, including, but not limited to, manufacturers, wholesalers, vendors, licensors, licensees, auctioneers, retailers, franchisees, dealers, shareholders, cooperative members, customers, owners, purchasers, third-party re-sellers, and users, (c) Jocott's parent companies, corporate affiliates, subsidiaries, affiliates, doing business as entities ("DBAs"), successor companies, and their respective officers, directors, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, agents, and employees, and sister and parent entities, and (d) the employees, shareholders, officers, directors, members, managers, equity owners, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors and assigns of any of the entities identified in subsection (a) and (c), above (collectively "Releasees"). IFSC also, 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 Jocott and the Releasees.

##### **5.2 Jocott's Release of IFSC**

Jocott, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against IFSC, her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by IFSC and/or her attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter or with respect to 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 Notice and relating to the Products will develop or be discovered. IFSC on behalf of itself only, on one hand, and Jocott, 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 thereof. 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 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.

IFSC and Jocott each acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code § 1542.

### **5.4 Unaware of any Claims**

To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, Claimants' Counsel Cliffwood Law Firm PC represents and warrants on behalf of themselves, their law firms and all other lawyers co-advicing on this matter that except for the Claimants, that they: (i) have not been retained by any other individual or entity with any perceived claim against Respondent, individual or entity who has or may have a claim against Respondent; (iii) are unaware of, and have not been informed of, any other individual, plaintiff, class member, entity, or attorney that intends to bring a claim against Respondent including, but not limited to, any claim regarding Respondent's websites and/or any claim based on the subject matter alleged by Claimants and (iv) have no present intention to solicit others to initiate claims against Respondent.

## **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 Jocott shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

## **7. 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) electronic mail; or (ii) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

**For Jocott:**

Jennifer M. Oliver Esq.  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney LLP  
One America Plaza Suite 1100  
600 W. Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**For Initiative for Safer Cosmetics:**

Elham Shabatian Esq.  
Cliffwood Law Firm, PC  
12100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Any party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other party a change of address or electronic mail to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

**8. 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.

**9. 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

**10. MODIFICATION**

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

**11. 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:

Initiative for Safer Cosmetics

Date: October , 2024  
**10/30/2024**

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: *JEKI YANGZOM, DIRECTOR*

Title:

Jocott Brands International, Inc. and Jocott Brands, Inc.

Date: October 30, 2024


Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: **Joseph J. Millin**

Title: **CEO**

Cliffwood Law Firm, PC (as to paragraph 5.4)

Date: October \_\_, 2024  
**10/30/2024**

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: **Elham Shabatian**

Title: **Attorney**