

# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Peter Englander and Amini Innovation Corp.

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Peter Englander (“Englander”) and Amini Innovation Corp. (“Amini”), with Englander and Amini collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Englander is an individual residing in the State of California who asserts that he seeks to promote awareness of exposure to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Amini employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

### 1.2 General Allegations

Englander alleges that Amini has manufactured, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale in the State of California vinyl/PVC benches containing the phthalate chemical di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”) without the requisite Proposition 65 health hazard warnings. DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

### 1.3 Product Description

The products that are covered by this Settlement Agreement are vinyl/PVC benches containing DEHP specifically limited to the *Discoveries Accents by Michael Amini Bench, Item No. ACF-OCC-BNCH-04 (#8 82945 25907 7)*, manufactured, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale in California by Amini, hereinafter referred to as the “Products.”

### 1.4 Notice of Violation

On or about January 24, 2013, Englander served Amini and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”)

that provided the recipients with notice of alleged violations of Proposition 65 by Amini for failing to warn its customers and consumers in California that the Products it sold exposed users to DEHP. 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**

Amini denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that all of the products that it has 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 Amini of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Amini of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Amini. However, this Section shall not diminish or otherwise affect Amini'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 November 15, 2013.

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

**2.1 Reformulation Commitment**

As of the Effective Date, Amini shall only manufacture, cause to be manufactured, import or cause to be imported Products for sale or use in the State of California that are "Reformulated Products" or that comply with the warnings commitment found in Section 2.2 below. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, "Reformulated Products" shall mean Products containing less than or equal to 1,000 parts per million (0.1%) DEHP when analyzed pursuant to EPA testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C.

## **2.2 Warnings Commitment**

Commencing on the Effective Date, Amini shall, for all Products other than Reformulated Products, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale in the State of California provide clear and reasonable warnings as set forth in subsections 2.2(a) and (b). Each warning shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions before purchase or use. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user understands to which *specific* Product the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion.

### **(a) Retail Store Sales.**

**(i) Product Labeling.** Amini shall affix a warning to the packaging, labeling, or directly on each Product sold in retail outlets in California by Amini or any person selling the Products, that states:

**WARNING:** This product contains chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

**(ii) Point-of-Sale Warnings.** Alternatively, Amini may provide warning signs in the form below to its customers in California with instructions to post the warnings in close proximity to the point of display of the Products. Such instruction sent to Amini's customers shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

**WARNING:** This product contains chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Where more than one Product is sold in proximity to other like items or to those that do not require a warning (*e.g.*, Reformulated Products as defined in Section 2.1), the following statement shall be used:<sup>1</sup>

**WARNING:** The following products contain chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm:  
*[list products for which warning is required]*

**(b) Mail Order Catalog and Internet Sales.** In the event that Amini sells Products via mail order catalog and/or the internet to customers located in California, after the Effective Date, that are not Reformulated Products, Amini shall provide warnings for such Products. Warnings given in the mail order catalog or on the internet shall identify the *specific* Product to which the warning applies as further specified in Sections 2.2(b)(i) and (ii).

**(i) Mail Order Catalog Warning.** Any warning provided in a mail order catalog shall be in the same type size or larger than the Product description text within the catalog. The following warning shall be provided on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the Product:

**WARNING:** This product contains chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Where it is impracticable to provide the warning on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the Product, Amini may utilize a designated symbol to cross reference the applicable warning and shall define the term

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the Settlement Agreement, “sold in proximity” shall mean that the Product and another similar product are offered for sale close enough to each other that the consumer, under customary conditions of purchase, could not reasonably determine which of the two products is subject to the warning sign.

“designated symbol” with the following language on the inside of the front cover of the catalog or on the same page as any order form for the Product(s):

**WARNING:** Certain products identified with this symbol ▼ and offered for sale in this catalog contain chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

The designated symbol must appear on the same page and in close proximity to the display and/or description of the Product. On each page where the designated symbol appears, Amini must provide a header or footer directing the consumer to the warning language and definition of the designated symbol.

(ii) **Internet Website Warning.** A warning shall be given in conjunction with the sale of the Products via the internet, which warning shall appear either: (a) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed; (b) on the same web page as the order form for a Product; (c) on the same page as the price for any Product; or (d) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser during the checkout process. The following warning statement shall be used and shall appear in any of the above instances adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, or price of the Product for which it is given in the same type size or larger than the Product description text:

**WARNING:** This product contains chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Alternatively, the designated symbol may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, or price of the Product for which a warning is being given, provided that the following warning statement also appears elsewhere on the same web page, as follows:

**WARNING:** Products identified on this page with the following symbol ▼ contain chemicals, including DEHP, known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

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

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Amini shall pay a total of \$4,500 in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. Each 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 Englander, as follows:

**3.1 Initial Civil Penalty**

Amini shall pay an initial civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 on or before the Effective Date. Amini shall issue two separate checks to: (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$750; and (b) “The Chanler Group in Trust for Peter Englander” in the amount of \$250. All penalty payments shall be delivered to the addresses listed in Section 3.3 below.

**3.2 Final Civil Penalty**

Amini shall pay a final civil penalty of \$3,500 on or before December 15, 2013. The final civil penalty shall be waived in its entirety, however, if, no later than December 1, 2013, an officer of Amini provides Englander with written certification that, as of the date of such certification and continuing into the future, Amini has met the reformulation standard specified in Section 2.1 above, such that all Products manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale in California by Amini are Reformulated Products. The certification in lieu of a final civil penalty payment provided by this Section is a material term, and time is of the essence. Amini shall issue two separate checks for its final civil penalty payments to: (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$2,625; and (b) “The Chanler Group in Trust for Peter Englander” in the amount of \$875.

**3.3 Payment Procedures**

**3.3.1 Issuance of Payments.** Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(a) All payments owed to Englander, pursuant to Sections 3.1 through 3.2, shall be delivered to the following payment address:

The Chanler Group  
Attn: Proposition 65 Controller  
2560 Ninth Street  
Parker Plaza, Suite 214  
Berkeley, CA 94710

(b) All payments owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486), pursuant to Sections 3.1 through 3.2, 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

With a copy of the checks payable to OEHHA mailed to The Chanler Group at the address set forth above in 3.3.1(a), as proof of payment to OEHHA.

**3.3.2 Issuance of 1099 Forms.** After each penalty payment, Amini shall issue separate 1099 forms for each payment to Englander, whose address and tax identification number shall be furnished upon request after this Settlement Agreement has been fully executed by the Parties, and OEHHA at the addresses listed in Section 3.3.1 above.

**3.3.3 Representation.** Amini represents that the sales data and other information concerning its size, knowledge of DEHP, and prior reformulation and/or warning efforts, it provided to Englander was truthful to its knowledge and a material factor upon which Englander has relied to determine the amount of civil penalties assessed pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7 in this Settlement Agreement. If,

within nine months of the Effective Date, Englander discovers and presents to Amini, evidence demonstrating that the preceding representation and warranty was materially inaccurate, then Amini shall have 30 days to meet and confer regarding Englander's contention. Should this 30 day period pass without any such resolution between the Parties, Englander shall be entitled to file a formal legal claim including, but not limited to, a claim for damages for breach of contract.

**4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS**

The Parties acknowledge that Englander 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 agreement had been settled. Englander 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 Englander 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 agreement. Amini shall pay \$11,500 for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Amini's attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Amini shall issue a separate 1099 for fees and costs (EIN: 94-3171522), shall make the check payable to "The Chanler Group" and shall deliver payment on or before the Effective Date, to the address listed in Section 3.3.1 above.

**5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

**5.1 Release**

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Englander and Amini, of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Englander on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, against Amini, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities that are under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, and



each entity to whom Amini directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products, including but not limited to downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, licensors, and licensees (“Releasees”), based on their failure to warn about alleged exposures to DEHP contained in the Products that were manufactured, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Amini in California before the Effective Date.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, Englander on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives all his rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims that he may have, 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, but exclusive of fees and costs on appeal -- limited to and arising under Proposition 65 with respect to DEHP in the Products manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Amini before the Effective Date (collectively “claims”), against Amini and Releasees.

## **5.2 Amini’s Release of Englander**

Amini on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Englander, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Englander and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter with respect to the Products.

## **6. POST EXECUTION ACTIVITIES**

Within twelve months of the execution of this Settlement Agreement Amini may ask Englander, in writing, to file a complaint, incorporate the terms of this Settlement

Agreement into a proposed consent judgment and seek the court's approval of the consent judgment pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7, or as may be otherwise allowed by law. If requested, Englander agrees to reasonably cooperate with Amini and to use best efforts and that of his counsel to support the entry of a consent judgment incorporating the terms of this Settlement Agreement for approval by a superior court in California. Pursuant to CCP §§ 1021 and 1021.5, Amini will reimburse Englander and his counsel for their reasonable fees and costs incurred in filing the complaint, converting the Settlement Agreement into a proposed consent judgment and seeking judicial approval of the consent judgment in an amount not to exceed \$16,000, exclusive of fees and cost that may be incurred on appeal. Amini will remit payment to The Chanler Group, at the address set forth in Section 3.3.1 above. Such additional fees shall be paid by Amini within ten days after its receipt of monthly invoices from Englander for work performed under this paragraph.

**7. 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.

**8. 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 Amini may provide written notice to Englander 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, the Products are so affected.

**9. 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: (a) first-class, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (b) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

To Amini:

Michael Amini, President  
Amini Innovation Corp.  
8725 Rex Road  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

To Englander:

Proposition 65 Coordinator  
The Chanler Group  
2560 Ninth Street  
Parker Plaza, Suite 214  
Berkeley, CA 94710-2565

With Copy to:

Sidney Mendlovitz  
Law Offices of Mendlovitz & Sanchez  
4010 Watson Plaza Drive  
Suite 100  
Lakewood, CA 90712

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.

**10. 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. A facsimile or pdf signature shall be as valid as the original.

**11. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)**

Englander and his attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

**12. MODIFICATION**

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

**13. AUTHORIZATION**

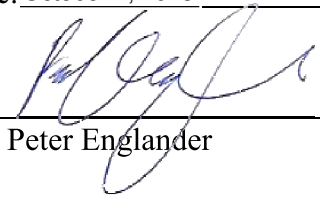
The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: October 7, 2013

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

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Englander

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Amini, President  
Amini Innovation Corp.

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.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

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

Date: OCT. 28, 2013

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

By: 

Peter Englander

Michael Amini, President  
Amini Innovation Corp.