

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Paul Wozniak and LF USA Inc.

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Paul Wozniak (“Wozniak”) and Homestead International Group LTD and GBG USA Inc. (formerly known as “LF USA Inc.”) (collectively here, “Homestead”), with Wozniak and Homestead collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Wozniak is an individual residing in California who seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Homestead 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 §§ 25249.5 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

Wozniak alleges that Homestead has manufactured, imported, distributed and/or sold in the State of California glass jars with exterior designs containing lead. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

1.3 Product Description

The products that are covered by this Settlement Agreement are defined as glass jars with exterior designs containing lead including, but not limited to, *Retro Glass Jars Desk Set, #053 24 0304, UPC #7 66195 27778 7*, which are manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Homestead in the State of California, hereinafter the “Products.”

1.4 Notice of Violation

On March 26, 2014, Wozniak served Homestead and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”) that provided the recipients with notice that Homestead was in violation of California Health & Safety Code §

25249.6 for failing to warn consumers that the Products exposed users in California to lead. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Homestead denies the material, factual and legal allegations contained in Wozniak's Notice and maintains that all 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 Homestead 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 Homestead of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean December 22, 2014.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION AND WARNINGS

2.1 Reformulation Standards

Reformulated Products are defined as those Products containing a maximum of 100 parts per million of lead by weight in any accessible component (i.e., any component that can be touched or handled during reasonably a foreseeable use) when analyzed pursuant to Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3050B and/or 6010B, and that yield a result of less than 1.0 micrograms of lead when analyzed pursuant to the NIOSH 9100 testing protocol.

2.2 Reformulation Commitment

As of the Effective Date, Homestead shall not manufacture, import, distribute, sell or offer the Products for sale in the State of California unless they are Reformulated Products pursuant to Section 2.1 above, or shall carry the Proposition 65 warnings specified in Section 2.3 below.

2.3 Product Warnings

By no later than the Effective Date, Homestead shall cause to have been removed from its California retailers' shelves any Products that do not qualify as Reformulated Products.

Nonetheless, commencing on the Effective Date, Homestead shall provide clear and reasonable warnings for all Products as set forth in subsections 2.3(a) and (b) for all products, if any, still on its California retailers' shelves that do not qualify as Reformulated Products. 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.** Homestead shall affix a warning to the packaging, labeling, or directly on each Product provided for sale in retail outlets in California that states:

WARNING: This product contains lead, a chemical
 known to the State of California to cause birth defects
 and other reproductive harm.

(ii) **Point-of-Sale Warnings.** Alternatively, Homestead 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 Homestead's customers shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

WARNING: This product contains lead, a chemical
 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:¹

WARNING: The following products contain lead, a chemical, 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 Homestead sells Products via mail order catalog and/or the internet, to customers located in California, after the Effective Date, that are not Reformulated Products, Homestead shall provide warnings for such Products sold via mail order catalog or the internet to California residents. 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 2.3(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 lead, a chemical 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, Homestead may utilize a designated symbol to cross reference the applicable warning and shall define the term “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):

¹For 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.

WARNING: Certain products identified with this symbol ▼ and offered for sale in this catalog contain lead, a chemical 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, Homestead 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 any Products that do not qualify as Reformulated 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 lead, a chemical 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: This product contains lead, a chemical 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, Homestead shall pay a total of \$17,000 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 Wozniak, as follows:

3.1 Initial Civil Penalty

Homestead shall pay an initial civil penalty in the amount of \$6,000 on or before the Effective Date. Homestead shall issue two separate checks to: (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$4,500; and (b) "Paul Wozniak, Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$1,500. All penalty payments shall be delivered to the addresses listed in Section 3.3 below.

3.2 Final Civil Penalty

Homestead shall pay a final civil penalty of \$11,000 on or before March 1, 2015. The final civil penalty shall be waived in its entirety, however, if, no later than February 15, 2015, an officer of Homestead provides Wozniak with written certification that, as of the date of such certification and continuing into the future, Homestead has met the reformulation standard specified in Section 2.1 above, such that all Products manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and offered for sale in California by Homestead are Reformulated Products. Wozniak must receive any such certification on or before February 15, 2015. The certification in lieu of a final civil penalty payment provided by this Section is a material term, and time is of the essence. Homestead shall issue two separate checks for its final civil penalty payments to: (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$8,250; and (b) "Paul Wozniak, Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$2,750.

3.3 Payment Procedures

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

- (a) All payments owed to Wozniak, 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, 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.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The parties acknowledge that Wozniak 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. Wozniak 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 Wozniak 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. Homestead shall pay \$22,750 for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Homestead's attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Homestead 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. RELEASES

5.1 Wozniak's Release of Homestead

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Wozniak and Homestead of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Wozniak on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, against Homestead, its parents, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, managing agents, employees, attorneys and each entity to whom Homestead directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products including, but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees (collectively, "Releasees"), based on their purported failure to warn about alleged exposures to lead contained in the Products that were manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Homestead in California before the Effective Date. This release is provided in Wozniak's individual capacity and not on behalf of the public.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, Wozniak on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives all of his rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, and releases all claims that he has or 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 lead in the Products manufactured, imported distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Homestead before the Effective Date (collectively, "claims"), against Homestead and Releasees.

5.2 Homestead's Release of Wozniak

Homestead, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Wozniak and his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could

have been taken or made) by Wozniak and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter or with respect to the Products.

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 if any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are rendered inapplicable or no longer required as a result of any such repeal or preemption or rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally as to the Products, then Homestead shall provide written notice to Wozniak 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. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be interpreted to relieve Homestead from any obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal toxics control law.

7. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and: (i) personally delivered; (ii) sent by first-class (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (iii) sent by overnight courier, to one party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Homestead:

Robert K. Smits, Esq.
Executive Vice-President & General Counsel
GBG USA Inc.
1359 Broadway, 18th Fl.
NY, NY 10018

For Wozniak:

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

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.

8. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE AND 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.

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

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

10. MODIFICATION

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

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 herein.

AGREED TO:

Date: December 15, 2014

By: 

Paul Wozniak

AGREED TO:

Date: 12-15-14

By: 

Robert K. Smits

Executive Vice-President & General Counsel
GBG USA Inc.