

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.
AND
HOWARD BERGER CO., INC.

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc (“CAG”), and Howard Berger Co., Inc. (“Howard Berger”) (collectively, the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement” or “Agreement”) to settle CAG’s allegations that Howard Berger violated Proposition 65 for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation. The effective date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which it is fully executed by all Parties hereto (the “Effective Date”).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 CAG is a California-based entity that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

1.2 Howard Berger previously manufactured, sold, and/or distributed, at various times, **H.B. Smith® Tools, 57PC. Bit Driver Set, Item No. 79957**, (referred to throughout as the “Covered Product”).

1.3 CAG alleges that the Covered Product contains Lead and that Howard Berger did not provide a required warning in compliance with the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (*Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5, *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”)) with respect to the sale of such Product in

California. On February 27, 1987, the Governor of California added lead to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, developmental, female, and male, and on October 1, 1992, the Governor added lead and lead compounds to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer. Both additions took place more than twenty (20) months before CAG served its “Sixty-Day Notice of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” which is further described below. Lead is referred to hereafter as the “Listed Chemical.”

1.4 On or about May 26, 2011, CAG served Howard Berger, Ross Dress For Less, Inc., Ross Stores, Inc., and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with a document dated May 24, 2011 and entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” (“Notice”). The Notice alleged that Howard Berger violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of the Covered Product exposes persons to the Listed Chemical.

1.5 The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between the Parties as set forth below concerning the Parties’ and the Covered Product’s compliance with Proposition 65 (the “Dispute”).

1.6 By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties do not admit any facts or conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, any facts or conclusions of law regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact,

conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by Howard Berger, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries or affiliated corporations, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that CAG or Howard Berger may have against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Dispute or claims released herein.

2.0 Release

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between CAG, on the one hand, and (a) Howard Berger and its owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (collectively “Releasees”) and (b) all entities to whom Releasees directly or indirectly provide, distribute or sell the Covered Product, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers (including without limitation Ross Dress for Less, Inc., and Ross Stores, Inc.), franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees, including each of their respective owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (“Downstream Releasees”), on the other hand, of any violation or claimed violation of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been asserted against the

Releasees and Downstream Releasees individually regarding exposing persons to the Listed Chemical and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemical arising only in connection with the Covered Product manufactured, shipped and/or otherwise distributed prior to the Compliance Date (defined herein), even if sold by Downstream Releasees after the Compliance Date. Howard Berger's compliance with this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product for both Releasees and Downstream Releasees for any Covered Product distributed and/or sold by Releasees or Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date.

CAG on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Product all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, 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) (collectively "Claims"), against Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law claims that were or could have been asserted, only to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Product.

It is intended by the Parties that the releases provided in this Paragraph 2.0 (the "Releases") shall prevent CAG from asserting any Claims against Releasees and/or

Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law, to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product.

CAG 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 Releasees and Downstream Releasees arising under Proposition 65, only to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product, and the failure to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Product sold by Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees through the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement. CAG acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

CAG, in its individual capacity only and *not* in its representative capacity, 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 Civil Code § 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.

3.0 Howard Berger's Duties

3.1 Howard Berger agrees, promises, and represents that by the sixtieth day after the effective date of this Agreement (the "Compliance Date"), it will cease sale of the Covered Product in California, unless the Covered Product is reformulated to a point where the level of Lead in the Covered Product is no more than 100 parts per million ("Reformulated Product").

4.0 Payments

4.1 Within ten business (10) days after the execution of the agreement, Howard Berger shall pay a total of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) by separate checks apportioned as follows:

4.1.1. Payment to CAG: Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) shall be paid to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

4.1.2. Attorneys' Fees and Costs: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) of such payment shall be paid to Yeroushalmi & Associates, as CAG's attorneys, for reasonable investigation fees and costs, attorneys' fees, and any other costs incurred as a result of investigating, and bringing this matter to Howard Berger's attention. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

4.1.3. Penalty: Howard Berger shall issue two separate checks for a total amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) as penalties pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.12: (a) one check made payable to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the amount of \$750, representing 75% of the total penalty; and (b) one check to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. in the amount of \$250, representing 25% of the total penalty. Two separate 1099s shall be issued for the above payments: The first 1099 shall be issued to OEHHA, P.O. Box 4010, Sacramento, CA 95184 (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$750. The second 1099 shall be issued in the amount of \$250 to CAG and delivered to: Yeroushalmi & Associates, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

5.0 Authority to Enter Into Settlement Agreement

5.1 CAG represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind CAG to this Settlement Agreement.

5.2 Howard Berger represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind Howard Berger to this Settlement Agreement.

6.0 Report of the Settlement Agreement to the Office of the Attorney General Of California

6.1 CAG shall report this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General's Office within five (5) days of the Parties' execution of this Settlement Agreement.

7.0 Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile

7.1 This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature shall be as valid as the original.

8.0 Entire Agreement

8.1 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 any of the Parties.

9.0 Modification of Settlement Agreement

9.1 Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.

10.0 Application of Settlement Agreement

10.1 This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the CAG and the Releasees and Downstream Releasees identified in Section 2.0 above.

11.0 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

11.1 Any party may file suit before the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in paragraphs 11.2 and 11.3 of this Settlement Agreement, to enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Settlement Agreement. The prevailing party shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with such enforcement.

11.2 No action to enforce this Settlement Agreement may be commenced or maintained, and no notice of violation related to the Covered Product may be served or filed against Howard Berger by CAG, unless the party seeking enforcement or alleging violation notifies the other party of the specific future acts alleged to breach this Settlement Agreement at least 90 days before serving or filing any action or Notice of Violation and the entity receiving the notice fails to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 11.3 below. Any notice to Howard Berger must contain (a) the name of the product, (b) specific dates when the product was sold after the Effective Date in California without either reformulation or a Proposition 65 compliant warning, (c) the store or other place at which the product was available for sale to consumers, and (d) any other evidence or other support for the allegations in the notice.

11.3 Within 30 days of receiving the notice described in Section 11.2, Howard Berger shall either (1) withdraw the product for sale to the public, or (2) refute the information provided under Section 11.2. Should the parties be unable to resolve the dispute, any party may seek relief under Section 11.1.

12.0 Notification Requirements

12.1 Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective only if given in writing and delivered in person, certified or registered mail return receipt requested, or traceable overnight delivery service, to the following designees:

For CAG:

Reuben Yeroushalmi
YERUSHALMI & ASSOCIATES
9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610 E
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Fax: 310.623.1926

For Howard Berger:

Joshua A. Bloom
BARG COFFIN LEWIS & TRAPP, LLP
350 California Street, 22nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104-1435
Fax: 415.228.5450

Any party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing written notice of such change pursuant to this section.

13.0 SEVERABILITY

13.1 If, subsequent to the execution of this Agreement, any of the provisions of this Agreement are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected;

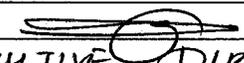
14.0 GOVERNING LAW

14.1 The terms of this 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, preempted or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Listed Chemical and/or the Covered Product, then Howard

Berger shall provide written notice to CAG of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: 1-12-12

By: MICHAEL SASSOON
Name: 
Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOWARD BERGER CO., INC.

Dated: _____

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Berger shall provide written notice to CAG of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

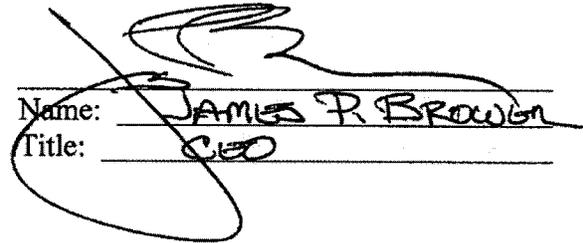
CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: _____

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

HOWARD BERGER CO., INC.

Dated: 13-Jan-2012

By: 
Name: JAMES R BROWN
Title: CEO