

DOCKETED

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement and Release (Agreement) is entered into between the California Energy Commission (CEC), with its principal office at 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and The Home Budget Houseware, Inc. (HBHI), with a place of business at 8112 Winston Street, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, V5A 2H5, collectively referred to as the Parties.

I. RECITALS

(1) CEC's Appliance Efficiency Regulations at California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Article 4, sections 1601-1609 (Appliance Efficiency Regulations),¹ set forth the requirements to sell or offer for sale regulated appliances in California. The pertinent requirements include:

- Testing: The appliance is tested as required in section 1603, using the applicable test method set forth in section 1604.
- Efficiency: The appliance meets the required efficiency standards set forth in sections 1605.2 or 1605.3.
- Marking: The appliance is correctly marked and labeled as required under section 1607.
- Certification: The appliance is certified to CEC and appears in CEC's most recent Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System (MAEDbS) as required under section 1606.

(2) CEC's enforcement authority includes the removal of non-compliant appliances from MAEDbS, as set forth in section 1608, and the issuance of administrative civil penalties under section 1609.

(3) HBHI sells several models of Blue Ocean showerheads, showerhead panels, and range hoods that it sells or offers for sale in California, either directly or through retailers or distributors.

(4) HBHI showerheads, showerhead panels, and range hoods are subject to the testing, marking, and certification requirements for this appliance class as described in paragraph I(1) above. Showerheads and showerhead panels are also subject to efficiency requirements.

(5) From July 2015 to February 2019, HBHI sold or offered for sale through retailers or distributors showerheads, showerhead panels, and range hoods in California, that were not listed in MAEDbS as required in section 1606, were not tested using the appropriate test method as required in section 1604, did not meet the efficiency standards set forth in section 1605.3(h)(5), and were not marked as required in section 1607.

(6) Based on the above Recitals, CEC, through adjudication, could impose penalties for each violation alleged, obtain injunctive relief to prohibit HBHI from continuing to sell or offer for sale, non-compliant showerheads, showerhead panels and range hoods in California, and take any other

¹ All references are to California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Article 4, unless otherwise specified.

enforcement action as allowed by law.

(7) Section 1609(b)(3) and California Public Resources Code section 25402.11(a)(2) identify the following factors CEC shall consider when determining the amount of an administrative civil penalty:

- The nature and seriousness of the violation.
- The persistence of the violation, meaning a responsible person's history of past violations of the Appliance Efficiency Regulations over the previous seven years.
- The number of violations arising from the course of conduct that is subject of the enforcement proceeding.
- The length of time over which the violation occurred.
- The willfulness of the persons responsible for the violation.
- The harm to consumers and to the state that resulted from the amount of energy wasted due to the violation.
- The number of persons responsible for the violation.
- The efforts of the persons responsible for the violation to correct the violation prior to initiation of an enforcement action by CEC.
- The cooperation, by the persons responsible for the violation, with CEC during its investigation.
- The assets, liabilities, and net worth of the persons responsible for the violation. This information will be considered to reduce the administrative civil penalty amount, should a responsible person or persons elect to provide asset, liability, and net worth documentation to the Executive Director to demonstrate that a reduction in a penalty amount is necessary to avoid an undue burden.

(8) Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to deter violations. In developing this Agreement CEC considered the facts of the case and applied the above factors to determine an appropriate settlement. Further, in this case HBHI cooperated with CEC in the investigation by redesigning their products; notifying retailers and removing the non-compliant units from the California market; and, by providing to CEC sales data of non-compliant units. The efforts by HBHI saved CEC time and resources in investigating the violations and minimized the impacts on the competitive business environment and energy consumption and the environment in California, from the non-compliant units.

(9) HBHI is willing to enter into this Agreement solely for the purpose of settlement and resolution of this matter with CEC. CEC accepts this Agreement in termination of this matter. Accordingly, the Parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for adjudication.

II. TERMS AND RELEASE

In consideration of the Recitals listed above which are incorporated into this section by reference, and the mutual agreements set forth below, CEC and HBHI agree as follows:

- (1) This Agreement covers the HBHI showerhead, showerhead panel, and range hood models identified in Attachment A.
- (2) For selling or offering for sale in California, showerheads, showerhead panels, and range hoods identified in paragraph I(5), whose model numbers are identified in Attachment A that were not tested using the appropriate test method as required in section 1604, did not meet the energy efficiency standards prescribed by section 1605.3, were not certified to MAEDbS as required by section 1606, and were not marked per section 1607, and, in consideration of the factors listed in paragraph I(7) and I(8) above, HBHI shall pay as an administrative civil penalty the total sum of fifty-five thousand, two hundred forty-nine dollars (\$55,249.00) by check made payable to the California Energy Commission in six payments as shown below:

Payment Number	Due Date	Amount
1	January 1, 2020	\$9208.17
2	February 1, 2020	\$9208.17
3	March 1, 2020	\$9208.17
4	April 1, 2020	\$9208.17
5	May 1, 2020	\$9208.16
6	June 1, 2020	\$9208.16

Payments shall be made by the applicable due date, and sent with the corresponding remittance statement to the following address:

California Energy Commission
Accounting Office, MS-2
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Effect of untimely payment: If any payment is more than 15 days late, the entire remaining balance becomes immediately due and payable. In addition, if CEC takes action to enforce this Agreement, HBHI shall pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.

It is agreed that if HBHI, including its subsidiary or parent company, at any time becomes insolvent, or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or similar action adversely involving HBHI, its subsidiary, or parent company, or a proceeding or petition under any bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement of debt, insolvency, readjustment of debt, or receivership law or statute is filed by or against HBHI, its subsidiary, or parent company, or a trustee in bankruptcy, custodian, receiver or agent is appointed or authorized to take charge of any of HBHI's, its subsidiary's, or parent company's properties, or if any deposit account or other property of HBHI, its subsidiary, or parent company be attempted to be obtained or held by writ of execution, garnishment, attachment, condemnation, levy, forfeiture or other legal process, or HBHI, its subsidiary, or parent company takes any action to authorize any of the foregoing, the entire remaining balance becomes immediately due and payable without notice or demand.

(3) HBHI also agrees to take each of the following actions for any and all regulated appliance it will sell or offer for sale in California:

- a. Test all basic models, utilizing the applicable test method, to ensure conformance with the Appliance Efficiency Regulations.
- b. Certify all basic models in MAEDbS, and ensure listings are kept current and up to date.
- c. Add the required marking to the unit.
- d. HBHI will not package, mark, or provide products with instructions directing the user to an alternative water-use setting that would exceed the applicable efficiency standards. Instructions related to the maintenance of the product, including changing or cleaning showerhead components, shall direct the user on how to return the device to the flow rate provided by the applicable efficiency standard.

(4) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon HBHI and its principals, officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations, and upon CEC and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.

(5) In consideration of the payment specified above, CEC hereby releases HBHI and its parent corporation, principals, directors, officers, agents, employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from any and all claims for violations of section 1608 (efficiency, marking, certification), relating to the appliances identified in paragraph I(5), whose model numbers are identified in Attachment A.

(6) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between CEC and HBHI concerning the claims and settlement in this Agreement, and this Agreement fully supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations and agreement of any kind or nature, whether written or oral, between CEC and HBHI concerning these claims.

(7) No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or

any portion thereof, shall be valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all Parties to this Agreement.

(8) HBHI further agrees that if the subject matter of this Agreement comes before CEC in an administrative adjudication, neither any member of CEC, nor the Executive Director, shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Agreement.

(9) Each Party to this Agreement has reviewed the Agreement independently, has had the opportunity to consult counsel, is fully informed of the terms and effect of this Agreement, and has not relied in any way on any inducement, representation, or advice of any other Party in deciding to enter into this Agreement.

(10) This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to California's choice of law rules. Any litigation arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be filed in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.

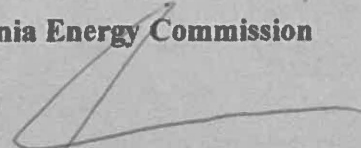
(11) Each provision of this Agreement is severable, and in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement remains in full force and effect.

(12) The failure of any Party to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision, nor prevent such Party thereafter from enforcing such provision or any other provision of this Agreement.

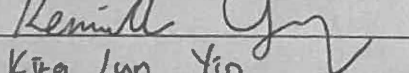
(13) This Agreement is deemed to have been drafted equally by the Parties; it will not be interpreted for or against either Party on the ground that said Party drafted it.

(14) This Agreement is effective upon signature by a representative of HBHI with authority to bind the company, and signature by the Executive Director of CEC. The Parties agree that fax or scanned signatures and multiple signature pages are acceptable for purposes of executing this Agreement, which may be signed in counterparts.

California Energy Commission

By: 
Name: Drew Bohan
Title: Executive Director
Date: 12-30-19

The Home Budget Houseware, Inc.

By: 
Name: King Lun Yip
Title: Director
Date: Dec 30th, 2019

Attachment A

Showerheads and Showerhead Panels		Residential Exhaust Fans (Range Hoods)
SPA392M	SP824322	RH02I
SPV878392H	SH6023	RH668I
SPS8727	SPS7Z53W	RH76PHUC
SP822322	SPS8863	RHKQ2
SP787392B	SC5316	RH10I
SPS8801	SPW8311	RH76UC
SPS851	SPS7Z53W	RHKC
SPV962332	SPS392H-L	RH319
SPS8852	SHK08	RH76TUC
SPA33D	SPS8729	RH2790
SPS8819	SPS8890	RH190
SPS8879	SPS7Z53	RH2790
SPA331B	SHK09	RHL01I
SPA708		
SPS88991		
SH6021A		
SPA392R		
SPA8659		
SPA351D		