

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (Agreement) is entered into by and between the California Air Resources Board (ARB), with its principal office at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California, and T.A. Emerald Industries with its principal place of business at 1580 East Edinger Avenue, Suite K, Santa Ana, California.

### RECITALS

1. ARB alleges that from November 2009 to December 2012, T.A. Emerald Industries sold, supplied, and offered for sale in California their Performance Plus 3 and Puretronics Contact Cleaner & Lubricant products subject to the volatile organic compound (VOC) limit for Electronic Cleaners and their Dynamite Nitro Force product subject to the VOC limit for General Purpose Degreasers, title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 94509(a).
2. ARB alleges that the T.A. Emerald Industries Performance Plus 3 and Puretronics Contact Cleaner & Lubricant products referenced in recital paragraph 1 contained concentrations of VOCs exceeding the 75 percent VOC limit for Electronic Cleaners and the Dynamite Nitro Force referenced in recital paragraph 1 contained concentrations of VOCs exceeding the 10 percent VOC limit for aerosol General Purpose Degreasers specified in title 17, CCR, section 94509(a).
3. ARB alleges that if the allegations described in recital paragraphs 1 and 2 were proven, civil penalties could be imposed against T.A. Emerald Industries as provided in Health and Safety Code sections 42402 et seq. for each and every unit involved in the violations.
4. T.A. Emerald Industries admits the violations described in recital paragraphs 1 and 2, but denies any liability resulting from them.
5. The parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for formal litigation.

Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. T.A. Emerald Industries shall not sell, supply or offer for sale for use in California any consumer product in violation of ARB's Consumer Products Regulations set forth in title 17, CCR, Section 94500 et seq. however, the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement will remain valid and enforceable notwithstanding any future violations that may occur.

2. T.A. Emerald Industries in settlement of the above-described violation agrees to pay a penalty to ARB in the amount of \$9,000.00 payable to the California Air Pollution Control Fund, concurrent with the execution of this Agreement.
3. This settlement shall apply to and be binding upon T.A. Emerald Industries and its officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations and upon ARB and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this settlement.
4. The parties stipulate that this Agreement shall be the final resolution of ARB's claims regarding the above-described violations and shall have the same res judicata effect as a judgment in terms of acting as bar to any civil action by ARB against T.A. Emerald Industries LLC, its officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations. This Agreement shall be deemed the recovery of civil penalties for purposes of precluding subsequent criminal action as provided in Health and Safety Code section 42400.7(a).
5. 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.
6. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and T.A. Emerald Industries 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 the ARB and T.A. Emerald Industries 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. Each of the undersigned represents and warrants that he or she has full power and authority to enter into this Agreement.
9. **SB 1402 Statement.** California Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 39619.7 (Senate Bill 1402 - Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010) requires ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks. This Settlement Agreement includes this information, which is also summarized here.

**The provision of law the penalty is being assessed under and why that provision is most appropriate for that violation.**

The penalty provisions being applied in this case is HSC section 42402, et seq. because T.A. Emerald Industries sold, supplied, offered for sale, or

manufactured for sale consumer products for commerce in California in violation of ARB's Consumer Product Regulations Title 17 CCR 94500, et seq.

**The manner in which the penalty amount was determined, including aggravating and mitigating factors and per unit or per vehicle basis for the penalty.**

Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to discourage violations. ARB considered all relevant circumstances in determining penalties, including the eight factors specified in HSC section 42403.

Under HSC section 42402, et seq. the penalties for strict liability violations of the Consumer Product Regulations are a maximum of \$1,000 per day of violation, with each day being a separate violation. In cases like this one involving unintentional first time violations of the Consumer Products Regulations, the ARB has sought and obtained penalties of approximately \$17,000 per ton of excess emissions of VOC's attributable to the violation. This represents an average cost to retire a ton of volatile organic compound emission credits and reformulate a product to comply with the Consumer Product Regulations. However, in similar cases with documented severe financial hardship, ARB has obtained penalties that reflect that the violations for each product occurred on at least three days (the day the product was purchased by ARB, the day it was supplied to the retailer, and the day it was manufactured for sale). In this case the total penalty is \$9,000.00, which is a \$3,000.00 penalty for each the three non-compliant products sold in California. The penalty in this case was based on documented severe financial hardship rather than an excess emission calculation. In addition, T.A. Emerald Industries cooperated fully with the investigation and had no prior violations. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per ton basis.

**Is the penalty being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollution at a specified level, and, if so a quantification of excess emissions, if it is practicable to do so.**

The Consumer Product Regulations do not prohibit emissions above a specific level, but they do limit the concentration of VOCs in regulated products. The penalty in this case was based on documented severe financial hardship and the fact that this was a first time violation and rather than an excess emission calculation.

10. T.A. Emerald Industries acknowledges that ARB has complied with SB1402 in investigating and settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC section 42403, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated, has identified the

provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed and has considered and determined that while this penalty is not being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level, it is practicable for ARB to quantify the excess emissions from the alleged violations, has done so and has included this information in this Settlement Agreement.

11. Final penalties were determined based on the unique circumstances of this matter, considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the goal of deterring future violations and obtaining swift compliance, the consideration of past penalties in similar negotiated cases, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. The penalty reflects violations extending over a number of days resulting in quantifiable harm to the environment considered together with the complete circumstances of this case listed above. The penalty was reduced because T.A. Emerald Industries documented severe financial hardship. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per ton basis.
12. The final penalty in this case was based in part on confidential business information provided by T.A. Emerald Industries that is not retained by ARB in the ordinary course of business. The penalty in this case was also based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and T.A. Emerald Industries that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty also reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against T.A. Emerald Industries, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that T.A. Emerald Industries may have secured from its actions.

**CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

Dated: 6/5/13

By: 

James R. Ryden, Chief  
Enforcement Division

**T.A. EMERALD INDUSTRIES**

Dated: 5-27-13

By: 

Troy Emerald, Owner