

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO ex rel.)	
ATTORNEY GENERAL)	
DAVE YOST)	Case No:
30 E. Broad St., 14 th Floor)	
Columbus, Ohio 43215)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR
)	DECLARATORY JUDGMENT,
VALL ILIEV)	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, CONSUMER
4323 Lorwood Drive)	RESTITUTION, CIVIL PENALTIES,
Stow, OH 44244)	AND OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF
)	
and)	
)	
VALLMAR STUDIOS, LLC)	
1100 Campus Dr., Suite 200)	
Stow, OH 44224)	
)	
and)	
)	
SHOTSTOP BALLISTICS LLC)	
1100 Campus Dr., Suites 200, 300)	
Stow, OH 44224)	
)	
Defendants.)	

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff, State of Ohio, by and through its counsel, the Attorney General of Ohio, Dave Yost, having reasonable cause to believe that violations of Ohio's consumer protection laws have occurred, brings this action in the public interest and on behalf of the State of Ohio under the authority vested in him by Consumer Sales Practices Act, ("CSPA"), R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*
2. The actions of Vall Iliev, Vallmar Studios, LLC, and ShotStop Ballistics LLC ("Defendants"), have occurred in Summit and other counties in the State of Ohio and, as set forth below, are in violation of the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*, and its Substantive Rules, Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-01 *et seq.*
3. Jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action lies with this Court pursuant to R.C. 1345.04 of the CSPA.
4. This Court has venue to hear this case pursuant to Ohio Civ. R. 3(C)(1), (3), and (6), in that Defendants are located in Summit County, this is the county where Defendants conducted activity giving rise to the claims for relief, and this is the county in which all or part of the claims for relief arose.

DEFENDANTS

5. Defendant Vall Iliev ("Iliev") is a natural person whose last known address is 4323 Lorwood Drive, Stow, Ohio 44224.
6. Defendant Vallmar Studios, LLC ("Vallmar") is a domestic Limited Liability Company registered with the Ohio Secretary of State on October 6, 2008.
7. Defendant ShotStop Ballistics LLC ("ShotStop") was a domestic Limited Liability Company registered with the Ohio Secretary of State on March 23, 2015.

8. Defendant Iliev, at all times relevant to this action, controlled and directed the business activities and sales conduct of Defendant Vallmar causing, personally participating in, or ratifying the acts and practices of the same, including the conduct giving rise to the violations described herein.
9. Defendant Iliev, at all times relevant to this action, controlled and directed the business activities and sales conduct of Defendant ShotStop causing, personally participating in, or ratifying the acts and practices of the same, including the conduct giving rise to the violations described herein.
10. Defendants are “suppliers,” as they engaged in the business of effecting “consumer transactions” by soliciting “consumers” either directly or indirectly by soliciting and selling body armor products that were primarily for personal, family or household use, as those terms are defined in R.C. 1345.01(A), (C), and (D).
11. Each of the Defendants, acting individually, as well as collectively, have participated in a scheme to import armored plates from places outside of the State of Ohio and the United States, to falsely market the counterfeit and uncertified armored plates as manufactured in Stowe, Ohio to specifications and standards set by the United States National Institute of Justice (“NIJ”), and to sell them to consumers with the labeling and packaging of other products previously certified by the NIJ.
12. Defendant Iliev, at all times relevant to this action, exercised his control and partial ownership of Defendant Vallmar to use it as a holding company for his personal assets, as well as to perform various tasks in furtherance of the illegal acts described herein, including but not limited to receiving and falsely labeling shipments of counterfeit and uncertified armored

plates from a supplier in the People's Republic of China ("China") for purposes of having them sold by Defendant ShotStop.

13. Defendant Iliev, at all times relevant to this action, used his position as President and majority shareholder of Defendant ShotStop to conduct the marketing, sale, and shipment of armored plates he had previously purchased from his company Vallmar.

14. Although Defendants ShotStop and Vallmar are separate corporate entities, Defendant Iliev, at all times relevant to this action, used his control and partial ownership of both companies to coordinate the illegal acts giving rise to the violations described herein.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

15. Defendants engaged in the business of marketing, soliciting and selling body armor products, including bullet resistant vests and armored plates, to consumers through both online storefronts, including their own website, and physical retailers. See Figure 1 for a cropped screenshot from Defendant ShotStop's website taken on November 3, 2023.

Figure 1

Looking For The Best Body Armor Plates?

Confidence Saves Lives

When you are wearing ShotStop plates that have all the stopping power at a fraction of the weight giving you more mobility, speed and comfort, this breeds the confidence in you to safeguard the lives that you serve to protect.

Our patented Duritium® technology and processes allow our advanced body armor to be thinner, lighter, and more durable than anything else on the market. Utilizing Duritium technology often results in up to 45 percent reduction in thickness and up to 200 percent reduction in weight, compared to other body armor plates (steel, ceramic, or poly) on the market at the same protection level. This means military, law enforcement, and security personnel in the field can have the same protection level with much less bulk and weight, experiencing dramatically improved comfort and mobility.

What makes ShotStop body armor better?

- Extremely Lightweight
- Ultra-Thin/Less Bulk
- Durability/Warranty

16. In some cases, Defendants sold their products using “drop shippers,” which are online storefronts that market and sell products on behalf of a manufacturer, but do not purchase inventory from the manufacturer. Instead, drop shippers forward consumer orders to the manufacturer, which then fulfills and ships the orders directly to consumers.
17. Here, Defendants sometimes used the storefronts of several drop shipping distributors, both in the United States and in other countries, to market and sell their body armor products. Consumers would purchase the products from the distributor who would collect the payment and then forward the order to Defendants. Defendants would then ship the ordered body armor products directly to the consumer.
18. Among the products Defendants marketed, solicited and sold were lightweight body armor plates, which consisted of compressed polyethylene slabs, sometimes combined with a ceramic plate, surrounded with a foam border and housed in a painted and labeled polyester and nylon exterior. These plates are intended to be inserted into a separate enclosure, such as a wearable vest.

Manufacture and Certification of Polyethylene Armored Plates

19. The polyethylene slabs at the core of the armor plate design used by Defendants are created using heavy machinery, usually a high pressure and high temperature press, which applies high levels of pressure under extremely high temperatures to stacks of polyethylene laminate sheets, compressing them into a single, high density, bullet-resistant slab.
20. Upon information and belief, the machinery required to produce these polyethylene slabs at scale, such as a high pressure and high temperature press, costs an average of seven million dollars and requires a large floorspace to house not only the press but also separate monitoring

machinery to ensure the slabs produced by the press have been made to the desired specifications.

21. A manufacturer of armored plates may have the efficacy of their armored plates certified by the United States National Institute of Justice (“NIJ”), which allows the manufacturer to use a trademarked NIJ certification symbol and NIJ-approved description of the certification in their marketing and product labeling. See Figure 2 for a screenshot of the NIJ certification label as displayed on the official NIJ website, taken on April 28, 2025.

Figure 2



22. To obtain permission to use this symbol and description, a manufacturer must submit technical documentation to the NIJ explaining the manufacturing and finishing process for the products, submit samples of the product for testing at one of the NIJ’s three laboratories, have the performance of the samples verified by one of the laboratories and, once the previous steps have been completed successfully, conform with the NIJ’s Follow-Up Inspection and Testing (“FIT”) requirements.¹

¹ The full requirements of the NIJ’s certification process may be found at the NIJ website at: <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/equipment-and-technology/body-armor/performance-standards-and-compliance-testing>

23. To conform with NIJ's FIT requirements, a manufacturer must take steps to ensure that all products sold to consumers are of the same construction and performance quality as the samples approved by the NIJ.
24. One of the requirements of FIT is material traceability, which requires that a manufacturer of armored plates keep material traceability records which allow them to identify the origin of each component and ensure that each step of the manufacturing process is completed in exactly the same manner as described in the explanation of this process as submitted to the NIJ.
25. Once a product has been certified by the NIJ, it is added to the Compliant Product List on the NIJ website.² Consumers can search the list by manufacturer or model name to find specific products which have been certified by the NIJ.

Defendants' Business Activities

26. At some point prior to the time relevant to this Complaint, Defendants obtained NIJ certifications for various armored plate products, including multiple forms of their "Duritium III" plates.
27. At some or all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants marketed, solicited and sold their body armor products using NIJ certification symbols and descriptions of the associated certification levels in online product listings, advertisements and/or on the outer shell labeling of the armored plates themselves. See Figures 3-A and 3-B for screenshots of the Duritium III+PS Level III+ Body Armor product listing on the ShotStop website, taken on November 3, 2023.


² <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/equipment-and-technology/body-armor/ballistic-resistant-armor>

Figure 3-A


SHOP

ACCOUNT


CART1

 **SHOTSTOP**
LIFESAVING BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGIES

PLATES ▾ INSERTS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ ABOUT ▾ CONTACT

Search 

HOME > DURITIUM® III+PS - LEVEL III+ BODY ARMOR



DURITIUM® III+PS - LEVEL III+ BODY ARMOR

\$353.00

CUT

Shooter ▾


SIZE

8x10 ▾

QUANTITY

1

ADD TO CART



Product Description

Duritium® III+PS - Level III+ Body Armor Plates

Focus On What Matters

Our most affordable lightweight Level III+ body armor plate includes an industry-leading standard 15-year warranty

Protection Type/Level: Level III+

Compliance Tested: U.S. NJ Level III 0101.06, German VPAM Level 6, and NATO STANAG 2920 Level B4 tested compliant by accredited independent laboratories

Special Threat Testing: 5.56x45mm 55 grain ball (M193), 7.62x39mm PS ball (MSC), 7.62x51mm 149 grain M80 FMJ

Material Type: Duritium®

Weight (10x12 Shooter Cut): 3.2 lbs. (1.5 kg.)

Thickness (+/-0.125"): 0.95 in. (2.41 cm.)

Warranty: 15 Years

Finish: Polyurea*

Strike Face Configuration: Edge-To-Edge Duritium® Ballistic Polyethylene

Just the facts:

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION SHEET

Lab Reports:

CLICK HERE TO REQUEST BALLISTIC LAB REPORTS

Figure 3-B

Protection Type/Level: Level III+

Compliance Tested: U.S. NIJ Level III 0101.06, German VPAM Level 6, and NATO STANAG 2920 Level B4 tested compliant by accredited independent laboratories

28. At some or all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants marketed, solicited and sold their body armor products using some or all of the phrases “Made in Stow, Ohio,” “Made in the USA,” and “Manufactured in Ohio” in online product listings, advertisements and/or on the outer shell labeling of the armored plates themselves. See Figures 4-A and 4-B and Figures 5-A, -B, and -C for screenshots of both pages of the Duritium III+PS Level III+ Body Armor spec sheet on the ShotStop website, taken on November 6, 2023.

Figure 4-A



• 15-YEAR STANDARD WARRANTY •

• Ultra Light • Level III+ • Durable • Stand-Alone • Multi-Hit • Buoyancy Positive

Cut*	Size (in.)*	Size (cm)*	Weight lb.**	Weight kg**	Model #	Part #	Description
SHOOTER	8" x 10" x .95"	20.3 x 25.4 x 2.4	2.1	1.0	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-8x10SHSC	Single-Curve, Shooters Cut {SH}
	10" x 12" x .95"	25.4 x 30.5 x 2.4	3.2	1.5	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-10x12SHSC	Single-Curve, Shooters Cut {SH}
	11" x 14" x .95"	27.9 x 35.6 x 2.4	4.1	1.9	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-11x14SHSC	Single-Curve, Shooters Cut {SH}
SAPI	8" x 10" x .95"	20.3 x 25.4 x 2.4	2.2	1.0	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-8x10SESC	Single-Curve, SAPI Cut {SE}
	10" x 12" x .95"	25.4 x 30.5 x 2.4	3.4	1.5	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-10x12SESC	Single-Curve, SAPI Cut {SE}
	11" x 14" x .95"	27.9 x 35.6 x 2.4	4.3	2.0	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-11x14SESC	Single-Curve, SAPI Cut {SE}
SIDE PLATE	6" x 6" x .95"	15.2 x 15.2 x 2.4	1.0	0.5	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-6x6FSSC	Side Plate, Single Curve, Full Size Cut {FS}
	6" x 8" x .95"	15.2 x 20.3 x 2.4	1.3	0.6	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-6x8FSSC	Side Plate, Single Curve, Full Size Cut {FS}
	8" x 5" x .95"	20.3 x 12.7 x 2.4	1.1	0.5	PSIRFSC	PSIRF-8x5FSSC	Side Plate, Single Curve, Full Size Cut {FS}

* Full size and other custom cuts available upon request.

** All Duritium III+PS plate thicknesses are 0.95" ± 0.125" (2.4cm ± 0.32cm). All size (profile) dimensions are ± 0.375" (± 0.95cm).

*** All weights are ± 4% or 50 lbs. (0.23kg), whichever is greater. Specifications are subject to change at any time. Not responsible for printed errors.



MADE IN THE USA
MANUFACTURED IN OHIO



To learn more about our ballistics solutions call 800-986-0795

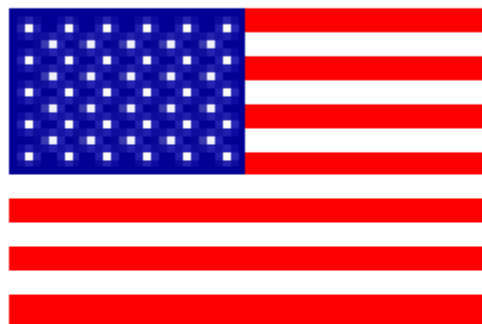
E-mail sales@shotstop.com or visit ShotStop.com

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SHOT STOP
LIFESAVING BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGIES

Figure 4-B



MADE IN THE USA
MANUFACTURED IN OHIO

Figure 5-A

DURITIUM® III+PS • MODEL PS1RF1SC

Stopping Power ★ Confidence Saves Lives

Threat Types	9mm 357 Mag 44 Mag	5.56 x 45mm 55 grain ball [M193]	7.62 x 39mm PS Ball (MSC)	7.62 x 51mm 149 grain M80 FMJ	NATO M855 (SS109) 5.56 x 45 mm, 62 grain steel core M855 A1	M2 AP 7.62 x 63mm 7.62 x 54R API B32 [BXN] "Dragunov"

= ammunition each plate will defeat

PROTECTION TYPE / LEVEL:
Level III+

CONFIGURATION:
Stand-Alone, Multi-Hit

AREAL DENSITY (WEIGHT):
426 lbs/sf
20.79 kg/m²

THICKNESS:
0.95" ± 0.125" [2.4cm ± 0.32cm]

CURVATURE:
Single Curve

MATERIAL:
Polyethylene

PROTECTIVE COVER:
Polyurea

COMPLIANCE TESTED:
U.S. NIJ Level III 0101.06
German VPAM Level 6
NATO STANAG 2920 Level B4

AVAILABLE OPTIONS:
Custom ballistic products and
solutions available upon request.

CUT OPTIONS

Full size and other custom cuts and
sizes available upon request

ShotStop Advanced Armor Limited Warranty and Use & Care:

As stated in the ShotStop Advanced Armor (SSB) Limited Warranty Statement, SSB warrants, for a period of fifteen (15) years after the date of issue, that the Soft Armor Materials, Soft and Hard Body Armor Products, and Hard Armor Solutions shall be free from defects in material and workmanship provided all products are used and maintained in accordance with SSB's Use and Care Manual.

Department of State ITAR/Department of Commerce EAR:

This data sheet is for an EXPORT CONTROLLED PRODUCT. The export of these products and technical information related to these products is governed by the U.S. Department of State International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and/or the Department of Commerce Export Administration Regulations (EAR). Non-Sales Technical Data related to these products must not be transmitted to a foreign person/entity without proper authorization of the U.S. Government. Violations may result in administrative, civil, or criminal penalties. ITAR/EAR Export Licenses and/or ITAR/EAR Brokering Licenses (as appropriate) will be required prior to submittal of any further technical information and/or shipment of samples and/or products.

ABOUT SHOTSTOP

U.S.-based ShotStop Ballistics is developing the lightest, thinnest, and strongest advanced armor technologies in the world. From body armor plates and armored vehicle protection to its innovative Ballistic Board® material and custom armor solutions, ShotStop Ballistics is leading the way in improving the protection of our police, military, special forces, SWAT, security personnel, and more. With technical expertise that spans the last 35+ years, the ShotStop team brings together engineers, Ph.D.s, chemists, product developers, and ballistic specialists to create ballistic technology that saves lives, reduces restriction, and maximizes performance. ShotStop consistently uses independent and federally accredited ballistic labs, including the Department of Defense and National Institute of Justice, to ensure ShotStop armor positions our servicemen and women with the best possible protection.

Cage: 7HKH8 | D-U-N-S: 080070249 | Patents: US9,180,623; 10,048,046; 15,335,216 | Patents Pending

800-986-0795 | sales@shotstop.com | ShotStop.com

SHOTSTOP®
LIFESAVING BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGIES™

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Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts

Figure 5-B

COMPLIANCE TESTED:
U.S. NIJ Level III 0101.06
German VPAM Level 6
NATO STANAG 2920 Level B4

Figure 5-C

ABOUT SHOTSTOP

U.S.-based ShotStop Ballistics is developing the lightest, thinnest, and strongest advanced armor technologies in the world. From body armor plates and armored vehicle protection to its innovative BallisticBoard® material and custom armor solutions, ShotStop Ballistics is leading the way in improving the protection of our police, military, special forces, S.W.A.T., security personnel, and more. With technical expertise that spans the last 35+ years, the ShotStop team brings together engineers, Ph.Ds, chemists, product developers, and ballistic specialists to create ballistic technology that saves lives, reduces restriction, and maximizes performance. ShotStop consistently uses independent and federally accredited ballistic labs, including the Department of Defense and National Institute of Justice, to ensure ShotStop armor positions our servicemen and women with the best possible protection.

29. At some or all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants marketed, solicited, and sold their body armor products with the claim that Defendants manufactured these products using their “patented Duritium technology and processes” which allowed the plates to be “thinner, lighter and more durable than anything else on the market.” See Figure 1 above.
30. At some or all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants did not manufacture, nor did they possess the means to manufacture armored plates at their offices in Stow, Ohio or at any facility in Ohio, including machinery necessary for the creation of the polyethylene slabs used in their armored plate designs.
31. Between 2017 and 2023, Defendants imported thousands of polyethylene armored plates from a manufacturer in China for purposes of resale in the United States.


32. Defendants falsely labeled the plates imported from China with the NIJ certification symbols, as well as labels carrying geographic indicators such as “Made in Stow, Ohio,” “Made in the USA,” and “Manufactured in Ohio,” and sold them to consumers in the United States as products with model numbers matching those of plates previously certified by the NIJ. See Figures 6-A and 6-B for pictures taken on November 30, 2023 of a counterfeit and uncertified armored plate sold by ShotStop.


Figure 6-A



Figure 6-B

ALLISTIC TECHNOLOGIES™

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
NIJ
LISTED MODEL
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

 MADE IN THE USA

Threat (NIJ STD 0101.06): III

Size: PS1RF1-10x12SESC

Serial Number: 2021A0002891

Lot Number: 44740 **Date of Issue:** Jun, 21

Location of Manufacture: STOW, OHIO, USA

44740
2021A0002891

33. Defendants performed at least some of this labeling at their offices in Stow, Ohio.
34. One shipment of 200 plates imported from China was discovered by Customs and Border Patrol at the Blaine, WA Commercial Port of Entry on May 29, 2023, and confiscated by the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) on May 29, 2023.
35. The plates confiscated by DHS were packed in a box hidden among other goods labeled for shipment to Defendant Vallmar at 4319 and 4323 Lorwood Drive, Stow, Ohio, the latter of which is Defendant Iliev’s home address.

36. The plates confiscated by DHS did not have any pre-appended labels or other markers indicating the origin of their manufacture or characteristics.
37. DHS sent samples of the confiscated unlabeled plates imported from China to the NIJ for composition and performance testing at its Oregon laboratory.
38. At the Oregon laboratory, the NIJ subjected the imported plates to the same testing conducted for NIJ certification of armored plates.
39. All the confiscated unlabeled plates sent for testing failed the NIJ's resistance tests, indicating that they did not conform to NIJ standards.
40. The confiscated unlabeled plates which Defendants imported from China and relabeled for sale in the United States did not conform to the FIT requirements necessary for use of the NIJ certification symbols and descriptions used in online sales listings, marketing and on the products themselves. For example, the confiscated unlabeled plates carried no information which could be used to trace the origin of the plates' components and verify that they were manufactured in the same manner and to the same specifications previously sent to the NIJ for approval.
41. Upon information and belief, Defendants knowingly labeled the plates imported from China with the NIJ certification symbols without permission, infringing on NIJ's trademark and falsely representing to consumers that these products could lawfully be described as certified or otherwise approved by the NIJ.
42. From 2017 to 2023, some or all of the plates sold by Defendants labeled as "Made in the USA," "Made in Stow, Ohio," or "Manufactured in Ohio," were in fact imported from China.
43. From 2017 to 2023, by applying false labels to their armor plates and making false or misleading statements about the certifications, performance characteristics and manufacturing

origins of their products in online sales listings, advertisements and spec sheets, Defendants knowingly put counterfeit, uncertified, and unsafe goods into the stream of commerce which endangered the lives of Ohio consumers and law enforcement officers.

Federal Criminal Charges

44. On February 25, 2025, the United States Attorney (“US Attorney”) filed a criminal Information in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio against the same Defendants named in this Complaint. *United States v. Iliev*, Case No. 25-CR-70. (“Information”).
45. The US Attorney charged that Defendants had conspired to illegally import and smuggle defective armored plates from China, then fraudulently market and sell them to consumers in the United States of America. Information, ¶22.
46. The US Attorney separated its charges into three Counts: 1) Conspiracy to Smuggle Goods Into the United States, alleging that Defendants illegally imported and smuggled defective armored plates from China with the intent to sell them to customers within the United States; 2) Conspiracy to Traffic in Counterfeit Goods, alleging that Defendants knowingly sold goods using counterfeit marks which falsely represented NIJ certification and stating the place of manufacture as Stow, Ohio; and 3) Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud, alleging that Defendants sold armored plates under false representations about their origin to realize a margin of profit far greater than if the plates had actually been produced domestically. Information, pp. 4-16.
47. On March 18, 2025, all Defendants pled guilty to all of the counts included in the Information filed by the US Attorney. *United States v. Iliev*, Case No. 25-CR-70, Arraignment and Plea, Mar. 18, 2025.

PLAINTIFF'S CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATIONS OF THE CSPA

COUNT I- FAILURE TO DELIVER

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
49. Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Failure to Deliver Rule, Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-09(A), and the CSPA, R.C. 1345.02(A), by accepting money from consumers for goods and services and then permitting eight weeks to elapse without making shipment or delivery of the goods and services ordered, making a full refund, advising the consumers of the duration of an extended delay and offering to send a refund within two weeks if so requested, or furnishing similar goods or services of equal or greater value as a good faith substitute. Specifically, Defendants knowingly shipped consumers incorrect, uncertified, and inferior goods in place of the goods ordered by consumers.
50. Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-09(A) was adopted on June 5, 1973, and was last amended on March 14, 2005. Defendants committed said violations after the adoption of the Administrative Code section.

COUNT II- MISREPRESENTATION OF PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

51. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
52. Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts and practices in violation of the CSPA, R.C. 1345.02(A) and R.C. 1345.02(B)(1), by representing that Defendants' body armor products had sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits that it does not have. Specifically, Defendants sold counterfeit and uncertified goods which they

falsely labeled to induce consumers into thinking they were purchasing particular products found on the NIJ Compliant Products List and on ShotStop's online product listings.

53. The acts or practices described above have been previously determined by Ohio courts to violate the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* Defendants committed said violations after such decisions were available for public inspection pursuant to R.C. 1345.05(A)(3).

COUNT III- MISREPRESENTATION OF NIJ CERTIFICATION

54. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

55. Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts and practices in violation of the CSPA, R.C. 1345.02(A) and R.C. 1345.02(B)(1), by representing that Defendants' body armor products had sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits that it does not have. Specifically, Defendants falsely claimed that certain products they manufactured passed NIJ certification, when they had not, and used the NIJ's trademarked symbol of certification on the labeling of their uncertified and inferior products without authorization.

56. The acts or practices described above have been previously determined by Ohio courts to violate the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* Defendants committed said violations after such decisions were available for public inspection pursuant to R.C. 1345.05(A)(3).

COUNT IV- MISREPRESENTATION OF EFFICACY OF PROTECTION

57. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

58. Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts and practices in violation of the CSPA, R.C. 1345.02(A) and R.C. 1345.02(B)(1), by representing that Defendants' body armor products

had sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits that it does not have. Specifically, Defendants falsely claimed that body armor plates sold to consumers offered a level of protection corresponding to certain NIJ certification levels which the body armor plates did not actually provide.

59. The acts or practices described above have been previously determined by Ohio courts to violate the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* Defendants committed said violations after such decisions were available for public inspection pursuant to R.C. 1345.05(A)(3).

COUNT V- MISREPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN MADE PRODUCT

60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

61. Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts and practices in violation of the CSPA, R.C. 1345.02(A) and R.C. 1345.02(B)(2), by representing that Defendants' body armor products are of a particular standard, quality, grade, style prescription or model, that they are not. Specifically, Defendants falsely claimed that their products were manufactured in Ohio or in the United States, when they were in fact manufactured in China.

62. The acts or practices described above have been previously determined by Ohio courts to violate the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* Defendants committed said violations after such decisions were available for public inspection pursuant to R.C. 1345.05(A)(3).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

A. **ISSUE A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT** that each act or practice complained of herein violates the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*, and its Substantive Rules, Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-01 *et seq.*, in the manner set forth in the Complaint.

- B. **ISSUE A PERMANENT INJUNCTION** enjoining the Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns, and all persons acting in concert and participation with him, directly or indirectly, through any corporate device, partnership, or other association, under these or any other names, from engaging in the acts and practices of which Plaintiff complains and from further violating the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*, and its Substantive Rules, Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-01 *et seq.*
- C. **ORDER** Defendants, pursuant to R.C. 1345.07(B), to pay actual damages to all consumers injured by the conduct of the Defendants as set forth in this Complaint.
- D. **ASSESS, FINE and IMPOSE** upon Defendants a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.00 for each separate and appropriate violation of the CSPA described herein pursuant to R.C. 1345.07(D).
- E. **ISSUE AN INJUNCTION** prohibiting Defendants from engaging in business as suppliers in any consumer transactions in this state until such time as Defendants have satisfied all of their respective monetary obligations ordered by this Court, and any other court in Ohio in connection with a consumer transaction.
- F. **GRANT** Plaintiff its costs incurred in bringing this action, including, but not limited to, the costs of collecting on any judgment awarded.
- G. **ORDER** Defendants to pay all court costs associated with this matter.
- H. **GRANT** such other relief as the court deems to be just, equitable, and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVE YOST
Ohio Attorney General



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