

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

ZIPPO MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE PARTNERSHIPS and  
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS  
IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE “A,”

Defendants.

Case No. 22-cv-01517

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Zippo Manufacturing Company (“Zippo” or “Plaintiff”) hereby brings the present action against the Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, “Defendants”) and alleges as follows:

**I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the claims in this action pursuant to the provisions of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1051, *et seq.*, 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a)-(b), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, and this Court may properly exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendants since each of the Defendants directly targets business activities toward consumers in the United States, including Illinois, through at least the fully interactive, e-commerce stores<sup>1</sup> operating under the seller aliases identified in Schedule A attached hereto (the “Seller Aliases”). Specifically, Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States

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<sup>1</sup> The e-commerce store urls are listed on Schedule A hereto under the Online Marketplaces.

consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and, on information and belief, have sold products using infringing and counterfeit versions of Zippo's trademarks to residents of Illinois. Each of the Defendants is committing tortious acts in Illinois, is engaging in interstate commerce, and has wrongfully caused Zippo substantial injury in the State of Illinois.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

3. This action has been filed by Zippo to combat e-commerce store operators who trade upon Zippo's reputation and goodwill by offering for sale and/or selling unauthorized and unlicensed products, including lighters and lighter accessories, using infringing and counterfeit versions of Zippo's federally registered trademarks (the "Counterfeit Zippo Products"). Defendants create e-commerce stores operating under one or more Seller Aliases that are advertising, offering for sale and selling Counterfeit Zippo Products to unknowing consumers. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases share unique identifiers establishing a logical relationship between them and that Defendants' counterfeiting operation arises out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants attempt to avoid and mitigate liability by operating under one or more Seller Aliases to conceal both their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation. Zippo is forced to file this action to combat Defendants' counterfeiting of its registered trademarks, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing Counterfeit Zippo Products over the Internet. Zippo has been and continues to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of its valuable trademarks as a result of Defendants' actions and seeks injunctive and monetary relief.

### III. THE PARTIES

#### Plaintiff

4. Zippo is a privately held company with its principal place of business in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

5. Zippo is a world-famous, well-known manufacturer of pocket lighters. Zippo is famous for its lighters having a distinctive shape and functionality that provides users a simple, inexpensive, and effective way to create a flame. With a history stretching back almost 100 years, Zippo is synonymous with durability and reliability. Famously, in more than 85 years, no one has ever spent a cent on the mechanical repair of a Zippo pocket lighter regardless of the lighter's age or condition. In addition to its world-famous pocket lighters, Zippo is engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of butane multi-purpose lighters, lighter accessories, lifestyle accessories, and products for outdoor enthusiasts (collectively, the "Zippo Products").

6. Zippo's innovative lighter design and functionality enabled it to achieve widespread recognition and fame and made Zippo the most well-known brand in the lighter industry. Today, the Zippo brand enjoys a very high, unaided awareness rate worldwide. The fame the Zippo brand has achieved is demonstrated by the regularity that Zippo lighters frequent films. Over the last 75 years, Zippo windproof lighters have appeared in more than 2,000 films. Further, Zippo lighters and other products in the Zippo family have been spotted in countless prime time network and cable television shows, along with appearances in acclaimed streaming content.

7. Zippo has received numerous awards as a result of its world-famous brand. For the second time since 1994, Zippo was presented with the President's prestigious "E Star" Award by U.S. Commerce Secretary John Bryson in 2012. First established in 1961, the

President's "E" Awards are the highest recognition any U.S. entity may receive for making significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports. In 2019, Zippo won PR Week's Global Content Award and the UK PR Moment Award for Global Public Relations Campaign of the Year, both earned as a result of Zippo's 2018 Walk of Flame campaign that celebrated Zippo's history as the front-running lighter of Hollywood.

8. Zippo Products are distributed and sold to customers through the Zippo website, Zippo.com, the Zippo store and Zippo Case Museum in Bradford, Pennsylvania, and through authorized retailers in more than 160 countries around the world, including numerous authorized retailers in this district.

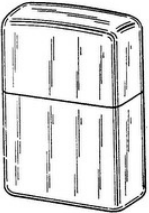
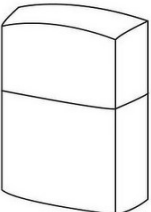
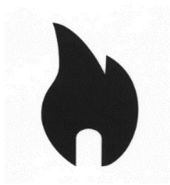
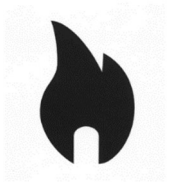
9. Zippo incorporates a variety of distinctive marks in the design of its various Zippo Products. As a result of its long-standing use, Zippo owns common law trademark rights in its trademarks. Zippo has also registered its trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Zippo Products typically include at least one of Zippo's registered trademarks. Often several Zippo marks are displayed on a single product. Zippo uses its trademarks in connection with the marketing of its Zippo Products, including the following marks which are collectively referred to as the "Zippo Trademarks."

| Registration Number | Mark  | Goods and Services                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5,617,562           | ZIPPO | For: Battery chargers in class 009.<br>For: Electric pocket warmers for warming hands in class 011.                                                                               |
| 5,651,622           | ZIPPO | For: Power-operated blowers in class 007.                                                                                                                                         |
| 5,311,477           | ZIPPO | For: Ear buds in class 009.<br>For: Drinking glasses; Flasks; Insulating sleeve holders for beverage cans; Mugs; Shot glasses; Tumblers for use as drinking glasses in class 021. |
| 5,413,699           | ZIPPO | For: Display cases; Display stands; Neck-supporting pillows in class 020.                                                                                                         |

|           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 4,822,198 | ZIPPO | For: Multi-function hand tools comprised of axes, saws, mallets and pullers; manually operated hand tools, namely, axes, hatchets, hammers, pullers and saws in class 008.<br><br>For: Lanterns for lighting; lamps; in class 011.                                                                                                                                            |
| 5,078,446 | ZIPPO | For: Jackets; Jeans; Pants in class 025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4,477,574 | ZIPPO | For: Non-electric refillable metal hand warmers using liquid lighter fluid in class 011.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3,967,745 | ZIPPO | For: Watches and jewelry in class 014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3,600,117 | ZIPPO | For: Butane fuel in class 004.<br><br>For: Lighters for kitchen use; flashlights in class 011.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3,308,224 | ZIPPO | For: Money clips; key holders in class 014.<br><br>For: Diaries in class 016.<br><br>For: Purses; wallets; credit card cases; small pouches; traveling and carrying bags, tote bags in class 018.<br><br>For: Shirts; headgear, namely, women's hats; baseball caps in class 025.                                                                                             |
| 3,948,423 | ZIPPO | For: Perfumery in class 003.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3,306,085 | ZIPPO | For: Flashlights in class 011.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2,671,988 | ZIPPO | For: Lanyards for holding keys, whistles, badges, pyrophoric lighters, knives and flashlights in class 022.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2,728,696 | ZIPPO | For: Retail store service, available through computer communications featuring promotional materials, namely, sweaters, golf shirts, hats, pyrophoric lighters, pens, flashlights, fuel for pyrophoric lighters, money clips, steel rulers, sunglasses, letter openers, pocket knives, sunglasses, pyrophoric lighters, pens, mechanical pens, and steel rulers in class 035. |
| 2,654,990 | ZIPPO | For: Utility lighters 034.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2,159,117 | ZIPPO | For: Entertainment services, namely, sponsoring and promoting motor sports events in class 041.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2,116,481 | ZIPPO | For: Hand tools comprised of a pocket knife in class 008.<br><br>For: Cuff links, lapel pins, tie tacks in class 014.<br><br>For: Desk accessories, namely, calendars in class 16.<br><br>For: Business card cases in class 018.                                                                                                                                              |

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|           |       | For: Cigarette cases not of precious metal, ashtrays not of precious metal in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2,179,641 | ZIPPO | For: Retail store services featuring cigarette lighters, knives, cutlery, writing instruments, key rings, money clips, hats, shirts, jackets and collectibles and memorabilia relating to cigarette lighters, knives, cutlery, writing instruments, pocket knives, key rings, money clips in class 035.<br><br>For: Museum services in class 041. |
| 2,116,478 | ZIPPO | For: Providing a web site featuring historical and other information about the applicant, its cigarette lighters, and its other products in class 042.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2,451,197 | ZIPPO | For: Sunglasses and eyeglass frames in class 009.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2,116,449 | ZIPPO | For: Repair of cigarette lighters and other small metal objects such as writing instruments, pocket knives, keyholders, and tape measures in class 037.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2,116,448 | ZIPPO | For: Printed publications, namely, booklets and a collectors' guide, illustrating and describing applicant and its history, with information on its cigarette lighter products in class 016.                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2,093,318 | ZIPPO | For: Custom imprinting of cigarette lighters, writing instruments, pocket knives, key rings, money clips, tape measures, belt buckles and pocket accessory for cleaning spikes on golf shoes and for repairing ball marks on golf greens with decorative designs in class 042.                                                                    |
| 2,052,508 | ZIPPO | For: Metal money clips in class 006.<br><br>For: Articles of precious metals or plated in precious metals and cigarette lighters in class 014.<br><br>For: Clothing, namely, T-shirts, sport shirts, sweat shirts and sweaters in class 025.<br><br>For: Leather pouches for use with cigarette lighters not made of precious metal in class 034. |
| 2,050,718 | ZIPPO | For: Metal money clips in class 006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2,001,509 | ZIPPO | For: Pyrophoric lighters made of precious metals in class 014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1,939,603 | ZIPPO | For: Leather pouches usable both with flexible rulers and cigarette lighters in class 018.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1,768,823 | ZIPPO | For: Leather pouches for cigarette lighters in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1,705,306 | ZIPPO | For: Wicks for lighters in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1,690,272 | ZIPPO | For: Clothing; namely, T-shirts, sports shirts, sweat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|           |                                                                                     | shirts in class 025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1,514,575 | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Writing instruments, namely, ball point pens and replacement parts therefor in class 016.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1,287,935 | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Writing instruments-namely ball point pens and replacement parts therefor in class 016.                                                                                                                                                    |
| 993,356   | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Key holders in class 006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 432,131   | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Flints for pyrophoric type lighters in class 011.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 436,615   | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Fluid for pyrophoric lighters in class 001.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 317,219   | ZIPPO                                                                               | For: Pocket lighter of the pyrophoric type in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5,930,446 |    | For: Non-electric refillable metal hand warmers using liquid lighter fluid, Electric pocket warmers for warming hands, Utility lighters for lighting grills, fireplaces and candles, Lantern for lighting in class 011.                         |
| 3,607,553 |    | For: Butane fuel in class 004.<br><br>For: lighters for kitchen use; flashlights in class 011.<br><br>For: Barbecue tools and accessories, namely, forks and tongs in class 021.                                                                |
| 3,758,607 |  | For: Downloadable software for electronic devices featuring audio and visual files and graphic designs to simulate a lighter in class 009.                                                                                                      |
| 2,804,250 |  | For: Metal keyholders in class 006.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1,213,751 |  | For: Lighter fluid in class 004.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1,188,884 |  | For: Cigarette lighters and lighter flints in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1,180,944 |  | For: Flexible steel rules in class 009.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1,207,903 |  | For: Sporting equipment-namely, a combination device for use around golf greens consisting of coin-like golf ball position markers and a notched hinged blade for repairing ball marks on greens and for cleaning spikes on shoes in class 028. |

|           |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| 1,187,605 |    | For: Letter openers in class 016.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2,606,241 |    | For: Cigarette lighters in class 034.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3,819,075 |    | For: Downloadable software for electronic devices featuring audio and visual files and graphic designs to simulate a lighter in class 009.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 5,941,757 |   | For: Non-electric refillable metal hand warmers using liquid lighter fluid, electric pocket warmers for warming hands, utility lighters for lighting grills, fireplaces and candles, lanterns for lighting in class 011.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4,264,559 |  | For: Watches in class 014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3,667,835 |  | <p>For: Fuels, butane fuel; lighter fluid in class 004.</p> <p>For: Goods of non-precious metals, namely, key chains of metals in class 006.</p> <p>For: Lighters for kitchen use in class 011.</p> <p>For: Costume jewelry in class 014.</p> <p>For: Small pouches made of leather or imitations of leather; tote bags in class 018.</p> <p>For: Clothing, namely, shirts, pants; headgear, namely, hats, caps; womens' hats; baseball caps in class 025.</p> |



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| 3,861,724 |  | For: Combustible solid fire starters for use with barbecues and fireplaces in class 004.                    |
| 3,511,741 |  | For: Lighters, namely, lighters for smokers and utility lighters in class 034.                              |
| 3,024,044 |  | For: Clothing, namely, shirts, hats, wind-resistant jackets, pull-over coats and fleece coats in class 025. |
| 2,967,613 |  | For: Pyrophoric lighters not of precious metal in class 034.                                                |
| 5,309,324 | BLACK CRACKLE                                                                     | For: Lighters for smokers in class 034.                                                                     |
| 5,558,197 | ARMOR                                                                             | For: Lighters for smokers in class 034.                                                                     |
| 2,599,271 | BLACK ICE                                                                         | For: Pyrophoric lighters made of nonprecious metals in class 034.                                           |

10. The Zippo Trademarks have been used exclusively and continuously in the U.S. by Zippo and have never been abandoned. The above U.S. registrations for the ZIPPO Trademarks are valid, subsisting, in full force and effect, and many are incontestable pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1065. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** are true and correct copies of the U.S. Registration Certificates for the Zippo Trademarks included in the above table. The registrations for the Zippo Trademarks constitute *prima facie* evidence of their validity and of Zippo's exclusive right to use the Zippo Trademarks pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1057(b).

11. The Zippo Trademarks are exclusive to Zippo and are displayed extensively on Zippo Products and in Zippo's marketing and promotional materials. Zippo Products have long

been among the most famous and popular of their kind in the world and have been extensively promoted and advertised at great expense. In fact, Zippo has expended millions of dollars annually in advertising, promoting and marketing featuring the Zippo Trademarks. Because of these and other factors, the Zippo name and the Zippo Trademarks have become famous throughout the United States.

12. The Zippo Trademarks are distinctive when applied to the Zippo Products, signifying to the purchaser that the products come from Zippo and are manufactured to Zippo's quality standards. Whether Zippo manufactures the products itself or licenses others to do so, Zippo has ensured that products bearing its trademarks are manufactured to the highest quality standards. The Zippo Trademarks have achieved tremendous fame and recognition, which has only added to the distinctiveness of the marks. As such, the goodwill associated with the Zippo Trademarks is of incalculable and inestimable value to Zippo.

13. For many years, Zippo has operated a website where it promotes Zippo Products at Zippo.com. Zippo Products are featured and described on the website and are available for purchase. The Zippo.com website features proprietary content, images, and designs exclusive to Zippo.

14. Zippo has invested significantly in developing, advertising and otherwise promoting the Zippo Trademarks. As a result, products bearing the Zippo Trademarks are widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being high quality products from Zippo. Zippo is a multi-million-dollar operation, and Zippo Products have become among the most popular of their kind in the world.

## **The Defendants**

15. Defendants are individuals and business entities of unknown makeup who own and/or operate one or more of the e-commerce stores under at least the Seller Aliases identified on Schedule A and/or other seller aliases not yet known to Zippo. On information and belief, Defendants reside and/or operate in the People's Republic of China or other foreign jurisdictions with lax trademark enforcement systems, or redistribute products from the same or similar sources in those locations. Defendants have the capacity to be sued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(b).

16. On information and belief, Defendants, either individually or jointly, operate one or more e-commerce stores under the Seller Aliases listed in Schedule A attached hereto. Tactics used by Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope of their operation make it virtually impossible for Zippo to learn Defendants' true identities and the exact interworking of their counterfeit network. If Defendants provide additional credible information regarding their identities, Zippo will take appropriate steps to amend the Complaint.

## **IV. DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT**

17. The success of the Zippo brand has resulted in significant counterfeiting of the Zippo Trademarks. Consequently, Zippo has a worldwide anti-counterfeiting program and regularly investigates suspicious e-commerce stores identified in proactive Internet sweeps and reported by consumers. In recent years, Zippo has identified numerous fully interactive e-commerce stores offering counterfeit Zippo Products on online marketplace platforms such as Amazon, eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Wish.com, Wal-Mart, and DHgate, including the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases. The Seller Aliases target consumers in this Judicial District and throughout the United States. According to U.S. Customs and Border

Protection (CBP), most counterfeit products now come through international mail and express courier services (as opposed to containers) due to increased sales from offshore online counterfeiters. *The Counterfeit Silk Road: Impact of Counterfeit Consumer Products Smuggled Into the United States* prepared for The Buy Safe America Coalition by John Dunham & Associates (**Exhibit 2**). The bulk of counterfeit products sent to the United States “come from China and its dependent territories,” accounting for over 90.6% of all cargo with intellectual property rights (IPR) violations. *Id.* Of the \$1.23 billion in total IPR violations intercepted, \$1.12 billion was from China. *Id.* Counterfeit and pirated products account for billions in economic losses, resulting in tens of thousands of lost jobs for legitimate businesses and broader economic losses, including lost tax revenue. *Id.*

18. Third party service providers like those used by Defendants do not adequately subject new sellers to verification and confirmation of their identities, allowing counterfeiters to “routinely use false or inaccurate names and addresses when registering with these e-commerce platforms.” **Exhibit 3**, Daniel C.K. Chow, Alibaba, Amazon, and Counterfeiting in the Age of the Internet, 40 NW. J. INT’L L. & BUS. 157, 186 (2020); see also, report on “Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods” prepared by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (Jan. 24, 2020), attached as **Exhibit 4** and finding that on “at least some e-commerce platforms, little identifying information is necessary for a counterfeiter to begin selling” and recommending that “[s]ignificantly enhanced vetting of third-party sellers” is necessary. Counterfeiters hedge against the risk of being caught and having their websites taken down from an e-commerce platform by preemptively establishing multiple virtual store-fronts. **Exhibit 4** at p. 22. Since platforms generally do not require a seller on a third-party marketplace to identify the underlying business entity, counterfeiters can have many

different profiles that can appear unrelated even though they are commonly owned and operated. **Exhibit 4** at p. 39. Further, “E-commerce platforms create bureaucratic or technical hurdles in helping brand owners to locate or identify sources of counterfeits and counterfeiters.” **Exhibit 3** at 186-187.

19. Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and, on information and belief, have sold Counterfeit Zippo Products to residents of Illinois.

20. Defendants concurrently employ and benefit from substantially similar advertising and marketing strategies. For example, Defendants facilitate sales by designing the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases look sophisticated and accept payment in U.S. dollars via credit cards, Alipay, Amazon Pay, and/or PayPal. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often include content and images that make it very difficult for consumers to distinguish such stores from an authorized retailer. Zippo has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use any of the Zippo Trademarks, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine Zippo Products.

21. Many Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using the Zippo Trademarks without authorization within the content, text, and/or meta tags of their e-commerce stores to attract various search engines crawling the Internet looking for websites relevant to consumer searches for Zippo Products. Other e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases omit using Zippo Trademarks in the item title to evade enforcement efforts while using

strategic item titles and descriptions that will trigger their listings when consumers are searching for Zippo Products.

22. E-commerce store operators like Defendants commonly engage in fraudulent conduct when registering the Seller Aliases by providing false, misleading and/or incomplete information to e-commerce platforms to prevent discovery of their true identities and the scope of their e-commerce operation.

23. E-commerce store operators like Defendants regularly register or acquire new seller aliases for the purpose of offering for sale and selling Counterfeit Zippo Products. Such seller alias registration patterns are one of many common tactics used by e-commerce store operators like Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation, and to avoid being shut down.

24. Even though Defendants operate under multiple fictitious aliases, the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often share unique identifiers, such as templates with common design elements that intentionally omit any contact information or other information for identifying Defendants or other seller aliases they operate or use. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases include other notable common features, such as use of the same registration patterns, accepted payment methods, check-out methods, keywords, advertising tactics, similarities in price and quantities, the same incorrect grammar and misspellings, and/or the use of the same text and images. Additionally, Counterfeit Zippo Products for sale by the Seller Aliases bear similar irregularities and indicia of being counterfeit to one another, suggesting that the Counterfeit Zippo Products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that Defendants are interrelated.

25. E-commerce store operators like Defendants are in constant communication with each other and regularly participate in QQ.com chat rooms and through websites such as sellerdefense.cn, kaidianyo.com and kuajingvs.com regarding tactics for operating multiple accounts, evading detection, pending litigation, and potential new lawsuits.

26. Counterfeiters such as Defendants typically operate under multiple seller aliases and payment accounts so that they can continue operation in spite of Zippo's enforcement. E-commerce store operators like Defendants maintain off-shore bank accounts and regularly move funds from their financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court to avoid payment of any monetary judgment awarded to Zippo. Indeed, analysis of financial account transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that off-shore counterfeiters regularly move funds from U.S.-based financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

27. Defendants are working in active concert to knowingly and willfully manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell Counterfeit Zippo Products in the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants, without any authorization or license from Plaintiff, have jointly and severally, knowingly and willfully used and continue to use the Zippo Trademarks in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products into the United States and Illinois over the Internet.

28. Defendants' unauthorized use of the Zippo Trademarks in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products, including the sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products into the United States, including Illinois, is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake, and deception by and among consumers and is irreparably harming Zippo.

**COUNT I**  
**TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AND COUNTERFEITING (15 U.S.C. § 1114)**

29. Zippo hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

30. This is a trademark infringement action against Defendants based on their unauthorized use in commerce of counterfeit imitations of the federally registered Zippo Trademarks in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, and/or advertising of infringing goods. The Zippo Trademarks are highly distinctive marks. Consumers have come to expect the highest quality from Zippo Products offered, sold or marketed under the Zippo Trademarks.

31. Defendants have sold, offered to sell, marketed, distributed, and advertised, and are still selling, offering to sell, marketing, distributing, and advertising products using counterfeit reproductions of the Zippo Trademarks without Zippo's permission.

32. Zippo is the exclusive owner of the Zippo Trademarks. Zippo's United States Registrations for the Zippo Trademarks (Exhibit 1) are in full force and effect. On information and belief, Defendants have knowledge of Zippo's rights in the Zippo Trademarks, and are willfully infringing and intentionally using counterfeits of the Zippo Trademarks. Defendants' willful, intentional, and unauthorized use of the Zippo Trademarks is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake, and deception as to the origin and quality of the Counterfeit Zippo Products among the general public.

33. Defendants' activities constitute willful trademark infringement and counterfeiting under Section 32 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114.



34. Zippo has no adequate remedy at law, and if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Zippo will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the goodwill of its well-known Zippo Trademarks.

35. The injuries and damages sustained by Zippo have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful reproduction, use, advertisement, promotion, offering to sell, and sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products.

**COUNT II**  
**FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))**

36. Zippo hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

37. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products has created and is creating a likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception among the general public as to the affiliation, connection, or association with Zippo or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Counterfeit Zippo Products by Zippo.

38. By using the Zippo Trademarks in connection with the sale of Counterfeit Zippo Products, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the Counterfeit Zippo Products.

39. Defendants' false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the Counterfeit Zippo Products to the general public involves the use of counterfeit marks and is a willful violation of Section 43 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125.

40. Zippo has no adequate remedy at law and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Zippo will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the goodwill of its Zippo brand.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Zippo prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1) That Defendants, their affiliates, officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, confederates, and all persons acting for, with, by, through, under, or in active concert with them be temporarily, preliminarily, and permanently enjoined and restrained from:
  - a. using the Zippo Trademarks or any reproductions, counterfeit copies or colorable imitations thereof in any manner in connection with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any product that is not a genuine Zippo Product or is not authorized by Zippo to be sold in connection with the Zippo Trademarks;
  - b. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine Zippo Product or any other product produced by Zippo, that is not Zippo's or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of Zippo and approved by Zippo for sale under the Zippo Trademarks;
  - c. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' Counterfeit Zippo Products are those sold under the authorization, control or supervision of Zippo, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with Zippo;
  - d. further infringing the Zippo Trademarks and damaging Zippo's goodwill; and
  - e. manufacturing, shipping, delivering, holding for sale, transferring or otherwise moving, storing, distributing, returning, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, products or inventory not manufactured by or for Zippo, nor authorized by Zippo to be sold or offered for sale, and which bear any of Zippo's trademarks, including the

Zippo Trademarks, or any reproductions, counterfeit copies or colorable imitations thereof;

- 2) Entry of an Order that, upon Zippo's request, those with notice of the injunction, including, without limitation, any online marketplace platforms such as eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Amazon, Wish.com, Wal-Mart, and DHgate (collectively, the "Third Party Providers") shall disable and cease displaying any advertisements used by or associated with Defendants in connection with the sale of counterfeit and infringing goods using the Zippo Trademarks;
- 3) That Defendants account for and pay to Zippo all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts herein alleged, and that the amount of damages for infringement of the Zippo Trademarks be increased by a sum not exceeding three times the amount thereof as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117;
- 4) In the alternative, that Zippo be awarded statutory damages for willful trademark counterfeiting pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c)(2) of \$2,000,000 for each and every use of the Zippo Trademarks;
- 5) That Zippo be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 6) Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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