

Assigned for All Purposes
Judge Layne H. Melzer

CX-102

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE

ANGELA MARIE KELLER, JOHNNIE
RAY DAVIS, KRISTEN MCDUGALL,
and LISA ANN DAVIS, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GKN AEROSPACE TRANSPARENCY
SYSTEMS INC., a California corporation;
GKN AEROSPACE SERVICES LTD., a
United Kingdom Private Limited Company;
MELROSE INDUSTRIES PLC, a United
Kingdom Public Company; and DOES 1–
100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 30-2026-01573880-CU-TT-CXC

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

- 1. Negligence**
- 2. Trespass**
- 3. Private Nuisance**
- 4. Public Nuisance**
- 5. Strict Liability for Ultrahazardous Activity**
- 6. Trespass to Chattels/Conversion**
- 7. Premises Liability**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs Angela Marie Keller, Johnnie Ray Davis, Kristen McDougall, and Lisa Ann Davis, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiffs”), by and through their undersigned counsel, bring this action against Defendants GKN AEROSPACE TRANSPARENCY SYSTEMS, INC., GKN AEROSPACE SERVICES LTD., MELROSE INDUSTRIES PLC, and DOES 1–100, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “GKN,” “Defendants”,

or the “GKN Defendants”) and allege as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants for claims arising from Defendants’ negligent storage, containment, handling, monitoring, and release of a highly dangerous and toxic chemical, methyl methacrylate (“MMA”), and related hazardous chemical vapors from Defendants’ facility located at 12122 Western Ave., Garden Grove, California (hereinafter the “Facility”).

2. As a result of the MMA release and the toxic plume that followed, approximately 50,000 nearby residents and property owners, including Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class, were subjected to evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, concerns regarding exposure, offensive chemical odors, fear of contamination, interference with the use and enjoyment of their homes and properties, property damage and other resulting damages.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Angela Marie Keller is a resident of Orange County, California. She is a citizen of the State of California. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Angela Marie Keller owned and resided in a home located in Orange County, approximately 1 mile away from Defendants’ Facility.

4. Plaintiff Johnnie Ray Davis is a resident of Orange County, California. He is a citizen of the State of California. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Johnnie Ray Davis owned and resided in a home located in Orange County, approximately 1 mile away from Defendants’ Facility.

5. Plaintiff Kristen McDougall is a resident of Orange County, California. She is a citizen of the State of California. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Kristen McDougall rented and resided in a home located in Orange County, approximately 1.2 miles away from Defendants’ Facility.

6. Plaintiff Lisa Ann Davis is a resident of Orange County, California. She is a citizen of the State of California. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Lisa Ann Davis owned and resided in a home located in Orange County, approximately 1 mile away from Defendants’ Facility.

7. Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. is a California Corporation

1 with its principal place of business at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.

2 8. Defendant GKN Aerospace Services Ltd. is a United Kingdom Private Limited
3 Company, with its principal place of business at 1301 Solana Boulevard, Suite 1528, Westlake, Texas
4 76262.

5 9. Defendant Melrose Industries PLC, is a United Kingdom Public Company, with its
6 principal place of business at 1301 Solana Boulevard, Suite 1528, Westlake, Texas 76262.

7 10. Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. a wholly owned United States
8 subsidiary and operating business within the broader GKN Aerospace group, which is headquartered
9 in the United Kingdom and operates globally through Defendant GKN Aerospace Services Ltd.

10 11. Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. specializes in the design and
11 manufacture of aerospace transparency products, including aircraft windows, cockpit windshields,
12 and military canopies, and functions as part of GKN Aerospace's "transparencies" business line.

13 12. Public corporate records and industry databases identify Defendant GKN Aerospace
14 Transparency Systems Inc. as an affiliated subsidiary operating under Defendant GKN Aerospace
15 Services Ltd's "GKN Aerospace" brand and corporate structure.

16 13. Defendant GKN Aerospace Services Ltd. itself is wholly owned by DEFENDANT
17 Melrose Industries PLC, a United Kingdom-based aerospace and engineering group.

18 14. Defendant GKN Aerospace oversees global operations involving airframe systems,
19 transparencies, engine structures, and related aerospace technologies, with facilities in multiple
20 countries, including the United States.

21 15. Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary
22 of Defendants GKN Aerospace Ltd.

23 16. Defendant GKN Aerospace Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendants Melrose
24 Industries PLC.

25 17. At all relevant times, Defendants GKN Aerospace Services Ltd. and Melrose
26 Industries PLC exercised centralized oversight, management, direction, and control over hazardous
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materials policies, operational safety protocols, environmental compliance procedures, risk management practices, industrial safety systems, and corporate governance affecting the operations of Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., including the handling, storage, containment, monitoring, maintenance, and management of methyl methacrylate (“MMA”) and other hazardous industrial chemicals at the Garden Grove facility. Plaintiffs and the Class are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that such policies, procedures, operational standards, and safety practices were implemented, coordinated, directed, approved, monitored, and/or enforced on a centralized and enterprise-wide basis by the GKN Defendants.

18. There are several individuals and/or entities whose true names and capacities are currently not known to Plaintiffs and the Class. Evidence may come forth that others are legally responsible and liable to Plaintiffs to the extent of the liability of the named Defendants. Plaintiffs will seek leave of the Court to amend this Complaint to reflect the names and capacities of other potential Defendants when such identities and capacities become known. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend this claim pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a) and Fed R. Civ. P. 21 with leave of the Court to add and amend potential defendants.

19. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant, employee, and/or partner of each of the remaining Defendants named herein and were at all times operating and acting within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment, and/or partnership. Each Defendant has rendered substantial assistance and encouragement to the other Defendants, acting in concert, knowing that its conduct was wrongful and/or unlawful, and each Defendant has ratified and approved the acts of each of the remaining Defendants.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20. This Court has jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, § 10 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10. The amount in controversy exceeds the minimum jurisdictional threshold for unlimited civil jurisdiction.

21. This Court has personal jurisdiction over GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. because it is a California corporation with its principal place of business in California. This Court has personal or specific jurisdiction over Defendants GKN Aerospace Services Ltd. and Melrose Industries PLC because each took actions in this State that gave rise to the release of MMA and other related hazardous chemical vapor and, thus, to Plaintiffs' and the Class's claims. Each Defendant has conducted significant business in California so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants by this Court consistent with the traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

22. Plaintiffs expressly allege that this matter falls within the “local controversy exception” to the Class Action Fairness Act (CAFA) pursuant to U.S.C. § 1332(d)(4)(A). Significant relief is sought from one or more Defendants who are citizens of the State of California, whose conduct forms a significant basis for the claims asserted herein, and whose acts and omissions substantially contributed to the injuries alleged by Plaintiffs and the Class. The principal injuries resulting from Defendants’ conduct were incurred in the State of California and the Plaintiffs and the putative class members are almost exclusively citizens of California.

23. Plaintiffs further allege that the conduct alleged herein is inherently local in nature, involving localized exposure events, localized evacuations, localized nuisance and interference with property rights, and localized injuries suffered by residents of Orange County. Accordingly, this action is properly adjudicated in California state court, and federal jurisdiction under CAFA is inappropriate.

24. Venue is proper under California Code of Civil Procedure sections 395(a) and 395.5 because Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. resides in and has its principal place of business and headquarters located in Orange County, and Defendants' wrongful conduct occurred in Orange County.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Garden Grove Facility and Storage of Methyl Methacrylate

25. Defendants own and operate an aerospace manufacturing and/or industrial facility

1 located at 12122 Western Ave., Garden Grove, California (the “Garden Grove Facility”).

2 26. At all relevant times, Defendants stored, handled, maintained, utilized, transported,
3 processed, controlled, and otherwise managed methyl methacrylate ("MMA") and other hazardous
4 substances at the facility. MMA is a clear, highly flammable organic liquid with a sharp, fruity odor.
5 It is used primarily as a monomer to produce acrylic plastics such as Plexiglas and is also important
6 in manufacturing latex paints, medical bone cement, dental crowns, and high-strength adhesives.

7 27. Defendant GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc. uses MMA primarily to
8 produce aerospace-grade acrylic plastics and transparent aircraft components, including aircraft
9 windows, cockpit windshields, military jet canopies, passenger cabin windows, and other
10 transparency systems used in aerospace applications.

11 28. MMA is also the principal chemical building block for polymethyl methacrylate
12 (PMMA), commonly referred to as acrylic or plexiglass. In aerospace uses, PMMA is valued because
13 it is lightweight, optically clear, impact resistant, and easier to shape than glass.

14 29. To manufacture PMMA, Defendant injects MMA into a mold along with a catalyst.
15 Defendant then shapes the PMMA into the various aircraft transparencies.

16 30. GKN Aerospace's own transparency systems division describes its business as
17 producing cockpit windows, passenger cabin windows, military canopies, including F-35 and F-22
18 systems, abrasion-resistant coated aerospace transparencies, and maintaining a vertically integrated
19 supply of aerospace-grade acrylic material.

20 31. MMA has been deemed a “hazardous substance” by both regulatory authorities and
21 industry experts, including by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its inclusion in
22 the EPA’s hazardous substances list, codified in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.¹

23 32. MMA is a hazardous, volatile, and highly flammable industrial chemical that presents
24 substantial risks to human health, property, animals, and the environment when it is improperly
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26 _____
27 ¹ 40 CFR 302.4: List of Hazardous Substances – 40 CFR 302.4: Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Notification:
28 List of Hazardous Substances, <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/oms-substance-registry-services/substance-list-details/401>.

1 stored, released, or aerosolized. MMA readily vaporizes at room temperature, producing concentrated
2 airborne vapors that are heavier than air and can settle, pool, and migrate into low-lying areas,
3 structures, residences, and surrounding communities. Because MMA vapors can travel beyond the
4 release point and accumulate in confined or poorly ventilated spaces, accidental releases create
5 widespread and foreseeable hazards for nearby persons and property.

6 33. MMA is also highly lipid-soluble, meaning it readily penetrates human skin and can
7 pass through surgical gloves and standard protective clothing. As a result, ordinary protective barriers
8 are often inadequate to prevent exposure. MMA's chemical properties make it especially dangerous
9 in industrial and populated settings because people may unknowingly sustain dermal and inhalation
10 exposure even without direct contact with liquid MMA.

11 34. MMA is additionally extremely flammable and chemically reactive. In the event of a
12 fire, ignition, or explosion, MMA can create severe physical hazards and may generate a complex
13 mixture of toxic and volatile airborne contaminants. Thus, the release of MMA presents not only
14 chemical-exposure dangers but also substantial risks of combustion, explosion, toxic smoke
15 generation, and catastrophic harm to surrounding persons and properties.

16 35. Exposure to MMA vapors poses serious health hazards to humans. Inhalation can
17 attack mucous membranes and commonly causes burning eyes, nose and throat irritation, coughing,
18 chest tightness, respiratory distress, and shortness of breath. Prolonged or concentrated inhalation
19 exposure can cause burns of the respiratory tract and the possibility of pulmonary edema, a life-
20 threatening accumulation of fluid in the lungs that severely impairs breathing and oxygen exchange.

21 36. Direct contact with MMA can also cause significant dermatological injury because it
22 is corrosive to tissue and mucous membranes. MMA can cause severe burns to skin if the acid is not
23 immediately and thoroughly removed. MMA strips the skin of natural oils and can cause severe
24 irritation, chemical burns, and contact dermatitis. Repeated exposure may lead to sensitization, such
25 that once a person becomes sensitized to MMA, even minimal later exposure may trigger severe
26 itching, rashes, inflammation, and other allergic reactions.

37. MMA also poses substantial neurological dangers because it affects the central nervous system. Overexposure has been associated with dizziness, nausea, headaches, confusion, cognitive impairment, toxic dementia, numbness, weakness in the extremities, and generalized peripheral neuropathy. Chronic or repeated exposure may therefore produce long-term neurological impairment and reduced quality of life.

38. Repeated or chronic exposure to MMA may also cause respiratory sensitization and permanent respiratory injury. Individuals exposed to MMA over time may develop occupational asthma, chronic respiratory irritation, reduced lung capacity, and heightened sensitivity to airborne chemical exposures.

39. MMA exposure also presents serious risks to animals. Animal studies have shown acute respiratory toxicity, including lung damage and progressive degeneration or necrosis of olfactory tissue responsible for smell. Such studies have also shown developmental and reproductive toxicity associated with MMA exposure, including reduced fetal weight, skeletal and vertebral abnormalities, developmental defects, and increased fetal deaths in exposed populations.

40. Because of these dangerous characteristics, MMA requires strict storage, containment, monitoring, handling, ventilation, emergency-response planning, and safety controls to prevent releases capable of endangering nearby residents, workers, animals, and surrounding communities. Best practices for storage include, but are not limited to, storage within the prescribed temperature limits of 64–104 degrees Fahrenheit, storage in a low design pressure (API atmospheric tank) outfitted with a functional conservation valve, and outfitting with functioning valves through which, if pressure rises uncontrollably, a neutralizing agent can be injected to prevent explosion or spillage.

41. Defendants failed to abide by any of these best practices, thereby resulting in the catastrophic failure of its MMA storage tanks and giving rise to the events alleged herein.

B. GKN Defendants' Repeated Failures to Follow Best Practices and Resulting Violations

42. GKN Defendants have demonstrated a longstanding pattern of failure to abide by industry best practices and other regulatory requirements at its Garden Grove facility.

43. In 2018, the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) issued violations, including Defendants' failure to inspect or maintain all machinery and equipment in service, as well as improper alteration to machinery by fabrication and failure to use the appropriate cutting coolant.

44. Additionally, in 2021, Defendants received numerous environmental violations from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMG) for failure to maintain required emission records for volatile organic compounds and operation of equipment without a permit.

45. In March 2025, AQMG issued two more notices to comply, requiring Defendants to provide complete and updated facility emissions and operating records, as well as to submit required applications to register certain equipment.

C. GKN Defendants' MMA Storage Tank Failure

46. On or about May 21, 2026, a preventable hazardous-materials emergency occurred at Defendants' GKN Aerospace facility located at 12122 Western Avenue in Garden Grove, California, after a large industrial storage tank containing approximately 7,000 gallons of methyl methacrylate began experiencing dangerous thermal instability and uncontrolled chemical reactions.

47. On information and belief, at approximately 3:30 p.m., the tank became overheated and entered an unstable condition creating a substantial risk of rupture, explosion, fire, and the uncontrolled release of hazardous airborne chemicals into surrounding communities.

48. MMA is an extremely volatile, flammable, and reactive industrial chemical that poses severe risks when improperly stored or subjected to elevated temperatures or pressure conditions. As internal temperatures rose, pressure within the vessel increased, thereby placing the tank in an unstable and deteriorating condition.

49. Emergency responders quickly determined that the tank's critical safety mechanisms, including a pressure-release valve, were malfunctioning. Without a functioning valve, the tank could not relieve pressure, be safely accessed, and could not be stabilized through ordinary mitigation techniques.

50. As Orange County Fire Authority Division Chief and Unified Incident Commander Craig Covey explained, emergency responders attempted to stabilize the tank by cooling and neutralizing the MMA, including by spraying the tank with hoses. Crews hoped that the chemical would solidify, thereby decreasing the pressure. Despite this, the tank's internal temperatures continued to rise over time, increasing by approximately one degree per hour and reaching dangerous levels. As the incident escalated, emergency responders determined that the storage tank posed an imminent threat to public safety because it could catastrophically fail, ignite, explode, or release large quantities of toxic chemical vapors into densely populated residential neighborhoods surrounding the facility.

51. As the emergency unfolded, hazardous chemical vapors and noxious odors spread beyond the boundaries of the GKN facility and into neighboring residential communities. Because MMA vapors are heavier than air, the toxic plume posed a heightened risk of migrating into streets, homes, low-lying areas, structures, and occupied residential properties. Residents in surrounding areas reported strong chemical odors, burning sensations, respiratory irritation, headaches, dizziness, and fear regarding potential toxic exposure and contamination.

52. On information and belief, MMA vapors, particulates, residues, contaminants, and/or airborne chemical byproducts physically migrated onto and into Plaintiff's and Class members' real and personal property, including structures, HVAC systems, outdoor surfaces, vegetation, soil, and personal belongings.

53. Plaintiff and the Class are informed and believe that MMA vapors and airborne contaminants infiltrated residences and enclosed structures throughout the evacuation zone.

54. In response to the escalating danger, multiple emergency-response agencies, including the Orange County Fire Authority, hazardous-materials response teams, law-enforcement agencies, and emergency-management personnel, responded to the scene and implemented large-scale emergency measures designed to protect nearby residents and the public.

1 55. Emergency officials issued evacuation orders and shelter-in-place directives affecting
2 broad portions of Garden Grove and neighboring communities, including Stanton, Cypress, Anaheim,
3 Buena Park, and Westminster. Authorities closed roads, restricted access to residential
4 neighborhoods, established emergency perimeters, and warned residents of the ongoing risk of toxic
5 exposure, fire, explosion, and environmental contamination.

6 56. Public officials acknowledged that the situation remained unstable and unpredictable
7 for an extended period. Emergency responders publicly warned that the MMA storage tank could
8 rupture or explode at any moment, thereby placing nearby residents, occupants, businesses, schools,
9 and properties at continuing risk of catastrophic harm.

10 57. Authorities further warned that any ignition event or structural failure involving the
11 tank could release a massive volume of hazardous and toxic airborne contaminants into the
12 surrounding environment.

13 58. By the evening of May 22, 2026, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency
14 in Orange County, marshaling state resources to support the local government's response to the crisis
15 at GKN's facility.

16 59. Ultimately, approximately 50,000 residents spanning a nine-square-mile area were
17 ordered to evacuate or were otherwise affected by emergency directives associated with the incident.
18 In addition to evacuations and displacement, the surrounding community faced and continues to face
19 acute exposure risks associated with the release of, and potential further catastrophic release of, toxic
20 chemicals and an imminent explosion. As of May 27, 2026, Captain Huang of the Orange County
21 Fire Authority warned of a continued threat of a possible fire or chemical spill.

22 60. Class Plaintiffs, who reside approximately 1 mile from the GKN Defendants' facility,
23 and members of the proposed Class were among those forced to evacuate, shelter in place, refrain
24 from occupying their homes, or otherwise alter their use and enjoyment of their properties because of
25 the dangerous conditions created by the GKN Defendants' facility and hazardous chemical release.

61. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' conduct and the MMA release, Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class suffered substantial interference with the use, occupancy, comfort, enjoyment, and possession of their homes and properties. Plaintiff and Class members were displaced from their residences, forced to incur evacuation-related expenses, deprived of the safe use of their homes, and subjected to fear, anxiety, annoyance, inconvenience, and distress arising from the threat of toxic exposure and catastrophic chemical-storage failure.

62. The MMA release and resulting emergency conditions also caused widespread concern regarding contamination of homes, personal property, outdoor surfaces, pets, vegetation, soil, and the surrounding environment. Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class reasonably feared both immediate and long-term health consequences associated with exposure to MMA vapors and airborne contaminants.

63. Plaintiff and the Class are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the dangerous conditions giving rise to the incident were foreseeable and preventable, and resulted from the GKN Defendants' negligent storage, maintenance, monitoring, containment, inspection, handling, supervision, and control of MMA and hazardous industrial chemicals at the facility.

64. Plaintiff and the Class are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that hazardous conditions, contamination risks, vapor-migration concerns, and environmental impacts associated with the MMA incident may continue to affect Plaintiff's and Class members' properties and surrounding communities unless and until proper remediation, inspection, containment, monitoring, and environmental-response measures are completed.

D. Property Owners and Residents Incur Substantial Damages

65. As a result of the GKN Defendants' negligence, tens of thousands of properties have been impacted by the release and will continue to be affected for the foreseeable future.

66. At present, Plaintiff and the Class primarily seek damages arising from property damage, evacuation-related harm, nuisance conditions, displacement, and interference with the use and enjoyment of property. Plaintiff and the Class expressly reserve all rights and remedies relating

1 to latent injuries, future toxic-exposure claims, and medical-monitoring relief to the extent permitted
2 by applicable law.

3 67. The presence of MMA has harmed property owners and residents for several reasons.

4 68. First, affected properties must be properly cleaned to remove the harsh, pungent, fruity
5 odor of MMA, which readily embeds itself in porous materials such as wood, fabrics, carpets, and
6 drywall.

7 69. Second, MMA is a strong organic solvent and readily dissolves, softens, or degrades
8 many common household plastics and rubbers, including natural rubber, ABS, and polycarbonate. It
9 can also permanently cloud or craze acrylic glass surfaces and is highly reactive with and corrosive
10 to carbon steel, cast iron, and ductile iron. As a result, many real property, fixtures, and personal
11 property exposed to MMA will require proper cleaning and/or replacement.

12 70. Third, MMA is highly toxic and destructive to plants. Many property owners,
13 occupants, and tenants maintain outdoor plants and gardens that are vulnerable to MMA exposure.
14 Remediation of land, landscaping, trees, and other foliage in the evacuation zone will be necessary.

15 71. Finally, the land and the properties themselves must be properly cleaned to prevent
16 further contamination of land, waterways, and the general environment.

17 **E. The Class Representatives**

18 72. Class Plaintiffs are the owners, renters, and residents of homes in Orange County,
19 California that are approximately 1 mile away from the GKN Defendants' facility. Like other
20 property owners, occupants, and tenants whose properties are in the evacuation zone, Plaintiffs
21 have incurred damages, including, but not limited to, the cost of alternate housing, the cost required
22 to restore their property and residence to the state it was prior to being affected by the MMA
23 release, or other property damage. Like other class members, their homes have become temporarily
24 unsafe, unusable, and/or unsuitable for normal residential occupancy.

25 73. Class Plaintiff Angela Marie Keller evacuated on May 22, 2026, and was displaced
26 from her home until May 26. Class Plaintiff has been subject to displacement and disruption since
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1 approximately May 22, and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' conduct.

2 74. Class Plaintiff Johnnie Ray Davis evacuated on May 22, 2026, and was displaced
3 from his home until May 26. Class Plaintiff has been subject to displacement and disruption since
4 approximately May 22, and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' conduct.

5 75. Class Plaintiff Kristen McDougall evacuated on May 22, 2026, and was displaced
6 from her home until May 26. Class Plaintiff has been subject to displacement and disruption since
7 approximately May 22, and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' conduct.

8 76. Class Plaintiff Lisa Ann Davis evacuated on May 22, 2026, and was displaced from
9 her home until May 26. Class Plaintiff has been subject to displacement and disruption since
10 approximately May 22, and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' conduct.

11 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

12 77. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf, and as a class action on behalf of all
13 others similarly situated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The Class
14 consists of thousands of residents whose properties were affected by the MMA risk created by the
15 GKN Defendants. Specifically, Plaintiffs bring this suit on behalf of the following Class:

16 All persons who own, rent, or reside in real property within the containment area, as
17 defined by the evacuation area determined by the Orange County Fire Authority
18 (OCFA) on May 22, 2026. The class excludes counsel representing the class and all
19 persons employed by said counsel, governmental entities, GKN Aerospace
20 Transparency Systems, Inc., GKN Aerospace Services Ltd., and Melrose Industries
21 PLC, is officers, directors, affiliates, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators,
22 successors, subsidiaries, and assigns, any judicial officer presiding over this matter,
the members of their immediate families and judicial staff, any individual having filed
a personal injury claim against GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., GKN
Aerospace Services Ltd., and Melrose Industries PLC arising out of the same incident
and any other individual whose interests are antagonistic to the other class members.

23 78. Plaintiffs shall serve as class representatives of the Class.

24 79. The GKN Defendants subjected Plaintiffs and the Class to the same wrongdoing
25 and harmed them in the same manner. Now, Plaintiffs and the Class seek to enforce the same rights
26 and remedies pursuant to the same legal theories.

27 80. Numerosity: The proposed Class is so numerous that individual joinder of all their
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1 members is impracticable. While the exact number and identities of the Class Members are
2 unknown at this time, such information can be ascertained through appropriate investigation and
3 discovery. It is estimated that the Class consists of tens of thousands of members. The disposition
4 of the claims of these Class Members in a single class action will provide substantial benefits to
5 all parties and to the Court.

6 81. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class in that their
7 claims arise from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of
8 other class members and is based on the same legal theory as their claims.

9 82. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and
10 protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs have further retained the undersigned counsel, who
11 have substantial experience in prosecuting complex lawsuits and class action litigation. Plaintiffs
12 and undersigned counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class
13 and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests
14 adverse to the Class.

15 83. Superiority of Class Action and Impracticability of Individual Actions: Plaintiffs
16 and the members of the Class suffered harm as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct. A class
17 action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the
18 controversy. Individual joinder of all members of the Class is impractical. Even if individual Class
19 Members had the resources to pursue individual litigation, it would be unduly burdensome to the
20 courts in which the individual litigation would proceed. Individual litigation magnifies the delay
21 and expense to all parties in the court system of resolving the controversies engendered by the
22 Defendants' common course of conduct. The class action device allows a single court to provide
23 the benefits of unitary adjudication, judicial economy, and the fair and equitable handling of all
24 Class Members' claims in a single forum. The conduct of this action as a class action conserves
25 the resources of the parties and of the judicial system and protects the rights of the Class Members.
26 Adjudication of individual Class Members' claims with respect to Defendants would, as a practical
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1 matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudication and could
2 substantially impair or impede the ability of other Class Members to protect their interests.

3 84. Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate: There are questions of law and
4 fact common to the claims of Plaintiffs and of each member of the Class and which predominate
5 over any question of law or fact affecting only individual members of the Class. Common questions
6 of law and fact include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 7 a. Whether Defendants breached their duty to exercise the utmost care and diligence
8 in the ownership, operation, management, supervision, inspection, maintenance,
9 repair, and/or control of their facility and the MMA tank, so as to not cause harm
10 to public property, the environment, public resources, public health, and/or the
11 comfortable use and enjoyment of life and liberty by the public;
- 12 b. Whether Defendants operated their facility lawfully and with proper environmental
13 permits;
- 14 c. Whether Defendants acted negligently by failing to implement reasonable measures
15 concerning the safety of their facility and management of hazardous chemicals;
- 16 d. Whether Defendants' negligence created a foreseeable risk of harm to those who
17 work, own property, reside, or otherwise are located around Defendants' facility;
- 18 e. Whether Plaintiffs in the Class suffered an injury due to Defendants' negligence
19 and unfair business practices;
- 20 f. Whether Defendants' breach was the legal and proximate cause of Plaintiffs' harm;
- 21 g. Whether Defendants' act or omissions as set forth herein have interfered with
22 Plaintiffs' property rights, privileges, and free use or enjoyment of property;
- 23 h. Whether Defendants were engaged in an ultrahazardous activity and/or
24 intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently caused a variety of toxic substances
25 and/or particulates to enter Plaintiffs' property;
- 26 i. Whether Defendants' activities in operating, controlling, managing, and/or
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maintaining their facility and the hazardous chemicals located therein constitute an ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activity;

j. Whether Defendants committed trespass;

k. Whether Defendants committed private nuisance;

l. Whether Defendants converted Plaintiffs' properties;

m. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to compensatory damages;

n. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to nominal damages;

o. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to punitive damages;

p. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees;

85. Notice: Notice can be provided via internet publication, published notice and/or through mail and paid for by the Defendants.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence

(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)

86. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

87. Defendants owed Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class a duty to exercise reasonable care in the ownership, operation, maintenance, storage, containment, monitoring, supervision, inspection, handling, and control of MMA and other hazardous industrial chemicals maintained at the GKN facility located at 12122 Western Avenue in Garden Grove, California.

88. Defendants further owed a duty to design, implement, maintain, and enforce adequate safety procedures, emergency response protocols, inspection systems, containment measures, warning systems, ventilation systems, cooling systems, and operational safeguards sufficient to prevent the release, overheating, ignition, migration, or uncontrolled discharge of hazardous chemical substances into neighboring communities.

89. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that MMA is an extremely

1 volatile, flammable, reactive, and toxic chemical substance capable of causing catastrophic harm
2 if improperly stored, maintained, monitored, or contained.

3 90. Defendants further knew or should have known that any release, overheating event,
4 containment failure, or uncontrolled chemical reaction involving MMA could foreseeably result
5 in airborne toxic vapor migration, fire, explosion, environmental contamination, mandatory
6 evacuations, respiratory exposure, and widespread harm to nearby residents and properties.
7 Despite such knowledge, Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care in the management and
8 control of the hazardous substances maintained at the facility.

9 91. Defendants breached their duties of care by, among other things, negligently storing
10 MMA in dangerous conditions; failing to properly inspect and maintain storage systems and
11 equipment; failing to implement adequate temperature monitoring, pressure monitoring, cooling,
12 containment, and emergency mitigation systems; failing to properly supervise hazardous chemical
13 operations; failing to adequately train personnel responsible for the handling and maintenance of
14 MMA; failing to implement proper emergency procedures; failing to timely warn surrounding
15 residents and governmental agencies of dangerous conditions; and otherwise failing to prevent the
16 hazardous conditions and chemical emergency described herein.

17 92. Defendants further breached their duties by maintaining substantial quantities of
18 hazardous industrial chemicals in close proximity to densely populated residential communities
19 without adequate safeguards sufficient to protect neighboring residents and properties from
20 foreseeable chemical releases, toxic vapor migration, evacuation conditions, and catastrophic
21 industrial failures. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants prioritized operational
22 convenience, production concerns, cost savings, and/or profit over the implementation of adequate
23 industrial safety measures necessary to protect the public.

24 93. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent acts and omissions, MMA
25 and hazardous chemical vapors were released into the surrounding environment, creating
26 dangerous emergency conditions that caused governmental evacuation orders, shelter-in-place
27

1 directives, road closures, public safety warnings, and substantial interference with the use and
2 enjoyment of nearby homes and properties.

3 94. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class were forced to evacuate, refrain from
4 occupying their residences, alter their daily activities, incur displacement-related expenses, and
5 endure fear, anxiety, inconvenience, annoyance, contamination concerns, and other damages,
6 including property damage, arising from the hazardous conditions created by Defendants.

7 95. The injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the proposed Class were
8 foreseeable consequences of Defendants' negligent conduct. Defendants knew or reasonably
9 should have known that the negligent storage, handling, maintenance, containment, and
10 supervision of MMA created an unreasonable risk of catastrophic chemical failure and substantial
11 harm to neighboring communities. Nevertheless, Defendants failed to take reasonable precautions
12 necessary to prevent the MMA emergency and resulting injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff
13 and the proposed Class.

14 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Trespass**

16 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)**

17 96. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this
18 Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf
19 of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

20 97. Plaintiffs and the Class are owners, occupants, and/or tenants of real property.

21 98. The GKN Defendants caused MMA to be released near the real properties of
22 Plaintiffs and the Class, which in turn caused the MMA to travel to the properties of Plaintiffs and
23 the Class.

24 99. Plaintiffs and the Class did not give the GKN Defendants permission to cause MMA
25 to enter their properties.

26 100. As a result of the GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered
27 damages.

101. The GKN Defendants acted with a conscious disregard of the rights of others and put their own financial interests ahead of the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class, which constitutes malice.

102. The GKN Defendants engaged in despicable conduct that subjected Plaintiffs and the Class to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of their rights, which constitutes oppression.

103. Therefore, the GKN Defendants acted with oppression and/or malice and Plaintiffs and the Class are therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Private Nuisance

(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)

104. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

105. Plaintiffs and the Class are owners, occupants, and/or tenants of real property.

106. In releasing MMA near the real properties Plaintiffs and the Class owned, occupied, and/or resided in, the GKN Defendants created a condition that is an obstruction to the free use of the properties, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of the properties.

107. The MMA has interfered with the use or enjoyment of the properties by Plaintiffs and the Class.

108. Plaintiffs and the Class did not consent to the GKN Defendants' conduct.

109. The seriousness of the harm outweighs the public benefit of the GKN Defendants' conduct.

110. An ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the GKN Defendants' conduct.

111. As a result of the GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered damages.

112. The GKN Defendants acted with a conscious disregard of the rights of others and put their own financial interests ahead of the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class, which constitutes malice.

113. The GKN Defendants engaged in despicable conduct that subjected Plaintiff and the Class to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of their rights, which constitutes oppression.

114. Therefore, the GKN Defendants acted with oppression and/or malice and Plaintiffs and the Class are therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Public Nuisance
(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)

115. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

116. At all relevant times, Defendants owned, operated, controlled, maintained, supervised, managed, and/or were otherwise responsible for the GKN Aerospace facility located at 12122 Western Avenue in Garden Grove, California, including the storage, handling, containment, maintenance, monitoring, and control of methyl methacrylate (“MMA”) and related hazardous industrial chemicals.

117. Defendants' acts and omissions, including the negligent storage, containment, maintenance, monitoring, supervision, and control of MMA, created dangerous conditions that substantially and unreasonably interfered with rights common to the general public, including public health, public safety, public peace, public comfort, public convenience, and the safe use of public and private property throughout the surrounding communities.

118. The hazardous conditions created by Defendants resulted in widespread emergency response measures, including evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, road closures, emergency perimeters, hazardous materials response operations, public safety warnings, and

1 substantial disruption to residential neighborhoods and surrounding communities in Garden Grove,
2 Stanton, Cypress, Anaheim, Buena Park, Westminster, and nearby areas.

3 119. Defendants' conduct created a substantial and continuing risk of fire, explosion,
4 toxic vapor migration, environmental contamination, airborne chemical exposure, and catastrophic
5 harm affecting tens of thousands of residents, businesses, schools, roadways, public infrastructure,
6 and properties located near the facility.

7 120. The interference caused by Defendants was substantial, unreasonable, offensive,
8 and harmful to the public, and would be highly offensive to an ordinary reasonable person.

9 121. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class suffered injuries and damages
10 different in kind from those suffered by the general public because Plaintiffs and Class members
11 resided within or near the evacuation and impact zones, were forced to evacuate or shelter in place,
12 suffered direct interference with the use and enjoyment of their homes and properties, incurred
13 displacement-related expenses, and experienced heightened contamination concerns, fear,
14 annoyance, inconvenience, and property-related damages.

15 122. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct and the public nuisance
16 created thereby, Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class suffered damages including, but not
17 limited to, loss of use and enjoyment of property, evacuation-related damages, displacement costs,
18 diminution in value, nuisance damages, emotional distress, annoyance, inconvenience,
19 remediation-related damages, and other economic and non-economic harm.

20 123. Defendants acted with conscious disregard for the rights, safety, and well-being of
21 Plaintiffs, the Class, and the surrounding public, thereby entitling Plaintiffs and the Class to
22 punitive damages according to proof at trial.

23 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
24 **Strict Liability for Ultrahazardous Activities**
(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)

25 124. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this
26 Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf
27

1 of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

2 125. The GKN Defendants’ storage, handling, containment, maintenance, processing,
3 monitoring, and control of large quantities of methyl methacrylate (“MMA”) and related hazardous
4 industrial chemicals constituted ultrahazardous and/or abnormally dangerous activities. MMA is
5 an inherently volatile, flammable, reactive, and toxic chemical substance that presents a substantial
6 risk of catastrophic harm to persons, property, animals, and the environment when released,
7 overheated, improperly contained, or otherwise uncontrolled. The dangers associated with MMA
8 include fire, explosion, toxic vapor migration, airborne contamination, respiratory injury, chemical
9 exposure, environmental contamination, and mass evacuation events affecting surrounding
10 communities.

11 126. The risks associated with the storage and management of MMA are extraordinary
12 and extend far beyond those ordinarily associated with routine industrial operations. Because
13 MMA vapors readily aerosolize, migrate through the air, and accumulate in populated and low-
14 lying areas, any loss of containment creates a substantial and foreseeable danger to neighboring
15 residences, occupants, businesses, schools, and the public at large. Moreover, MMA’s highly
16 flammable and reactive nature creates a continuing risk of catastrophic ignition, combustion,
17 explosion, and uncontrolled toxic release capable of causing widespread property damage, physical
18 injury, contamination, displacement, and environmental harm.

19 127. The ultrahazardous nature of the GKN Defendants’ activities is further
20 demonstrated by the fact that the risks posed by large-scale MMA storage and handling cannot be
21 entirely eliminated through the exercise of reasonable care. Even where precautions are
22 undertaken, the storage of substantial quantities of volatile industrial chemicals in close proximity
23 to residential communities necessarily creates a high degree of risk of serious harm in the event of
24 equipment failure, overheating, containment failure, human error, chemical instability, mechanical
25 malfunction, fire, or other operational failure. The magnitude of potential harm associated with an
26 MMA release—including toxic airborne plume migration, mandatory evacuations, exposure to
27

1 hazardous vapors, and the threat of catastrophic explosion—renders such activities abnormally
2 dangerous as a matter of law.

3 128. At all relevant times, the GKN Defendants engaged in, authorized, controlled,
4 supervised, and/or benefited from such ultrahazardous activities at the GKN facility located at
5 12122 Western Avenue in Garden Grove, California. The GKN Defendants knew or should have
6 known that the storage and handling of MMA in substantial quantities created a foreseeable and
7 unreasonable risk of catastrophic harm to nearby residents and properties, particularly given the
8 facility's proximity to densely populated residential communities.

9 129. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' ultrahazardous activities,
10 MMA and hazardous vapors were released from the facility into the surrounding environment,
11 creating emergency conditions that resulted in evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives,
12 widespread fear of toxic exposure, interference with the use and enjoyment of residential
13 properties, contamination concerns, and other damages suffered by Plaintiffs and members of the
14 proposed Class.

15 130. Because the GKN Defendants engaged in ultrahazardous and abnormally
16 dangerous activities, the GKN Defendants are strictly liable for all injuries, damages, losses,
17 interference with property rights, evacuation-related harm, nuisance conditions, contamination-
18 related damages, diminution in value, emotional distress, and other injuries proximately resulting
19 from the MMA release and related hazardous conditions, regardless of the degree of care exercised
20 by the GKN Defendants.

21 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
22 **Trespass to Chattels (Conversion)**
23 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)**

24 131. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this
25 Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf
26 of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

27 132. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiffs and the Class had and continue to
28

1 have actual and constructive possession, and the immediate right to possession, of personal property.

2 133. The GKN Defendants' improper storage of MMA, as described herein, near Plaintiffs'
3 and the Class' personal property has caused an intrusion upon, changes to, damage to, and destruction
4 of Plaintiffs' and the Class' property interest therein, and has deprived Plaintiffs and the Class of the
5 possession, control, and use of their property interests.

6 134. Such dominion and control by the GKN Defendants' has and continues to wrongfully
7 interfere with Plaintiffs' and the Class' rights of ownership of the personal property so as to constitute
8 conversion of Plaintiffs' and the Class' property interest in their personal property.

9 135. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' exercise of dominion and
10 control over Plaintiffs' and the Class' personal property, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered all of
11 the injuries and damages described herein. The GKN Defendants' are liable for all such damage and
12 punitive damages as set forth herein.

13 136. The aforementioned acts of the GKN Defendants' were willful, wanton, malicious,
14 and oppressive, were taken with intent to interfere with or in reckless disregard to Plaintiffs' and the
15 Class' property rights, and justify the awarding of exemplary and punitive damages.

16 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **Premises Liability**

18 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)**

19 137. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all the allegations set forth in this
20 Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiffs allege as follows a cause of action on behalf
21 of themselves and the Class of similarly situated Class members.

22 138. At all times relevant to this Complaint, GKN Defendants owned, leased, occupied,
23 operated, maintained, managed, and/or controlled the Facility, including the hazardous chemical tank
24 system and related equipment.

25 139. GKN Defendants owed Plaintiffs and the Class a duty to use reasonable care in the
26 ownership, operation, inspection, maintenance, repair, and control of the Facility to avoid exposing
27 persons and property to an unreasonable risk of harm.

140. The Facility was in a dangerous condition that one or more chemical storage tanks and associated equipment were improperly maintained, inadequately inspected, defectively repaired, insufficiently monitored, and/or otherwise unsafe, resulting in the release or threatened release of hazardous chemicals.

141. The condition created a substantial and unreasonable risk of toxic exposure, contamination, fire, explosion, evacuation, displacement, or other serious harm to persons and property in the area.

142. GKN Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known, of the dangerous condition of the Facility, including because reasonable inspection, maintenance, and monitoring would have revealed the condition and the risk of release of toxic chemicals and the failure of the MMA tank.

143. GKN Defendants had sufficient time to discover the dangerous condition and to repair, remedy, contain, guard against, warn of, or otherwise prevent the harm.

144. GKN Defendants negligently failed to inspect, maintain, repair, replace, monitor, contain, warn of, and otherwise correct the dangerous condition.

145. GKN Defendants further failed to comply with applicable safety requirements governing hazardous chemical storage and tank integrity, which further rendered the Facility unsafe.

146. The failure to properly maintain a hazardous chemical tank containing MMA at the Facility, especially in or near a densely populated area, created a foreseeable risk of the type of harm suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class.

147. GKN Defendants' negligence was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' and the Class's injuries and damages.

148. As a direct and legal result of GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class suffered damages according to proof.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

1 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of all Class Members pray for judgment
2 against Defendants, and each of them, as follows on behalf of themselves and the Class:

- 3 1. That the Court enter judgment against Defendants for each of the causes of
4 action alleged against them;
- 5 2. That the Court issue an Order certifying the Class, and appointing Plaintiffs
6 and their Counsel to represent the Class;
- 7 3. For all damages according to proof, including, but not limited to, the following:
8 a. Compensatory damages;
9 b. General damages;
10 c. Special damages;
11 d. Remediation;
12 e. Loss of use;
13 f. Diminution in value;
14 g. Evacuation/displacement damages;
15 h. Nuisance damages;
16 i. Punitive damages;
- 17 4. Loss of the use, benefit, goodwill and enjoyment of the real and personal
18 property of Plaintiffs and the Class;
- 19 5. Repair, depreciation, and/or replacement of damaged, destroyed, and/or lost
20 personal and/or real property;
- 21 6. Loss of wages, earning capacity and/or profits or proceeds;
- 22 7. For all medical expenses;
- 23 8. For medical monitoring;
- 24 9. For all recoverable compensatory, consequential, and/or statutory damages in
25 the maximum amount permitted by law or other equitable monetary relief, plus
26 pre and post-judgment interest thereon;

