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14	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
15		CT OF CALIFORNIA
16		
17	RIVKA STEINBERG, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	No. 3:21-cv-05568
18	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
19	- against -	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
20	ICELANDIC PROVISIONS, INC.,	
21		
	Defendant.	
22	Defendant.	
23	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by	her attorneys, alleges upon information and belief,
23 24	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, whic	ch are based on personal knowledge, as follows:
23 24 25	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which <u>FACTS COMMON TO AI</u>	ch are based on personal knowledge, as follows:
23 24 25 26	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which <u>FACTS COMMON TO Al</u> 1. Icelandic Provisions, Inc. ("De	ch are based on personal knowledge, as follows: LL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF efendant" or "Icelandic Provisions") markets,
23 24 25 26 27	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which <u>FACTS COMMON TO AI</u> 1. Icelandic Provisions, Inc. ("Def manufactures, labels, distributes, and sells the trans	ch are based on personal knowledge, as follows: LL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF efendant" or "Icelandic Provisions") markets, aditional Icelandic dairy product – "skyr" – under
23 24 25 26	Defendant. Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg ("Plaintiff"), by except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which <u>FACTS COMMON TO AI</u> 1. Icelandic Provisions, Inc. ("Definantial the transformation of tran	ch are based on personal knowledge, as follows: LL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF efendant" or "Icelandic Provisions") markets, aditional Icelandic dairy product – "skyr" – under

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1	I. HISTORY OF SKYR
2	2. Skyr is a traditional "Icelandic cultured dairy product," with "the consistency of
3	Greek yogurt, but a milder flavor." ¹
4	3. The word "skyr" is related to the word "shear" (meaning "to cut"), referring to how
5	the dairy is split into the liquid whey and the thick skyr.
6	
7	5. Vikings originally brought skyr to Iceland from Norway, and it was a critical food to
8	sustain Icelandic settlers living just below the Arctic Circle.
9	6. This is because the liquid whey was utilized to preserve meat for six months or
10	longer.
11	7. Unlike regular yogurts made with one cup of milk, a cup of skyr requires four cups.
12	8. Skyr is essentially fat free (0.6 grams of fat per 100 grams), has approximately one-
13	third less sugar than standard yogurts, and is high in protein without the need for added ingredients.
14	II. CONSUMERS CAN CHOOSE FROM NUMEROUS SKYR PRODUCTS
15	9. As Greek-style yogurt has matured as a category, consumer demand has stabilized
16	and even slightly decreased.
17	10. According to Bloomberg Business News, "While U.S. yogurt sales dropped 3.4
18	percent in the 12 months ended in February, the Icelandic style jumped 24 percent to \$173.9 million,
19	Nielsen data show." ²
20	11. According to the CEO of conglomerate General Mills, "Icelandic yogurt, [really]
21	follows the simply-better-for-you trend" because it is "high in protein, [and] low in sugar."
22	12. Numerous companies offer their take on skyr, giving consumers, like Plaintiff, many
23	options.
24	13. Every company except for Defendant is truthful about the origins of its skyr,
25	describing it as "Icelandic-style," a clear indicator competing products are not made in Iceland.
26	
27	¹ Wikipedia contributors, " <u>Skyr</u> ," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.
28	² Leslie Patton, <u>In the Yogurt World, the Greeks Are Down and Vikings Are Up</u> , Bloomberg Business News, Apr. 17, 2019.
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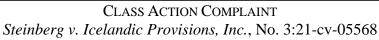


Icelandic Style Nonfat Yogurt A Traditional, Icelandic Skyr Made in USA, Inspired by Iceland

Icelandic Style Yogurt

Icelandic Style Yogurt

Icelandic Style Skyr







21 14. Despite the many companies which market varieties of skyr, consumers, and
22 Plaintiff, purchased Defendant's skyr based on Defendant's representations that it was made in
23 Iceland (which are detailed below).

24 15. Plaintiff did not think that any of the other competing skyr products were made in25 Iceland.

2616.Defendant is aware of consumer demand for Icelandic skyr *made* in Iceland.

27 17. Defendant has zealously sought to prevent other companies from marketing28 traditional Icelandic skyr.

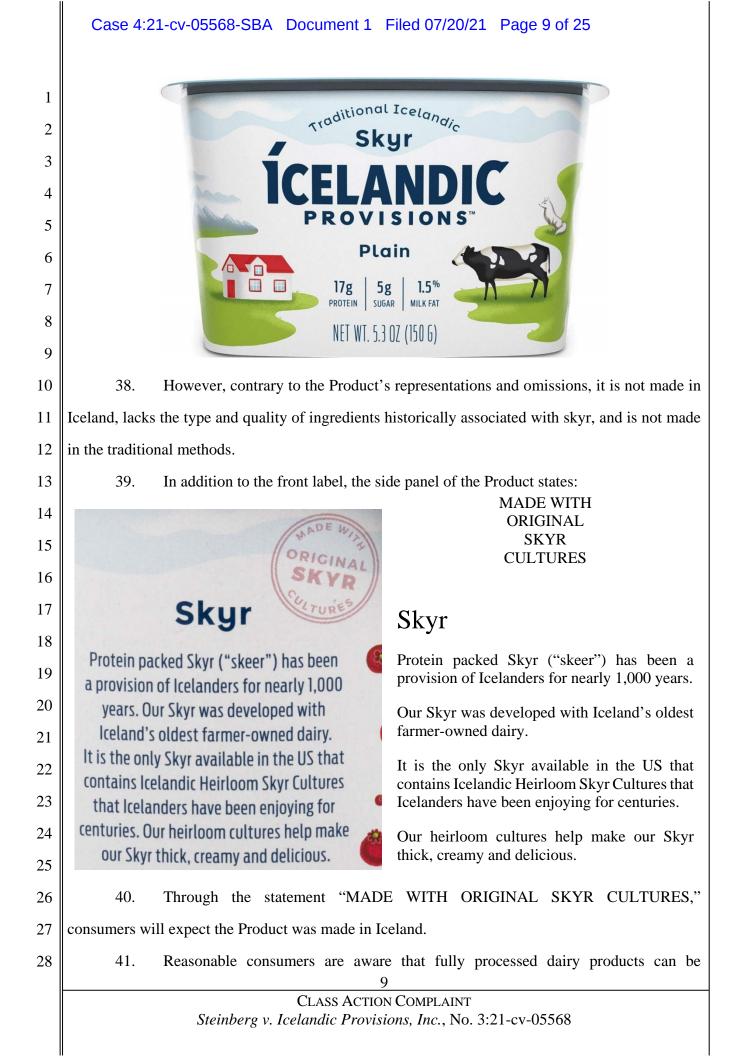
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1	18. In response to a version of skyr that was sold in a British supermarket and
2	manufactured in Denmark, "MS Iceland Dairies, where they really do make real Skyr," the blog
3	"Iceland, Defrosted" stated:
4	How about being honest to your consumers in the UK and tell them
5	the truth: this is not an Icelandic skyr that you are selling in the UK. It's a yogurt that is produced in Germany and has nothing to do with
6	the real Icelandic skyr. ³
7	19. MS Iceland Dairies is Defendant's partner in producing the skyr sold to American
8	consumers as "real Icelandic skyr."
9	20. Defendant's Product is the market leader for skyr.
10	21. Defendant knows that consumers associate its brand with authentic skyr which is
11	believed to be made in Iceland.
12	22. Despite the many companies which market varieties of skyr, consumers, and
13	Plaintiff, purchased Icelandic Provisions' skyr based on the representations that it was made in
14	Iceland.
15	23. Plaintiff did not think that any of the other (i.e., non-Icelandic Provisions) skyr
16	products were made in Iceland.
17	24. Defendant knows that consumers associate its brand with authentic Icelandic skyr
18	which is made in Iceland.
19	III. CONSUMER DEMAND FOR AUTHENTICITY
20	25. Today's consumers are faced with increasing commercialization of products and
21	seek brands that are genuine - whisky from Scotland, Mexican beer from Mexico, and Italian
22	tomatoes from Italy.
23	26. For many consumers, authenticity has overtaken quality as the prevailing purchasing
24	criterion.
25	27. Consumers often pay a price premium for what they perceive to be authentic
26	products, particularly those perceived to be authentically associated with a specific place, such as
27	
28	³ Iceland Defrosted Blog, <u>Beware of the 'Skyr'</u> , Sept. 24, 2015.
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1 Iceland in the case of Defendant's Icelandic skyr Product.

ocal tradition 29. nade in Icela 30. hat produce 31. ninerals not	eloped will be higher quality than elsewhere and (2) a desire to support and maintain ns and cultures at the expense of large-scale production by international conglomerates. In the present instance, consumers expect Defendant's Icelandic skyr Product to be and and contain the unique characteristics of skyr made there. Authentic skyr contains unique probiotics, a result of the hardy Icelandic dairy cows the milk used as the raw material. These dairy cows have grazed on the Icelandic tundra, which contains roots and
29. nade in Icela 30. hat produce 31. ninerals not	In the present instance, consumers expect Defendant's Icelandic skyr Product to be and and contain the unique characteristics of skyr made there. Authentic skyr contains unique probiotics, a result of the hardy Icelandic dairy cows the milk used as the raw material. These dairy cows have grazed on the Icelandic tundra, which contains roots and
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30. hat produce 31. ninerals not	Authentic skyr contains unique probiotics, a result of the hardy Icelandic dairy cows the milk used as the raw material. These dairy cows have grazed on the Icelandic tundra, which contains roots and
hat produce 31. ninerals not	the milk used as the raw material. These dairy cows have grazed on the Icelandic tundra, which contains roots and
31.	These dairy cows have grazed on the Icelandic tundra, which contains roots and
ninerals not	
	found closurkers
20	iouna eisewnere.
32.	Icelandic dairy cows do not require significant amounts of food.
33.	The result is production of milk with less lactose (sugar), which is a hallmark of
uthentic Ice	landic skyr.
34.	Traditional skyr production involves a dairy centrifuge.
35.	Defendant's alternative method of skyr production relies on ultrafiltration of milk,
which concer	ntrates the whey proteins while thickening the skyr.
36.	The result is a skyr that does not resemble traditional and authentic Icelandic skyr.
V. REPI	RESENTATIONS THAT THE PRODUCT IS MADE IN ICELAND
37.	Defendant's marketing and advertising of the Product gives consumers the
mpression it	t is made in Iceland, including its front label representations of "Traditional Icelandic
kyr," "Icela	andic Provisions," and the image of the Icelandic countryside with a snow-covered
ackdrop. Ar	n image of the front label of the Product is below:
	8 CLASS A STRON CONDUCTION
	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Steinberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568
r	hich concer 36. V. REP 37. npression it kyr," "Icela



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1 transported across the world, since most have been exposed to cheeses imported from Europe.

42. However, reasonable consumers will not expect that the raw materials for European
cheeses would be shipped to the United States, then used to produce the same cheese that would
have been made in Europe.

43. In the label statement that the Product "is the only Skyr *available* in the US that
contains Icelandic Heirloom Skyr Cultures that *Icelanders have been enjoying* for centuries,"
consumers are misled by "available" being substituted for the more accurate word – "made"
(emphasis added).

9 44. These statements gave Plaintiff and consumers the impression they would be
10 consuming the *same* skyr Defendant presumably sells to Icelanders.

11 45. Defendant's website states "Halló [Hello] From Iceland" over an arctic tundra
12 backdrop of Iceland, as shown below.⁴



46. Defendant capitalizes on its Icelandic association through a national advertising
campaign filmed "on location in the coastal village of Vík," with Icelandic actors explaining skyr
to American consumers.⁵

25

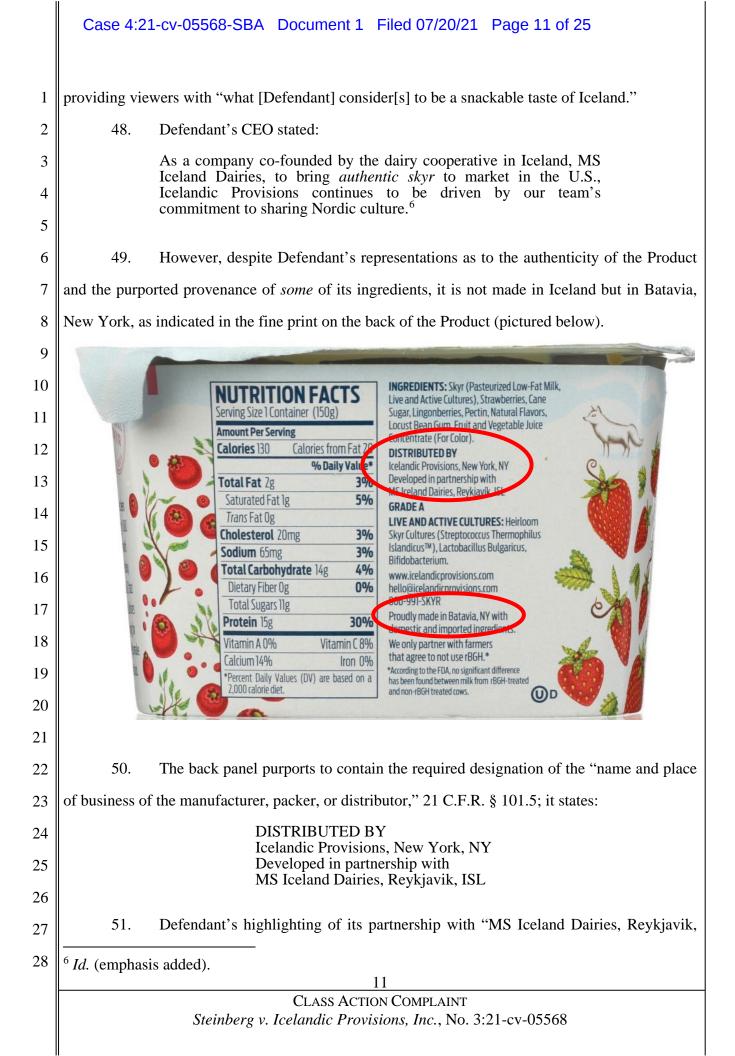
47. The press release accompanying the rollout described the advertisements as

26

27 ⁴ IcelandicProvisions.com.

⁵ Press Release, "<u>Icelandic Provisions says 'Halló From Iceland,' Launching Their First National</u>
 Advertising Campaign," PR Newswire, Feb. 5, 2020.

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1 ISL" is misleading because it furthers the impression the Product is skyr *from* Iceland.

2 52. There is no legal requirement that a company identify a partner, only that it discloses
3 the name of the manufacturer (or distributor) and its location.

4

5

6

7

53. By including additional information beyond what is required, consumers are misled.
54. The presentation of the required information – "Distributed By" – causes consumers (if they look at the back label) to feel confident they need not scrutinize the back of the label further for information that will disprove what they have reasonably concluded – that the Product is made

8 in Iceland.

9 55. After all, they will think, "The front states 'Icelandic Provisions' and the back
10 indicates it is *distributed* by a New York company *with* an Icelandic dairy company, so the Product
11 is made in Iceland then distributed in this country."

12 56. Only further down at the bottom of this dense text does the label disclose "Proudly
13 made in Batavia, NY with domestic and imported ingredients."

14 57. By not including where the Product is made in greater proximity to the required name
15 and place of business of the manufacturer or distributor, consumers are misled.

16 58. Since consumers know that food and beverages – including items needing
17 refrigeration – are commonly transported across this country, it is reasonable to expect a dairy
18 product such as skyr can be transported by air or in cold storage on container ships and maintain its
19 attributes.

20 59. Dairy products are commonly sold in the United States that have been manufactured
21 in Europe, such that it is reasonable to expect the same of skyr.

22

60. In fact, Iceland is closer to the United States than Europe.

23 61. The distance between New York City and Iceland (2,694 miles) is less than the
24 distance between New York City and California (2,914 miles).

62. In fact, the Product was previously made in Iceland and exported to the U.S.

63. However, Defendant decided to produce "the skyr closer to consumers . . . to offer

27

25

26

28

1	more competitive prices." ⁷	
2	64. "More competitive prices" is another way to say Defendant would reap greate	r
3	profits by representing its skyr was made in Iceland even though it was made in the U.S.	
4	65. Plaintiff and the class members expected that the Product is made with ingredient	s
5	from Iceland, beyond just the starter cultures identified on the label.	
6	66. In conjunction with the Product's packaging and extensive advertisements and	d
7	marketing, this causes consumers to mistakenly believe that they are purchasing a Product with	n
8	immediate Icelandic origins.	
9	V. RELIANCE AND ECONOMIC INJURY	
10	67. Plaintiff sought to purchase Icelandic skyr that was made in Iceland.	
11	68. Plaintiff expected Defendant's Icelandic skyr Product would have ingredients from	n
12	Iceland and be made in traditional Icelandic methods.	
13	69. Plaintiff selected Icelandic Provisions' skyr Product instead of other varieties of sky	r
14	because she believed that, unlike the other brands of Icelandic skyr, Icelandic Provisions' sky	r
15	Product was made in Iceland.	
16	70. Plaintiff understood the representations on the front of the label - "Traditiona	1
17	Icelandic Skyr," above an Icelandic pastoral setting – and the notable absence of the words "style"	,,
18	or "type" to modify "skyr," to indicate the Product was made in Iceland.	
19	71. Plaintiff viewed the website and other marketing representations which also created	d
20	the impression the Product was made in Iceland.	
21	72. Plaintiff did not expect the Product to be made in upstate New York because of th	e
22	Icelandic representations.	
23	73. Plaintiff saw and relied on the advertising identified herein, which misleadingly	у
24	emphasizes Iceland, even though the Product is not made in Iceland.	
25	74. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she knew the representations wer	e
26	false and misleading.	
27		
28	 ⁷ Staff, <u>Iceland's largest skyr producer, the dairy MS, starts producing Icelandic skyr in the US</u>, Mar 29, 2017, Iceland Magazine. 	:
	13 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	\neg
	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	- 1

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1	75.	The Product costs more than similar products without misleading representations and		
2	but for the m	isleading representations, would have cost less.		
3	76.	Plaintiff paid more for the Product than she otherwise would have, and would only		
4	have been wi	lling to pay less, or unwilling to purchase it at all, absent the misleading representations.		
5	77.	As a result of the false and misleading labeling, the Product is sold at a premium		
6	price, approx	imately no less than \$2.79 for a 5.3 oz cup, excluding tax, compared to other similar		
7	products represented in a non-misleading way, and is sold at a price that is higher than the price of			
8	the Product w	vould have been if it were represented in a non-misleading way.		
9	78.	The competing brands of skyr cost less than Defendant's Product, at an average price		
10	of no more th	nan \$2.19 for a 5.3 oz cup.		
11		PARTIES		
12	79.	Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg is a resident of Moraga, Alameda County, California.		
13	80.	During the relevant statutes of limitations for each cause of action, including between		
14	August and C	October 2020, among other times, Plaintiff Steinberg purchased the Product, including		
15	the Tradition	al Skyr Icelandic Provisions Plain Yogurt, for personal and household consumption		
16	and use, in re	liance on the representations that the Product was made in Iceland.		
17	81.	Plaintiff Steinberg purchased the Product at stores including Whole Foods Market,		
18	399 4th Stree	t, San Francisco, California 94107.		
19	82.	Plaintiff Steinberg purchased the Icelandic Provisions skyr Product over other		
20	Icelandic sky	r products, made by companies like Siggi's, Trader Joe's, Dannon, Aldi, Liberte, and		
21	others, becau	use she believed Defendant's skyr Product was made in Iceland with Icelandic		
22	ingredients a	nd in traditional Icelandic methods.		
23	83.	Plaintiff paid no less than the above-referenced price for the Product.		
24	84.	Plaintiff prefers to consume foods which have enduring and authentic connections to		
25	a place assoc	iated with them, such as Italian tomatoes and Florida oranges.		
26	85.	Plaintiff expects that foods which are associated with a particular geographic place		
27	will be highe	r quality than versions of those foods made elsewhere.		
28	86.	Plaintiff expects that a place most associated with a food has the most knowledge		
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1	about how to	produce the food in the way they, and others, are accustomed to.
2	87.	Plaintiff and reasonable consumers have such preferences because they recognize the
3	value of certa	in products to specific geographic areas and choose to reward this authenticity with
4	their purchase	es and money.
5	88.	Plaintiff expected the Product would be made from Icelandic ingredients, beyond the
6	skyr cultures	referenced on the package.
7	89.	Plaintiff expected the Product would be made in Iceland because that is what the
8	label said and	/or implied.
9	90.	Defendant Icelandic Provisions, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with a principal place
10	of business in	New York, New York, in New York County.
11	91.	Defendant is the leader in the production of skyr.
12	92.	Defendant's skyr Product is sold in thousands of locations in California, from
13	grocery stores	s to convenience stores, to big box stores, specialty markets, and chain drug stores, and
14	it is available	online.
15		JURISDICTION AND VENUE
16	93.	This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this putative class action
17	pursuant to th	e Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).
18	94.	Plaintiff Steinberg is a citizen of Moraga, Alameda County, California.
19	95.	Defendant is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New
20	York, New Y	ork, New York County.
21	96.	Diversity exists because Plaintiff Steinberg and Defendant are citizens of different
22	states.	
23	97.	Upon information and belief, sales of the Product and any available statutory and
24	other monetar	ry damages exceed \$5 million during the applicable statutes of limitations, exclusive
25	of interest and	d costs.
26	98.	Venue is proper because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to
27	the claim occ	urred within this District, including the purchases of Plaintiff Rivka Steinberg and her
28	awareness of	the representations and omissions at issue.
		15 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
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- 1	1	

1	99.	This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it is transacts business
2	within Califor	rnia and sells its products to consumers from thousands of stores within California.
3	Intrac	listrict Assignment
4	100.	Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c)-(d), a substantial part of the events giving rise to
5	the claims aro	bse in Alameda County, and this action should be assigned to the Oakland Division or
6	the San Franc	isco Division.
7		CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS
8	101.	Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2),
9	and (b)(3).	
10	102.	Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class (the "Class"):
11		All persons residing in California who purchased the Product for personal or household consumption and use since July 20, 2015.
12		personal of nousehold consumption and use since July 20, 2015.
13	103.	Excluded from the Class are: (a) Defendant, Defendant's board members, executive-
14	level officers,	and attorneys, and immediately family members of any of the foregoing persons; (b)
15	governmental	entities; (c) the Court, the Court's immediate family, and the Court staff; and (d) any
16	person that tin	nely and properly excludes himself or herself from the Class in accordance with Court-
17	approved proc	cedures.
18	104.	The Class consists of hundreds of thousands of persons, and joinder is impracticable.
19	105.	Common questions of law or fact predominate and include whether Defendant's
20	representation	as and omissions were and are misleading and if Plaintiff and the Class members are
21	entitled to inju	unctive relief and damages.
22	106.	Plaintiff's claims and bases for relief are typical of those of the other Class members
23	because all we	ere subjected to the same unfair and deceptive representations and omissions.
24	107.	Plaintiff is an adequate Class representative. Plaintiff's interests do not conflict with
25	the interests	of the other Class members. Plaintiff has selected competent counsel that are
26	experienced in	n class action and other complex litigation. Plaintiff and her counsel are committed to
27	prosecuting th	his action vigorously on behalf of the Class and have the resources to do so.
28	108.	Certification is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(3) because the predominance and
		16 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
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1	superiority requirements are met.
2	109. Common questions predominate over individual questions because the focus of
3	Plaintiff's claims is on Defendant's practices.
4	110. A class action is superior to other available methods for adjudication of this
5	controversy, since individual actions would risk inconsistent results, be repetitive, and are
6	impractical to justify, as the claims are modest relative to the scope of the harm.
7	111. Certification is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(2) to the extent the Class seeks
8	declaratory and injunctive relief because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply
9	generally to the Class.
10	112. Plaintiff anticipates this Court can direct notice to the Class by publication in major
11	media outlets and the Internet.
12	CLAIMS FOR RELIEF
13	FIRST CLAIM
14 15	Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 et seq. Unlawful Conduct Prong By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class
16	113. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.
17	114. California's Unfair Competition Law, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 et seq.
18	("UCL"), prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice."
19	115. Defendant's representations and omissions are "unlawful" because they violate the
20	Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act ("FFDCA") and its implementing regulations, including:
21	1. 21 U.S.C. § 343, which deems food misbranded when the label
22	contains a statement that is "false or misleading in any particular,"
23	with "misleading" defined to "take[] into account (among other
24	things) not only representations made or suggested by statement,
25	word, design, device, or any combination thereof, but also the extent
26	to which the labeling or advertising fails to reveal facts material"; and
27	2. 21 U.S.C. § 321(n), which states the nature of a false and misleading
28	advertisement.
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1	116		
1			nt's conduct is "unlawful" because it violates the California's False
2	-		BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500 et seq. ("FAL"), and California's Consumers
3	Legal Remedie	s Act, C	AL. CIV. CODE § 1750 <i>et seq</i> . ("CLRA").
4	117.	Defenda	nt's conduct violates California's Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law,
5	CAL. HEALTH &	& SAF. Co	DDE § 109875 et seq. ("Sherman Law"), including:
6		1. S	ection 110100 (adopting all FDA regulations as state regulations);
7		2. S	ection 110290 ("In determining whether the labeling or
8		a	dvertisement of a food is misleading, all representations made or
9		S	uggested by statement, word, design, device, sound, or any
10		c	ombination of these, shall be taken into account. The extent that the
11		la	abeling or advertising fails to reveal facts concerning the food or
12		с	onsequences of customary use of the food shall also be
13		c	onsidered.");
14		3. S	ection 110390 ("It is unlawful for any person to disseminate any
15		fa	alse advertisement of any food An advertisement is false if it is
16		fa	alse or misleading in any particular.");
17		4. S	ection 110395 ("It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell,
18		d	eliver, hold, or offer for sale any food that is falsely advertised.");
19		5. S	ection 110398 ("It is unlawful for any person to advertise any food,
20		d	rug, device, or cosmetic that is adulterated or misbranded.");
21		6. S	ection 110400 ("It is unlawful for any person to receive in commerce
22		a	ny food that is falsely advertised or to deliver or proffer for
23		d	elivery any such food "); and
24		7. S	ection 110660 ("Any food is misbranded if its labeling is false or
25		n	nisleading in any particular.").
26	118.	Each of	the challenged statements, representations, omissions, and actions taken by
27	Defendant viol	ates the	FFDCA, FAL, and Sherman Law, and therefore violates the "unlawful"
28	prong of the U	CL.	
			18
		Ctor	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT inberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568
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1	119. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and the Class members to
2	purchase a Product that was of lesser value and quality than advertised.
3	120. Defendant's deceptive advertising caused Plaintiff and the Class members to suffer
4	injury-in-fact and to lose money or property.
5	121. Defendant's actions denied Plaintiff and the Class members the benefit of the bargain
6	when they decided to purchase the Product instead of other products that are less expensive and are
7	also not made in Iceland.
8	122. Had Plaintiff and the Class members been aware of Defendant's false and misleading
9	advertising, they would not have purchased the Product at all, or would have paid less than they did.
10	123. In accordance with California Business & Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff
11	seeks an order enjoining Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair,
12	and/or fraudulent acts and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.
13	124. Plaintiff seeks an order for the disgorgement and restitution of all monies from the
14	sale of the Product that were unjustly acquired through such acts.
15	125. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.
16 17 18	<u>SECOND CLAIM</u> Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 <i>et seq.</i> Unfair and Fraudulent Conduct Prongs By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class
10	126. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.
20	120. Thankin meorporates an preceding paragraphs. 127. The UCL prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice."
20	127. The occupionistics any "unnawful, unnam of fradeductic business act of practice." 128. The false and misleading representations of the Product constitute "unfair" business
21	acts and practices because they are immoral, unscrupulous, and offend public policy.
22	129. The gravity of the conduct at issue outweighs any conceivable benefit.
23 24	 129. The gravity of the conduct at issue outweights any concervable benefit. 130. The representations and omissions constitute "fraudulent" business acts and practices
24	
	because they are false and misleading to Plaintiff and the Class members.
26	131. Defendant's representations and omissions deceived Plaintiff and the Class members
27	about the Product's origins, about the presence of ingredients from Iceland, and about whether the
28	Product was made in the traditional method. 19
	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Steinberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568

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1	132. Defendant knew or reasonably should have known that its statements and omissions
2	concerning the Product were likely to deceive consumers.
3	133. In accordance with California Business & Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff
4	seeks an order enjoining Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair,
5	and/or fraudulent acts and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.
6	134. Plaintiff seeks an order for the disgorgement and restitution of all monies from the
7	sale of the Product that were unjustly acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent
8	competition.
9	135. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.
10	THIRD CLAIM
11	Violation of California's False Advertising Law, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500 <i>et seq.</i> By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class
12	136. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.
13	137. The FAL prohibits "mak[ing] any false or misleading advertising claim."
14	138. Defendant makes "false [and] misleading advertising claim[s]" by deceiving
15	consumers as to the immediate origins of the Product, namely, that it was made in Iceland, with all
16	or most of its ingredients produced in Iceland, such as milk from Icelandic dairy cows, and made in
17	traditional Icelandic methods.
18	139. In reliance on these false and misleading advertising claims, Plaintiff and the Class
19	members purchased and consumed the Product without the knowledge that it was not made in
20	Iceland.
21	140. Defendant knew or should have known that its representations and omissions were
22	likely to deceive consumers.
23	141. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members seek injunctive and equitable relief,
24	restitution, and an order for the disgorgement of the funds by which Defendant was unjustly
25	enriched.
26	142. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.
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28	20
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3

FOURTH CLAIM

Violation of California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, CAL. CIV. CODE § 1750 et seq. By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class

143. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.

4 144. The CLRA adopts a statutory scheme prohibiting deceptive practices in connection
5 with the conduct of a business providing goods, property, or services primarily for personal, family,
6 or household purposes.

7 145. Defendant's policies, acts, and practices were designed to, and did, result in the
8 purchase and use of the Product primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, and violated
9 and continue to violate the following sections of the CLRA:

- 10 1. Section 1770(a)(2), which prohibits representing that goods have a particular composition or contents that they do not have; 11 2. 12 Section 1770(a)(5), which prohibits representing that goods have characteristics, uses, benefits, or ingredients that they do not have; 13 3. 14 Section 1770(a)(7), which prohibits representing that goods are of a 15 particular standard, quality, or grade if they are of another; Section 1770(a)(9), which prohibits advertising goods with intent not 16 4. 17 to sell them as advertised; and
- 185.Section 1770(a)(16), which prohibits representing that the subject of19a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous20representation when it has not.

21 146. Plaintiff requests that this Court enjoin Defendant from continuing to employ the
22 unlawful methods, acts, and practices alleged herein pursuant to California Civil Code section 1780.

23 147. If Defendant is not restrained from engaging in these types of practices in the future,
24 Plaintiff and the Class members will continue to suffer harm.

148. Pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code section 1782(a), Shannah Smith,
a resident of Redwood City, San Mateo County, California, sent a CLRA Notice to Defendant's
principal place of business in New York County and its registered agent in Delaware on May 6,
2021, via co-counsel Sheehan & Associates, P.C., via certified mail, return receipt requested.

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1 149. Based on information obtained from the website of the California Secretary of State
 2 at the time the CLRA Notices were sent, Defendant does not have a principal place of business or
 3 registered agent within California.

4 150. Shannah Smith informed Defendant that she purchased the Product for personal and
5 household use and consumption in 2021, including but not limited to April 2021.

6

151. The CLRA Notices detailed the violations of the CLRA.

7 152. Shannah Smith, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated in California,
8 and the general public, demanded that Defendant remedy the violations within 30 days of receipt of
9 the CLRA Notices and take corrective action.

10 153. Shannah Smith, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated in California, 11 and the general public, informed Defendant that if it fails to take these corrective actions, she would 12 bring a class action, in any appropriate court, or add claims under the CLRA to any existing class 13 action, asserting claims for actual and punitive damages under the CLRA and any other applicable 14 consumer laws and regulations to compel these steps, as well as seeking any other legally 15 appropriate restitution or damages, attorneys' fees, costs, incentive awards, and the costs of class 16 notice and administration.

17 154. On May 12, 2021, the CLRA Notice sent to Defendant's registered agent in Delaware
18 was signed for by Defendant's registered agent in Delaware.

19 155. On May 10, 2021, the CLRA Notice sent to New York arrived at the address that
20 was listed on the New York Secretary of State's website as Defendant's principal place of business.

21 156. According to a report from the U.S. Postal Service, Defendant moved from that
22 address and no forwarding address was provided.

23 157. The CLRA Notice that was sent to the New York address was returned, in its original
24 envelope, to the office of co-counsel, Sheehan & Associates, P.C.

25 158. Attorneys representing Defendant contacted Sheehan & Associates, P.C., in a letter
26 dated June 10, 2021.

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Steinberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568

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1	159.	Defendant acknowledged receipt of the CLRA Notice sent by Shannah Smith.							
2	160.	160. Defendant denied all violations referenced by Shannah Smith and refused to correct							
3	any of the challenged practices.								
4	161.	161. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief, restitution, and monetary damages for Defendant's							
5	violations of the CLRA.								
6	162. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.								
7 8	<u>FIFTH CLAIM</u> Unjust Enrichment By Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class								
9	163.	Plaintiffs incorporate all preceding paragraphs.							
10	164.	Defendant obtained benefits and monies because the Product was not as represented							
11	and expected, to the detriment and impoverishment of Plaintiffs and the Class members, who seek								
12	restitution and disgorgement of inequitably obtained profits.								
13	165.	Therefore, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.							
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1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF								
2	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the members of the proposed Class, prays								
3	for judgment and relief on all of the legal claims as follows:								
4	А.	A. Certification of the Class, certifying Plaintiff as representative of the Class, and							
5		designating Plaintiff's counsel as counsel for the Class;							
6	В.	A declaration that Defendant is financially responsible for notifying the Class							
7		members of the pendency of this suit;							
8	C.	C. A declaration that Defendant has committed the violations alleged herein;							
9	D.	D. For any and all injunctive relief the Court deems appropriate;							
10	E.	E. For monetary damages, including but not limited to any compensatory, incidental, or							
11	consequential damages, in accordance with applicable law;								
12	F.	F. For any and all equitable monetary relief the Court deems appropriate;							
13	G.	G. For punitive damages;							
14	Н.	I. For attorneys' fees;							
15	I.	For costs of suit incurred;							
16	J.	J. For pre- and post-judgment interest at the legal rate on the foregoing sums; and							
17	К.	K. For such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.							
18		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL							
19	Plaint	iff demands a jury trial on all causes of action so triable.							
20									
21	Date: July 20	, 2021 Respectfully submitted,							
22		By: <u>/s/ George V. Granade</u> George V. Granade (State Bar No. 316050)							
23	ggranade@reesellp.com								
24	REESE LLP 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515								
25	Los Angeles, California 90211 Telephone: (310) 393-0070								
26		Facsimile: (212) 253-4272							
27		Michael R. Reese (State Bar No. 206773) REESE LLP							
28		100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor New York, New York 10025							
	24								
		CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Steinberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568							

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1			Telephone: (212) Facsimile: (212)	643-0500 253-4272				
2				(pro hac vice to be filed)				
3			spencer@spence.	rsheehan.com SSOCIATES, P.C.				
4			60 Cuttermill Ro Great Neck, New	ad, Suite 409 7 York 11021				
5			Telephone: (516) Facsimile: (516)	234-7800				
6			Counsel for Plain and the Proposed	ntiff Rivka Steinberg				
7			unu ine Froposec	i Class				
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	Steinberg v. Icelandic Provisions, Inc., No. 3:21-cv-05568							

JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 10/2020) Case 4:21-cv-05568-SBA_Document 1-1_Filed_07/20/21_Page 1 of 1_CIVIL_COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS . Rivka Steinberg, individually and on behalf of all others similarl situated	у	DEFENDANTS Icelandic Provisions, Inc.						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Alameda (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)						
		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)						
George V. Granade, Reese LLP, 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515								
Los Angeles, California 90211, Telephone: (310) 393-0070								
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		FIZENSHI r Diversity Case		INCI	PAL PA	RTIES (Place an "X" in One Bo and One Box for Defend		uintiff
				PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citize	en of This State		X ¹	1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	4	4
2 U.S. Government Defendant × 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another St	tate	2	2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	5	× 5
(Indicate Cutzensnip of Farites in tiem III)		en or Subject of gn Country	a	3	3	Foreign Nation	6	6

IV. NATURE OF SU	UIT (Place an "X" in One Box	Only)						
CONTRACT	TO	RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES			
 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury -Medical	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury – Product	 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act 	422 Appeal 28 USC § 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 835 Patent—Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff)	OTHER STATUTES 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act 490 Cable/Sat TV			
160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities- Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities-Other 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS HABEAS CORPUS 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty OTHER 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 465 Other Immigration Actions	 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC § 7609 	 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 			
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) X1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which vou are filing (Do not cite iurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) Brief description of cause: False advertising Image: False advertising								
VII. REQUESTED I COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY (See instr			AND \$ 5,000,000.00 DOCKET NUMBER	CHECK YES only if dem JURY DEMAND:	anded in complaint: X Yes No			
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2) (Place an "X" in One Box Only) × SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE								

DATE 07/20/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ George V. Granade