

Charles A. Harwood Regional Director UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION NORTHWEST REGION

April 28, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO nfrey@vaniman.com Vaniman Manufacturing Co. 25799 Jefferson Avenue Murrieta, CA 92562

Re: Unsubstantiated Claims for Prevention of Airborne Transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at <u>www.vaniman.com</u> on April 27, 2020. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

An example of a Coronavirus prevention claim on your website includes:

"Which HEPA air purifiers can filter out the COVID-19 virus? No air purifier will capture the virus with 100% certainty – but HEPA air purifier like our Pure Breeze system and even our smaller Vanguard Gold Mobile can greatly help to reduce the spread AND capture the Covid virus in your home or workplace."
[https://www.vaniman.com/do-hepa-air-purifiers-filter-out-the-covid-19-virus/]

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 *et seq.*, to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. Although there are air filters that may be able to remove some virus particles from the air, no evidence is currently known to demonstrate that air purifiers can prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention claims regarding such products are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims.

You are also advised to review all other claims for your products and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

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Within 48 hours, please send a message to Nadine Samter, via electronic mail at nsamter@ftc.gov describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Ms. Samter at 206-220-4479 or via email at nsamter@ftc.gov.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Harwood Regional Director Northwest Region