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iscellaneous Civil Complaint (42)]
position 65, Health & Safety Code tion 25249.5 et seq.]
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Plaintiffs David Steinman and Chemical Toxin Working Group hereby allege:

# Ι

# **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff David Steinman (hereinafter "David Steinman") and Plaintiff The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc. (hereinafter "CTWG") or collectively "Plaintiffs" bring this action as private attorneys general and in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (d). This complaint seeks injunctive and declaratory relief and civil

penalties to remedy Chicken of the Sea International and Tri-Union Sea Foods, LLC DBA Chicken of the Sea International's ("Chicken of the Sea")'s failure to warn California consumers of their exposure to lead and cadmium from ingestion of certain products manufactured distributed, and/or sold by Chicken of the Sea. Causes of action for injunctive and declaratory relief and civil penalties are brought by David Steinman as to the product Chicken of the Sea Whole Oysters, and by CTWG as to the products Chicken of the Sea Minced Clams; and Chicken of the Sea Whole Oysters, and by CTWG as to the products Chicken of the Sea Minced Clams; and Chicken of the Sea Whole Baby Clams ("Covered Products"). The Covered Products expose people to lead. The product Chicken of the Sea Whole Oysters also exposes people to cadmium. Lead and cadmium are chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Based on the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 *et seq.*) also known as "Proposition 65," businesses with ten or more employees must provide a "clear and reasonable warning" prior to exposing persons to certain listed chemicals, including lead and cadmium.

# Π

# PARTIES

2. Plaintiff David Steinman is a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. His major books include Diet for a Poisoned Planet (1990, 2007); The Safe Shopper's Bible (1995); Living Healthy in a Toxic World (1996); and Safe Trip to Eden: Ten Steps to Save the Planet Earth from Global Warming Meltdown (2007). Through this legal action, Mr. Steinman seeks to eliminate or substantially reduce exposure to lead and cadmium by California consumers.

Page 2 of 7

3. Plaintiff CTWG is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to reducing the amount of chemical toxins in consumer products. CTWG was created by David Steinman.

4. Defendant Chicken of the Sea is a business entity that employs ten or more persons in the course of doing business for the purpose of Proposition 65. Chicken of the Sea manufactures, distributes and/or sells the Covered Products.

5. Defendants Does 1-100, are named herein under fictitious names, as their true names and capacities are unknown to Plaintiffs. David Steinman and CTWG are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each of said Does is responsible, in some actionable manner, for the events and happenings hereinafter referred to, either through said defendant's conduct, or through the conduct of its agents, servants or employees, or in some other manner, causing the harms alleged by plaintiffs in this complaint. When said true names and capacities of Does are ascertained, David Steinman and CTWG will seek leave to amend this complaint to set forth the same.

# III JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 because this case is a cause not given by statute to other trial courts.

7. David Steinman has performed any and all conditions precedent to the filing of a legal action pursuant to Proposition 65 by serving by mail a Notice of Violation, dated February 24, 2012 to the Attorney General of the State of California, the State's district attorneys, the appropriate city attorney's and to Chicken of the Sea. A true and correct copy of the Notice of Violation is attached herein as Exhibit A. More than 60 days have passed since this Notice was mailed and no public enforcement entity has filed a complaint in this case.

8. CTWG has performed any and all conditions precedent to the filing of a legal action pursuant to Proposition 65 by serving by mail Notices of Violation, dated August 8, 2013 and November 12, 2013 to the Attorney General of the State of California, the State's district attorneys, the appropriate city attorney's, and to Chicken of the Sea. True and correct copies of these Notices of Violation are attached herein as Exhibit B. More than 60 days have passed

# Page **3** of **7**

since these Notices were mailed and no public enforcement entity has filed a complaint in this case.

9. This Court is the proper venue for the action because the causes of action have arisen in the County of Marin where some of the violations of law have occurred. Furthermore, this Court is the proper venue under Code of Civil Procedure Section 395.5 and Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7.

#### IV

## STATUTORY BACKGROUND

#### A. Proposition 65

10. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 is an initiative statute passed as "Proposition 65" by an overwhelming majority vote of the people in November of 1986.

11. The warning requirement of Proposition 65 is contained in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6, which provides:

No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual, except as provided in Section 25249.10.

12. Implementing regulations for Proposition 65 provide that warnings are required for consumer product exposures. A "consumer product exposure is an exposure which results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." 27 CCR Section 25601 (b).

13. Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6, the "method employed to transmit the warning must be reasonably calculated considering the alternative methods available under the circumstances, to make the warning message available prior to exposure." 27 CCR Section 25601 (a). The warning requirement may be satisfied by a warning that appears on a product's label or other labeling, signs, a system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any other, system, that provides clear and reasonable warnings. Id., Section 25601 (b)(1)(A)-(C).

Page  ${\bf 4}$  of  ${\bf 7}$ 

14. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State is to develop a list of chemicals "known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity." Health & Safety Code Section 25249.8. There is no duty to provide a clear and reasonable warning until 12-months after the chemical was published on the State list. <u>Id</u>., Section 25249.10(b). Lead was listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992, and as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. Title 27, Cal. Code Regs., Section 27001. Cadmium was listed as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity on May 1, 1997. <u>Id</u>.

15. Proposition 65 may be enforced by any person in the public interest who provides notice sixty days before filing suit to both the violator and designated law enforcement officials. The failure of law enforcement officials to file a timely complaint enables a citizen suit to be filed pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (c).

16. Proposition 65 provides that any person "violating or threatening to violate" Proposition 65 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7
(a). To "threaten to violate" means "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." Id., Section 25249.11 (e). Furthermore, violators are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. Id., Section 25249.7 (b).

#### V

# **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

17. Defendant Chicken of the Sea distributes and/or sells the Covered Products to California consumers as set forth in Exhibits A and B. All of the Covered Products contain lead, and one product contains cadmium.

18. Chicken of the Sea has knowingly and intentionally exposed numerous consumers throughout California to lead and cadmium from the Covered Products without providing a Proposition 65 warning. The company has at all times relevant hereto been aware that the Covered Products contain lead and cadmium and that persons using these products have been exposed to the chemical. Chicken of the Sea manufactures, distributes and markets the Covered Products with

Page  $\mathbf{5}$  of  $\mathbf{7}$ 

knowledge that exposures to lead and cadmium occur.

19. Chicken of the Sea has failed to provide users of the Covered Products with a clear and reasonable warning that they are being exposed to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# (Violation of Section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code, Failure to Provide Clear and Reasonable Warning under Proposition 65)

20. David Steinman and CTWG refer to paragraphs 1-19, inclusive, and incorporate them herein by this reference.

21. By committing the acts alleged above, Chicken of the Sea has, in the course of doing business, knowingly and intentionally exposed people to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individuals, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6.

22. Said violations render each defendant liable for civil penalties up to \$2,500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) per day, for each violation.

23. Chicken of the Sea's continued violation of the law will irreparably harm David Steinman, CTWG, and the public interest in whose behalf plaintiffs bring this action, for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

# **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

# (Declaratory Relief)

24. David Steinman and CTWG refer to paragraphs 1-23, inclusive, and incorporate them herein by this reference.

25. There exists an actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the parties, within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1060, between plaintiffs and defendants concerning whether Chicken of the Sea has exposed individuals to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm; without providing clear and reasonable warning.

Page 6 of 7

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE plaintiffs pray for relief as follows:

1. On the First Cause of Action, for civil penalties for each and every violation according to proof;

2. On the First Cause of Action, and pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (a), for such temporary restraining orders, preliminary and permanent injunctive orders, or other orders, prohibiting Chicken of the Sea from exposing persons to lead and cadmium without providing clear and reasonable warnings;

3. On the Second Cause of Action, for a declaratory judgment pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 1060 declaring that Chicken of the Sea has exposed individuals to a chemical known to the State of California to cause, birth defects or other reproductive harm;

4. On all Causes of Action, for reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Section 1021.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure or the substantial benefit theory;

5. For costs of suit herein; and

6. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 4, 2014

By Michael Fround by RRH

Michael Freund Attorney for David Steinman and The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

Page 7 of 7

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT RE: CHICKEN OF THE SEA INTERNATIONAL ET AL.

#### LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL FREUND

1919 ADDISON STREET, SUITE 105 BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704-1101

> TEL (510) 540-1992 FAX (510) 540-5543 EMAIL FREUND1@AOL.COM

February 24, 2012

# VIA PRIORITY MAIL

District Attorneys of All California Counties and Select City Attorneys (See Attached Certificate of Service)

# VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Chicken of the Sea International

4510 Executive Drive, Suite 300

John Signorino, CEO

San Diego, CA 92186 Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550

Oakland, CA 94612-0550

Re: Notice of Violation Against Chicken of the Sea International for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.

Dear Addressees:

I represent David Steinman, a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. His major books include Diet for a Poisoned Planet (1990, 2007); The Safe Shopper's Bible (1995); Living Healthy in a Toxic World (1996); and Safe Trip to Eden: Ten Steps to Save the Planet Earth from Global Warming Meltdown (2007). Through this Notice of Violation, Mr. Steinman seeks to reduce consumer exposures to lead in the named product set forth herein.

This letter constitutes notification that Chicken of the Sea International ("Chicken of the Sea") has violated the warning requirement of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (commencing with section 25249.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The product that is the subject of this Notice of Violation and the chemical in the product identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

# Chicken of the Sea Whole Oysters - lead

Chicken of the Sea has manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the listed product which has exposed and continues to expose numerous individuals within California to lead. This chemical was listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992 and as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. The time period of these violations commenced one year after the listed dates above. The primary route of exposure has been through ingestion.

# **Exhibit** A

Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to certain listed chemicals. Chicken of the Sea is in violation of Proposition 65 because it failed to provide a warning to consumers that they are being exposed to lead. (22 C.C.R. section 12601.) While in the course of doing business, the company is knowingly and intentionally exposing consumers to this chemical without first providing a clear and reasonable warning. (Health and Safety Code section 25249.6.) The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. 22 C.C.R. section 12601 (b)(1) (A). There are no warnings currently present on the company's label for this product.

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be given to a violator 60-days before the suit is filed. With this letter, David Steinman gives notice of the alleged violation to the noticed party and the appropriate governmental authorities. This Notice of Violation covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to Mr. Steinman from information now available to us. Mr. Steinman is continuing his investigation that may reveal further violations. A summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and referenced as Appendix A, has been provided to the noticed party.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

#### Michael Freund

cc: David Steinman

Attachments:

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary to Chicken of the Sea International Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

#### Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7 (d)

I, Michael Freund hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached Notice of Violation in which it is alleged that the party identified in the Notice has violated Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am the attorney for the noticing party David Steinman. Mr. Steinman is a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. The Notice of Violation alleges that the party identified has exposed persons in California to lead from the specified consumer product. Please refer to the Notice of Violation for additional details regarding the product names and alleged violations.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action. In particular, I have consulted with the chemists who conducted the laboratory testing for lead regarding this product and I have relied on the testing results. The testing was conducted by a reputable testing laboratory by experienced scientists. These facts, studies or other data derived through this investigation overwhelmingly demonstrate that the party identified in the Notice of Violation exposes persons to lead through ingestion.

4. Based on the information obtained through these consultants and on other information in my possession, I believe there is sufficient evidence that human exposures exist from exposure to the listed product from the noticed party. Furthermore, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for

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the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the California Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (h) (2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: February 23, 2012

Michael Freund Attorney for David Steinman

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Alameda. I am

over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action; my

business address is 1915 Addison Street, Berkeley, California 94704. On February

27, 2012 I served the within:

Notice of Violation and Certificate of Merit Against Chicken of the Sea International for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq. (Supporting Documentation sent to Attorney General only)

on the parties in said action, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed

envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Post Office mail

box in Berkeley, California as follows:

See attached Service List

I, Michael Freund, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 27, 2012 at Berkeley, California.

Michael Freund

#### SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney of Colusa County 547 Market Street Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Contra Costa County 627 Ferry Street Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney of Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney of Del Norte County 450 H Street, Ste 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of Amador County 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney of El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney of Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney of Glenn County P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney of Kings County 1400 West Lacey Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney of Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney of Humboldt County 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501 District Attorney of Imperial County 939 Main Street El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney of Lassen County 220 S. Lassen St., Ste 8 Susanville, CA 96130

District Attorney of Inyo County P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney of Los Angeles County 210 W. Temple Street, Room 345 Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney of Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney of Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney of Marin County 3501 Civic Center Dr., Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney of Mono County P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney of Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney of Monterey County 230 Church Street, Bldg. 2 Salinas, CA 93901

District Attorney of Mendocino County P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney of Napa County 931 Parkway Mali Napa, CA 94559

District Attorney of Merced County 2222 "M" Street Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney of Nevada County 201 Church St., Suite 8 Nevada City, CA 95959 District Attorney of Orange County 401 Civic Ctr Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney of Modoc County 204 S Court Street Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney of Placer County 11562 "B" Avenue Auburn, CA 95603

District Attorney of San Bernardino County 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415

District Attorney of Plumas County 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney of San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Suite 1320 San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney of Riverside County 4075 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501

District Attorney of San Francisco County 850 Bryant Street, Rm 325 San Francisco, CA 94103

District Attorney of Sacramento County 901 "G" Street Sacramento, CA 95814

District Attorney of San Joaquin County P.O. Box 990 Stockton, CA 95201

District Attorney of San Luis Obispo County 1050 Monterey St, Room 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

District Attorney of San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hollister, CA 95023 District Attorney of San Mateo . County 400 County Ctr, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney of Sierra County Courthouse, P.O. Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney of Santa Barbara County 1105 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

District Attorney of Siskiyou County P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney of Solano County 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney of Santa Clara County 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing San Jose, CA 95110

District Attorney of Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

District Attorney of Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403

District Attorney of Shasta County 1525 Court Street, Third Floor Redding, CA 96001-1632

District Attorney of Stanislaus County 800 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200 PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353

District Attorney of Sutter County 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney of Ventura County 800 South Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009

District Attorney of Tehama County P.O. Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney of Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 District Attorney of Trinity County P.O. Box 310 11 Court St. Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney of Yuba County 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901

District Attorney of Tulare County 221 S. Mooney Ave, Room 224 Visalia, CA 93291

District Attorney of Tuolumne County 423 No. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

San Jose City Attorney's Office 200 East Santa Clara Street San Jose, CA 95113

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office 800 City Hall East 200 N. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Diego City Attorney's Office 1200 3rd Avenue #1620 San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco City Attorney's Office City Hall, Room 234 San Francisco, CA 94102

California Attorney General's Office Attention: Proposition 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612

John Signorino CEO & President Chicken of the Sea International 4510 Executive Drive, Ste 300 San Diego, CA 92121-3029 Michael Freund & Associates 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105 Berkeley, CA 94704 Voice: 510.540.1992 • Fax: 510.540.5543

Michael Freund, Esq. Ryan Hoffman, Esq. OF COUNSEL: Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.

August 8, 2013

# VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Shue Wing Chan, President & CEO Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC dba Chicken of the Sea International 9330 Scranton Road, Suite 500 San Diego, CA 92121

Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

# Re: Notice of Violation Against Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC, dba Chicken of the Sea International for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc., ("CTWG") a California non-profit corporation dedicated to reducing the amount of chemical toxins in consumer products. CTWG was created by David Steinman, a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. His major books include Diet for a Poisoned Planet (1990, 2007); The Safe Shopper's Bible (1995); Living Healthy in a Toxic World (1996); and Safe Trip to Eden: Ten Steps to Save the Planet Earth from Global Warming Meltdown (2007). Through this Notice of Violation, CTWG seeks to reduce exposures to lead in products ingested by consumers.

This letter constitutes notification that Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC, dba Chicken of the Sea International ("Chicken of the Sea") has violated the warning requirement of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic enforcement Act (commencing with section 25249.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The products subject to this Notice of Violation and the chemical in the products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

## Chicken of the Sea Minced Clams – Lead Chicken of the Sea Whole Baby Clams - Lead

Chicken of the Sea has manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the above products which have exposed and continue to expose numerous individuals within California to lead. This

Exhibit B

#### VIA PRIORITY MAIL

District Attorneys of All California Counties and Select City Attorneys (See Attached Certificate of Service) chemical was listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992 and as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. These violations have occurred every day since at least August 8, 2010, and will continue every day until the lead is removed from the noticed products or until clear and reasonable warnings are provided. The primary route of exposure has been through ingestion.

Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to certain listed chemicals. Chicken of the Sea is in violation of Proposition 65 because the company failed to provide a warning to consumers that they are being exposed to lead. (22 C.C.R. section 12601.) While in the course of doing business, the company is knowingly and intentionally exposing consumers to this chemical without first providing a clear and reasonable warning. (Health and Safety Code section 25249.6.) The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. 22 C.C.R. section 12601 (b)(1) (A). There are no warnings currently present on the company's label for these products.

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be given to a violator 60-days before the suit is filed. With this letter, CTWG gives notice of the alleged violations to the noticed party and the appropriate governmental authorities. This Notice of Violation covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to the noticing party from information now available. CTWG is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations. A summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and referenced as Appendix A, has been provided to the noticed party.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Freund

cc: The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc., David Steinman

Attachments:

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary to Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC dba Chicken of the Sea International Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

#### Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7 (d)

I, Michael Freund hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached Notice of Violation in which it is alleged that the party identified in the Notice has violated Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

I am the attorney for the noticing party The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc. The Notice of Violation alleges that the party identified has exposed persons in California to lead from specified consumer products without providing a Proposition 65 warning. Please refer to the Notice of Violation for additional details regarding the product names and alleged violations.
 I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action. In particular, I have consulted with the laboratory who conducted the testing for lead regarding these products and I have relied on the testing results. The testing was conducted by a reputable testing laboratory by experienced scientists. These facts, studies or other data derived through this investigation overwhelmingly demonstrate that the party identified in the Notice of Violation exposes persons to lead through ingestion.

4. Based on the information obtained through the testing laboratory and on other information in my possession, I believe there is sufficient evidence that human exposures exist from exposure to the listed products from the noticed party. Furthermore, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action." means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the

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plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the California Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (h) (2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: August 8, 2013

Mr

Michael Freund Attorney for The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Alameda. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105, Berkeley, California 94704. On August 8, 2013 I served the within:

Notice of Violation Against Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC, dba Chicken of the Sea International for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq. and Certificate of Merit (Supporting Documentation sent to Attorney General only)

by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Post Office mail box in Berkeley, California addressed to the names set forth on the Notice of Violation and on the attached Service List.

I, Michael Freund, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 8, 2013 at Berkeley, <u>California</u>

Michael Freund

District Attorney, Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900 Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney, Colusa County 346 Fifth Street Suite 101 Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000 Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Inyo County 230 W. Line Street Bishop, CA 93514

District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Lassen County 220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130 District Attorney, Los Angeles County 210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000 Los Angeles CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

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District Attorney, Mariposa County. Post Office Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendœino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced County 550 W. Main Street Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 5 5101-4020

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District Attorney, Monterey County Post Office Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902

District Attorney, Napa County 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559

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District Attorney, Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240 Roseville, CA 95678

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District Attorney, Sacramento County 901 "G" Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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District Attorney, Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra County PO Bóx 457 Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403

District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter County 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tulare County 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 224 Visalia, CA 93291 District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Ventura County 800 South Victoria Ave, Suite 314 Ventura, CA 93009

District Attorney, Yolo County 301 2<sup>hd</sup> Street Woodland, CA 95695

District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901

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San Diego City Attorney's Office 1200 3rd Avenue, Ste 1620 San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco, City Attorney City Hall, Room 234 I Dr Carlton B Goodlett PL San Francisco, CA 94102

San Jose City Attorney's Office 200 East Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113

Service List

# **Michael Freund & Associates**

1919 Addison Street, Suite 105 Berkeley, CA 94704 Voice: 510.540.1992 • Fax: 510.540.5543

Michael Freund, Esq. Ryan Hoffman, Esq.

OF COUNSEL: Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.

November 12, 2013

#### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

Shue Wing Chan, President & CEO Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC dba Chicken of the Sea International 9330 Scranton Road, Suite 500 San Diego, CA 92121 District Attorneys of All California Counties and Select City Attorneys (See Attached Certificate of Service)

Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

#### Re: Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc., ("CTWG") a California non-profit corporation dedicated to reducing the amount of chemical toxins in consumer products. CTWG was created by David Steinman, a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. His major books include Diet for a Poisoned Planet (1990, 2007); The Safe Shopper's Bible (1995); Living Healthy in a Toxic World (1996); and Safe Trip to Eden: Ten Steps to Save the Planet Earth from Global Warming Meltdown (2007). Through this Notice of Violation, CTWG seeks to reduce and/or eliminate exposures to cadmium ingested by consumers from oysters.

This letter constitutes notification that Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC, dba Chicken of the Sea ("Chicken of the Sea") has violated the warning requirement of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic enforcement Act (commencing with Section 25249.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The product subject to this Notice of Violation and the chemical in the product identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

#### Chicken of the Sea Whole Oysters - Cadmium

Chicken of the Sea has manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the above product which has exposed and continues to expose numerous individuals within California to cadmium. This chemical was listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1987 and as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and

male reproductive toxicity on May 1, 1997. These violations have occurred every day since at least November 12, 2010, as well as every day since the product was introduced into the California marketplace and will continue every day until cadmium is removed from the noticed product, reduced to allowable levels or until clear and reasonable warnings are provided. The primary route of exposure has been through ingestion but may have also occurred through inhalation and/or dermal contact.

Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to certain listed chemicals. Chicken of the Sea is in violation of Proposition 65 because the company failed to provide a warning to consumers that they are being exposed to cadmium. While in the course of doing business, the company is knowingly and intentionally exposing consumers to this chemical without first providing a clear and reasonable warning. (Health and Safety Code § 25249.6.) The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25603.1, subd. (a).) Chicken of the Sea has not provided any Proposition 65 warnings on the company's label or any other appropriate warnings that persons handling, ingesting and/or otherwise using this product are being exposed to cadmium.

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be given to a violator 60-days before the suit is filed. With this letter, CTWG gives notice of the alleged violations to the noticed party and the appropriate governmental authorities. This Notice of Violation covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to the noticing party from information now available. CTWG is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations. A summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and referenced as Appendix A, has been provided to the noticed party.

CTWG is interested in a prompt resolution of this matter with an enforceable written agreement by Chicken of the Sea to (1) eliminate or reduce cadmium levels to allowable levels, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of this product; and (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures and expensive and time consuming litigation.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely, M/-

Michael Freund

cc: The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

Attachments:

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary to Chicken of the Sea, International Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only)

#### **CERTIFICTE OF MERIT**

# Re: The Chemical Toxin Working Group Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Tri-Union Seafoods, LLC dba Chicken of the Sea International, Inc.

I, Michael Freund hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached Notice of Violation in which it is alleged that the party identified in the Notice has violated Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am the attorney for the noticing party The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc. The Notice of Violation alleges that the party identified has exposed persons in California to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice. Please refer to the Notice of Violation for additional details regarding the product name(s) and alleged violations.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice. I have reviewed the laboratory testing results for the chemical subject to this Notice and relied on these results. The testing was conducted by a reputable testing laboratory by experienced scientists. The facts, studies or other data derived through this investigation overwhelmingly demonstrate that the party identified in the Notice of Violation exposes persons to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through these consultants and on other information in my possession, I believe there is sufficient evidence that human exposures exist from exposure to the listed product from the noticed party. Furthermore, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the California Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 (h) (2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: November 12, 2013

MILE

Michael Freund Attorney for The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Alameda. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105, Berkeley, California 94704. On November 12, 2013 I served the within:

# Notice of Violation By Tri Union Seafoods, LLC dba Chicken of the Sea International for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq. and Certificate of Merit (Supporting Documentation sent to Attorney General only)

on the parties in said action, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Post Office mail box in Berkeley, California addressed to the names set forth on the Notice of Violation and on the attached Service List.

I, Michael Freund, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and

correct. Executed on November 12, 2013 at Berkeley, California

Michael Freund

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq.

District Attorney, Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900 Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney, Colusa County 346 Fifth Street Suite 101 Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000 Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humbold County 825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Inyo County 230 W. Line Street Bishop, CA 93514

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