

1 Reuben Yeroushalmi (SBN 193981)  
2 [reuben@yeroushalmi.com](mailto:reuben@yeroushalmi.com)

3 **YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI\***  
4 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W  
5 Beverly Hills, California 90212  
6 Telephone: (310) 623-1926  
7 Facsimile: (310) 623-1930

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff,  
9 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

10  
11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
12  
13 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

14 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.,  
15 in the public interest,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 OVERSEAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION, LLC  
19 DBA GOLCHIN, a California Limited  
20 Liability Company;  
21 PERSIAN BASKET.COM, LLC, a Georgia  
22 Limited Liability Company;  
23 and DOES 1-10,

24 Defendants.

CASE NO. **26STCV17365**

COMPLAINT FOR PENALTY AND  
INJUNCTION

Violation of Proposition 65, the Safe  
Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement  
Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §  
25249.5, *et seq.*)

ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL  
CASE (exceeds \$35,000)

25  
26 Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. alleges one cause of action against  
27 defendants OVERSEAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION, LLC DBA GOLCHIN; PERSIAN  
28 BASKET.COM, LLC and DOES 1-10 as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. (“Plaintiff” or “CAG”) is an organization qualified to do business in the State of California. CAG is a person within the meaning of Health and Safety Code Section 25249.11, subdivision (a). CAG, acting as a private attorney general, brings this action in the public interest as defined under Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, subdivision (d).
2. Defendant OVERSEAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION, LLC DBA GOLCHIN (“GOLCHIN”) is a California Limited Liability Company qualified to do business in California, and doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
3. Defendant PERSIAN BASKET.COM, LLC (“PERSIAN BASKET”) is a Georgia Limited Liability Company, doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
4. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1-10, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each fictitiously named defendant is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged and the damages caused thereby.
5. At all times mentioned herein, the term “Defendants” includes GOLCHIN, PERSIAN BASKET, and DOES 1-10.
6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants at all times mentioned herein have conducted business within the State of California.
7. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this action, each of the Defendants, including DOES 1-10, was an agent, servant, or employee of each of the other Defendants. In conducting the activities alleged in this Complaint, each of the Defendants was acting within the course and scope of this agency, service, or employment, and was acting with the consent, permission, and authorization of each of

1 the other Defendants. All actions of each of the Defendants alleged in this Complaint  
2 were ratified and approved by every other Defendant or their officers or managing  
3 agents. Alternatively, each of the Defendants aided, conspired with and/or facilitated the  
4 alleged wrongful conduct of each of the other Defendants.

- 5 8. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, each of the  
6 Defendants was a person doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code  
7 Section 25249.11, subdivision (b), and that each of the Defendants had ten (10) or more  
8 employees at all relevant times.

9 **JURISDICTION**

- 10 9. The Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit pursuant to California Constitution Article  
11 VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except  
12 those given by statute to other trial courts. This Court has jurisdiction over this action  
13 pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, which allows enforcement of  
14 violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction.
- 15 10. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants named herein because Defendants either  
16 reside or are located in this State or are foreign corporations authorized to do business in  
17 California, are registered with the California Secretary of State, or who do sufficient  
18 business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts with California, or otherwise  
19 intentionally avail themselves of the markets within California through their  
20 manufacture, distribution, promotion, marketing, or sale of their products within  
21 California to render the exercise of jurisdiction by the California courts permissible  
22 under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 23 11. Venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles because one or more of the instances of  
24 wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County of Los Angeles and/or  
25 because Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in the County of Los  
26 Angeles with respect to the consumer product that is the subject of this action.

27 **BACKGROUND AND PRELIMINARY FACTS**

- 1 12. In 1986, California voters approved an initiative to address growing concerns about  
2 exposure to toxic chemicals and declared their right “[t]o be informed about exposures to  
3 chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.” Ballot Pamp.,  
4 Proposed Law, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 4, 1986) at p. 3. The initiative, The Safe Drinking  
5 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code Sections  
6 25249.5, *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), helps to protect California’s drinking water sources  
7 from contamination, to allow consumers to make informed choices about the products  
8 they buy, and to enable persons to protect themselves from toxic chemicals as they see  
9 fit.
- 10 13. Proposition 65 requires the Governor of California to publish a list of chemicals known  
11 to the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. *Health & Safety*  
12 *Code* § 25249.8. The list, which the Governor updates at least once a year, contains over  
13 700 chemicals and chemical families. Proposition 65 imposes warning requirements and  
14 other controls that apply to Proposition 65-listed chemicals.
- 15 14. All businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate or sell products in California  
16 must comply with Proposition 65. Under Proposition 65, businesses are: (1) prohibited  
17 from knowingly discharging Proposition 65-listed chemicals into sources of drinking  
18 water (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5), and (2) required to provide “clear and  
19 reasonable” warnings before exposing a person, knowingly and intentionally, to a  
20 Proposition 65-listed chemical (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.6).
- 21 15. Proposition 65 provides that any person "violating or threatening to violate" the statute  
22 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. *Health & Safety Code* §  
23 25249.7. "Threaten to violate" means "to create a condition in which there is a  
24 substantial probability that a violation will occur." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.11(e).  
25 Defendants are also liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation,  
26 recoverable in a civil action. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(b).
- 27  
28

1 16. Plaintiff identified certain practices of manufacturers and distributors of Sumac of  
2 exposing, knowingly and intentionally, persons in California to Lead and Lead  
3 Compounds of such products without first providing clear and reasonable warnings of  
4 such to the exposed persons prior to the time of exposure. Plaintiff later discerned that  
5 Defendants engaged in such practice.

6 17. On October 1, 1992, the Governor of California added Lead and Lead Compounds  
7 (“Lead”) to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer (*Cal. Code Regs.* tit.  
8 27, § 27001(b)). Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.9 and 25249.10,  
9 twenty (20) months after addition of Lead to the list of chemicals known to the State to  
10 cause cancer, Lead became fully subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements and  
11 discharge prohibitions.

12 18. On February 27, 1987, the Governor of California added Lead to the list of chemicals  
13 known to the State to cause developmental and reproductive toxicity (*Cal. Code Regs.*  
14 tit. 27, § 27001(c)). Lead is known to the State to cause developmental, female, and  
15 male reproductive toxicity. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.9 and  
16 25249.10, twenty (20) months after addition of Lead to the list of chemicals known to  
17 the State to cause developmental and reproductive toxicity, Lead became fully subject to  
18 Proposition 65 warning requirements and discharge prohibitions.

19 **SATISFACTION OF PRIOR NOTICE**

20 19. Plaintiff served the following notices for alleged violations of Health and Safety Code  
21 Section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures:

- 22 a. On or about February 23, 2026, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of  
23 Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6, concerning consumer products  
24 exposures subject to a private action to GOLCHIN, PERSIAN BASKET, and to  
25 the California Attorney General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys  
26 for each city containing a population of at least 750,000 people in whose  
27 jurisdictions the violations allegedly occurred, concerning the Sumac.

28

1 20. Before sending the notice of alleged violations, Plaintiff investigated the consumer  
2 products involved, the likelihood that such products would cause users to suffer  
3 significant exposures to Lead, and the corporate structure of each of the Defendants.

4 21. Plaintiff's notice of alleged violation included a Certificate of Merit executed by the  
5 attorney for the noticing party, CAG. The Certificate of Merit stated that the attorney for  
6 Plaintiff who executed the certificate had consulted with at least one person with relevant  
7 and appropriate expertise who reviewed data regarding the exposures to Lead, the  
8 subject Proposition 65-listed chemical of this action. Based on that information, the  
9 attorney for Plaintiff who executed the Certificate of Merit believed there was a  
10 reasonable and meritorious case for this private action. The attorney for Plaintiff  
11 attached to the Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General the confidential  
12 factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit.

13 22. Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations also included a Certificate of Service and a  
14 document entitled "The Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986  
15 (Proposition 65) A Summary." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d).

16 23. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the dates that Plaintiff  
17 gave notice of the alleged violations to GOLCHIN, PERSIAN BASKET, and the public  
18 prosecutors referenced in Paragraph 19.

19 24. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that neither the Attorney General, nor  
20 any applicable district attorney or city attorney has commenced and is diligently  
21 prosecuting an action against the Defendants.

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against GOLCHIN, PERSIAN**  
24 **BASKET, and DOES 1-10 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking**  
25 **Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §§ 25249.5, et**  
26 **seq.))**

27 **Spices**

1 25. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 24 of this complaint  
2 as though fully set forth herein.

3 26. Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer,  
4 distributor, promoter, or retailer of Sumac (“Sumac”), identified as: “GOLCHIN”;  
5 “SUMAC”; “Dist. By: Overseas Food Dist., LLC”; “BEST BY 08/20/2026”; “UPC  
6 746646534348”.

7 27. Sumac contains Lead.

8 28. Defendants knew or should have known that Lead has been identified by the State of  
9 California as a chemical known to cause cancer, developmental and reproductive toxicity  
10 and therefore was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also  
11 informed of the presence of Lead in Sumac within Plaintiff’s notice of alleged violations  
12 further discussed above at Paragraphs 19a.

13 29. Plaintiff’s allegations regarding Sumac concerns “[c]onsumer products exposure[s],”  
14 which “is an exposure that results from a person’s acquisition, purchase, storage,  
15 consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure  
16 that results from receiving a consumer service.” *Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25602(b)*.  
17 Sumac is consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures to Lead took place as  
18 a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.

19 30. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between February 23, 2023 and  
20 the present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed California  
21 consumers and users of Sumac, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or sold as  
22 mentioned above, to Lead, without first providing any type of clear and reasonable  
23 warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure. Defendants have  
24 distributed and sold Sumac in California. Defendants know and intend that California  
25 consumers will use and consume Sumac, thereby exposing them to Lead. Further,  
26 Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that Defendants are selling Sumac  
27 under a brand or trademark that is owned or licensed by the Defendants or an entity  
28

1 affiliated thereto; have covered, obscured or altered a warning label that has been affixed  
2 to Sumac by the manufacturer, producer, packager, importer, supplier or distributor of  
3 Sumac; have received a notice and warning materials for exposure from Sumac without  
4 conspicuously posting or displaying the warning materials; and/or have actual  
5 knowledge of potential exposure to Lead from Sumac. Defendants thereby violated  
6 Proposition 65.

7 31. The principal routes of exposure are through ingestion, especially direct (oral) ingestion.  
8 Persons sustain exposures by eating and consuming Sumac.

9 32. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of  
10 Proposition 65 as to Sumac have been ongoing and continuous, as Defendants engaged  
11 and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code Section  
12 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of Sumac, so that a  
13 separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and every time a person  
14 was exposed to Lead by Sumac as mentioned herein.

15 33. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65  
16 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the  
17 violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.

18 34. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to  
19 \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to Lead from Sumac, pursuant to Health and  
20 Safety Code Section 25249.7(b).

21 35. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to  
22 filing this Complaint.

23  
24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 Plaintiff demands against each of the Defendants as follows:

- 26 1. A permanent injunction mandating Proposition 65-compliant warnings;  
27 2. Penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, subdivision (b);  
28 3. Costs of suit;

- 1 4. Reasonable attorney fees and costs; and
- 2 5. Any further relief that the court may deem just and equitable.

3  
4 Dated: May 29, 2026

YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI\*

5  
6  
7 /s/ Reuben Yeroushalmi  
8 Reuben Yeroushalmi  
9 Attorneys for Plaintiff,  
10 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28