

LAW OFFICES OF BRIAN GAFFNEY
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June 29, 2006

By Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to Violators
By First Class U.S. Mail to Public Enforcement Agencies

Dear Public Enforcement Agencies / Violators:

This office and As You Sow ("AYS") gives you notice that, since at least June 29, 2003, the businesses listed on Attachment A have been, and continue to be, in violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.6. AYS is a private enforcer of Proposition 65 which may be contacted at the above listed address and telephone number, and I am a responsible individual with both AYS and this office.

The above referenced violations occur when California residents spray and/or inhale paint stripping products ("Paint strippers" or "products"), which contain Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and/or Toluene at levels above the stated Proposition 65 limits.¹ Examples of a particular Paint strippers manufactured, sold, distributed and/or marketed by the violators are attached as Attachment B.

When people inhale, spray or otherwise use these Paint Strippers (*i.e.*, when they use the Paint strippers as directed on the packaging), the Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and/or Toluene is inhaled. Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and/or Toluene are inhaled when people spray the Paint strippers containing Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and/or Toluene in the normal course of use. The Paint strippers sold by these businesses thus expose consumers and workers to these chemicals via the inhalation route of exposure. In addition, exposures in the environmental context occur in the homes, businesses and public locations where the Paint Strippers are used. The environmental exposure for which a warning is required occurs beyond the property owned or controlled by the violators. Exposures to Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and Toluene occur within the consumer, environmental, and occupational contexts. AYS, does not, however, allege occupational exposures as to Paint strippers manufactured outside of California, except as to workplaces in California.

The businesses listed on Attachment A do not provide clear and reasonable warnings to people who spray, inhale or use the Paint strippers, that the Paint strippers will expose them to chemicals known to cause cancer and/or birth defects and other reproductive harm.

These violations and threatened violations will continue to occur everyday until the businesses listed on Attachment A either provide clear and reasonable warnings, reformulate their Paint strippers so as not to contain Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) and Toluene, or stop selling these Paint strippers. These violations occur in all of California's 58 counties, both on and off of these businesses' properties.

¹ On April 1, 1988 Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) was listed under the statute as chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer. On January 1, 1991, Toluene was listed under the statute as a chemical known to California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

As You Sow ("AYS") is a non-profit foundation organized under California's Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law. AYS is dedicated to, among other causes, the protection of the environment, the promotion of human health, the improvement of worker and consumer safety, and environmental education. AYS is located at 311 California Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, CA 94104.

In keeping with its public interest mission and to expeditiously rectify these ongoing violations of California law, AYS is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. Please direct all communications regarding this notice to AYS' counsel in this matter:

Brian Gaffney
Matt McFarland
LAW OFFICES OF BRIAN GAFFNEY
605 Market Street, Suite 505
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 442 - 0711 Phone / (415) 442 - 0713 Fax

Sincerely,



Matt McFarland

Enclosure to Violators "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986: A Summary"

Attachment A

Ecklers Industries LLC
5130 S Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32780-7318

Ecklers Industries
5130 S Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32780-7318

Eckler Industries Inc
5140 S Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32780-7318

Eckler Industries, Inc.
5200 S. Washington Street
Titusville, FL 32780

Smart Choice Automotive Group Inc.
5200 S Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL, 32780

Attachment B

<u>Proposition 65 Violator</u>	<u>Products Manufactured, Sold, Distributed and/or Marketed</u>	<u>Prop 65 Chemical</u>
Eckler Industries LLC Eckler Industries, Inc. Eckler Industires Smart Choice Automotive Group Inc.	Spra Strip	Methylene chloride (Dichloromethane), Toluene

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Matt McFarland, declare:

If so called, I could and would testify as follows: I am over eighteen. My business address is 605 Market St., Suite 505, San Francisco, CA 94105. On June 29, 2006, I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER, to be served by U.S. Mail on those public enforcement agencies listed on the attached SERVICE LIST; in addition on the same date and by Certified Mail I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER and PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY to be sent by Certified Mail to the private business entities also listed on the attached SERVICE LIST. I deposited copies of these documents in envelopes, postage pre-paid, with the U.S. Postal Service on the day on which the mail is collected. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on June 29, 2006, at San Francisco, California.



Matt McFarland

This notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposures governed by the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health. The State Plan incorporated the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer may use the means of compliance in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Accordingly, any settlement, civil complaint, or substantive court orders in this matter must be submitted to the Attorney General.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Matt McFarland, hereby declare: This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings. I am the attorney for the noticing party. 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. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, 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 plaintiffs' 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. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and 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.

June 29, 2006



Matt McFarland

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986
(PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY**

The following summary has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and its implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

Proposition 65 appears in California law as Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 12000 through 14000.

WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?

The "Governor's List." Proposition 65 requires the Governor to publish a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm. This list must be updated at least once a year. Over 550 chemicals have been listed as of May 1, 1996. Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under this law. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving those chemicals must comply with the following:

Clear and reasonable warnings. A business is required to warn a person before "knowingly and intentionally" exposing that person to a listed chemical. The warning given must be "clear and reasonable." This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm; and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed. Exposures are exempt from the warning requirement if they occur less than twelve months after the date of listing of the chemical.

Prohibition from discharges into drinking water. A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Discharges are exempt from this requirement if they occur less than twenty months after the date of listing of the chemical.

DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

Yes. The law exempts:

Governmental agencies and public water utilities. All agencies of the federal, State or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

Businesses with nine or fewer employees. Neither the warning requirement nor the discharge prohibition applies to a business that employs a total of nine or fewer employees.

Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer. For chemicals that are listed as known to the State to cause cancer ("carcinogens"), a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses "no significant risk." This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific "no significant risk" levels for more than 250 listed carcinogens.

Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question. For chemicals known to the State to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm ("reproductive toxicants"), a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the "no observable effect level (NOEL)," divided by a 1,000-fold safety or uncertainty factor. The "no observable effect level" is the highest dose level which has not been associated with an observable adverse reproductive or developmental effect.

Discharges that do not result in a "significant amount" of the listed chemical entering into any source of drinking water. The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a "significant amount" of the listed chemical has not, does not, or will not enter any drinking water source, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A "significant amount" means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the "no significant risk" or "no observable effect" test if an individual were exposed to such an amount in drinking water.

HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys (those in cities with a population exceeding 750,000). Lawsuits may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. A notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in regulations (Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 12903). A private party may not pursue an enforcement action directly under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an action within sixty days of the notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court of law to stop committing the violation.

For Further Information

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900.

Last Updated May 14, 1997

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