

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Lead in Belts Made With Leather, Vinyl or Imitation Leather Materials

December 21, 2009

This Notice of Violation is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice of Violation is provided by the Center for Environmental Health ("CEH"), 2201 Broadway, Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health and supporting environmentally sound practices. Michael Green is the Executive Director of and a responsible individual within CEH.

Description of Violation:

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least December 21, 2006, and are continuing to this day.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice of Violation covers the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The names of the listed chemicals involved in these violations are lead and lead compounds ("Lead"). Exposures to Lead occur from use of the products identified in this Notice.
- Types of Product: The specific types of product causing this violation are belts made with leather, vinyl or imitation leather materials. Non-exclusive examples of these specific types of products are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to Lead. Use of the products identified in this Notice results in human exposures to Lead. Lead is found in the products as a stabilizer in the vinyl or imitation leather materials, as a chemical ingredient in some of the dyes, paints and other coloring agents used in the products and in the chemicals used in the leather tanning process. Lead is also found in the metallic components such as buckles used on the products. The route of exposure for the violations is direct ingestion when consumers (including children) place the products in their mouths; ingestion via hand to mouth contact after consumers touch or handle the products; and dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers take on or off or otherwise touch or handle the products. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Lead.

Resolution of Noticed Claims:

- Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against each of the alleged violators unless such violator agrees in a binding written instrument to: (1) recall products already sold; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the Lead exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). If any of the alleged violators is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact CEH through its counsel identified below. It should be noted that CEH cannot: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired; nor (2) speak for the Attorney General or any District or City Attorney who received CEH's 60-day Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with CEH will resolve its claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH and its counsel Eric S. Somers (esomers at lexlawgroup.com) or Howard Hirsch (hhirsch at lexlawgroup.com) at Lexington Law Group, 1627 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122, (415) 759-4111.

EXHIBIT 1
December 21, 2009 Notice of Violation
Lead in Belts Made With Leather, Vinyl or Imitation Leather Materials
Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products

Names and Addresses of Responsible Parties	Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products	Item or SKU # or Further Description
<p>Bloomingdale's, Inc. 1000 3rd Avenue New York, NY 10022</p>	<p>Hobo International Belt - Red</p>	<p>UPC No. 00604599308150 Style No. 56009</p>
<p>Claire's Boutiques, Inc. 3 SW 129th Avenue Pembroke Pines, FL 33027</p> <p>Claire's Stores, Inc. 3 SW 129th Avenue Pembroke Pines, FL 33027</p> <p>CBI Distributing Corp. 2400 W. Central Rd. Hoffman Estates, IL 60192</p>	<p>Icing by Claire's Belt - Snake Skin with Yellow Trim</p>	<p>SKU No. 37759-8</p>
<p>Cole Haan 1 Cole Haan Dr. Yarmouth, ME 04096</p> <p>Cole Haan Company Store 1 Cole Haan Dr. Yarmouth, ME 04096</p>	<p>Double Ring Belt - Marigold</p>	<p>SKU No. 7-18746-36991-5 Item No. B20752</p>
<p>The Donna Karan Company LLC 550 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10018</p> <p>The Donna Karan Company Store LLC 550 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10018</p> <p>Donna Karan International Inc. 550 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10018</p>	<p>DKNY Belt - Red and Black</p>	<p>SKU No. 4-35500-00476-8</p>

<p>Iconix Brand Group, Inc. 1450 Broadway 4th Floor New York, NY 10018</p>	<p>Rampage Black Belt with Multi-Color Peace Signs</p>	<p>SKU No. 400043292125 Style No. D1529-C5506</p>
<p>PMAG, Inc. 229 South State Street Dover, DE 19901</p> <p>Puma North America, Inc. 10 Lyberty Way Westford, MA 01886</p>	<p>Puma Shiny Belt - Fluorescent Green</p>	<p>SKU No. 8-83561-53044-1 Item No. 0581804</p>
<p>Ray Enterprises Of Chesapeake Walk, Inc. dba Hobo International 3436 Chesapeake Walk Annapolis, MD 21403</p>	<p>Hobo International Shiny Red Belt</p>	<p>UPC No. 00604599308150 Style No. 56009</p>
<p>Ross Stores, Inc. 4440 Rosewood Drive Building 4 Pleasanton, CA 94588-3050</p>	<p>Rampage Black Belt with Multi-Color Peace Signs</p>	<p>SKU No. 400043292125 Style No. D1529-C5506</p>
<p>rue21, Inc. 800 Commonwealth Dr. Suite 100 Warrendale, PA 15086</p>	<p>Pull Tab Patent Waist Belt - Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 4-00122-92645-3 Style No. 4201</p>
<p>Target Corporation 1000 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55403</p>	<p>Merona Belt - Orange</p>	<p>SKU No. 4-90610-60513-7</p>

<p>T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC 770 Cochituate Road Framingham, MA 01701</p> <p>The TJX Companies, Inc. 770 Cochituate Road Framingham, MA 01701</p>	<p>Volcom Belt - Green and Blue</p>	<p>SKU No. 59-9089-398889-000799-22-2</p>
<p>The Buckle, Inc. 2407 W 24th St. Kearny, NE 68847</p>	<p>BKE Quilted Stretch Belt - Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 7-76203-11364-8</p>
<p>Wal-Mart Stores Inc. 702 SW 8th St. Bentonville, AK 72716</p>	<p>No Boundaries Belt - Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 0-34867-88672-9 Style No. NBA38134 -060-L/XL</p>
<p>Worldwide Dynasty, Inc. 20630 Superior St Chatsworth, CA 91311</p>	<p>Solid Yellow Leather Belt</p>	<p>SKU No. BELT33</p>
<p>Zumiez, Inc. 6300 Merrill Creek Pkwy Suite B Everett, WA 98203</p>	<p>Empyre Solid Strap Belt - Yellow</p>	<p>SKU No. 15548200030010 Style No. EMBLT-045B</p>

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

I, Howard Hirsch, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health.

3. Members of my firm and 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 exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on 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 plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of the 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 & Safety Code § 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.

December 21, 2009



Howard Hirsch
Attorney for CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California; my business address is 1627 Irving Street, San Francisco, California 94122. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause.

On December 21, 2009, I served true copies of the following documents:

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY (only sent to those on service list marked with an asterisks).

On this date, I deposited fully prepaid and sealed envelopes containing the above-mentioned documents with the United States Postal Service, addressed to the following individuals:

Please see attached service list.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on December 21, 2009, at San Francisco, California.

Signed: _____
Jennie Romer

SERVICE LIST

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1225 Fallon Street, Room 900
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District Attorney of Alpine County
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District Attorney of Calaveras County
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Colusa, CA 95932

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California Attorney General's Office
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