NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

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

March 9, 2012

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. Charlie Pizarro is the Associate Director of and a responsible individual within CEH.

Description of Violation:

- <u>Violators</u>: The names and addresses of the violators are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- o <u>Time Period of Exposure</u>: The violations have been occurring since at least March 9, 2009, 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.
- <u>Type of Product</u>: The specific type of product causing these violations is footwear made with leather, vinyl or imitation leather materials. Non-exclusive examples of this specific type of product are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to Lead as to all of the alleged violators listed on the attached Exhibit 1 and occupational exposures to Lead as to the alleged violators marked with a pound symbol (#) on the attached Exhibit 1. 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 dies, paints and other coloring agents used in the products and in the chemicals used in the leather tanning process. The route of exposure for the violations is ingestion via hand to mouth contact and dermal absorption directly through the skin. Consumer exposures to Lead from the products occur when consumers wear, take on or off, or otherwise touch or handle the products. Occupational exposures to Lead from the products occur throughout the State of California when workers manufacture, assemble, display, sell, store, assist consumers

trying on, or otherwise touch or handle the products. Persons exposed include workers in factories, warehouses, and distribution centers and clerks in retail stores that come into contact with the products. This Notice only applies to occupational exposures that occur in the State of California. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Lead.

Statement Re: Occupational Exposures: As set forth above, this Notice alleges 0 violations of both consumer and, as to the alleged violators marked with a pound symbol (#) on the attached Exhibit 1, occupational exposures to Lead. The following statement concerns procedures and requirements that are specific to occupational exposures. "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 incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions with regard to occupational exposures 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." 8 Cal. Code Regs. § 338(b).

Resolution of Noticed Claims:

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 through its counsel Eric S. Somers (esomers at lexlawgroup.com) or Howard Hirsch (hhirsch at lexlawgroup.com) at Lexington Law Group, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800.

EXHIBIT 1 March 9, 2012 Notice of Violation Lead in Footwear Made With Leather, Vinyl or Imitation Leather Materials

Names and Addresses of Responsible Parties	Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products	Item or SKU # or Further Description
AeroGroup International, LLC 201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl. Edison, NJ 08817 AeroGroup International		
Holdings, LLC 201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl. Edison, NJ 08817	Aerosoles Dozen Roses Slingback Sandal in Yellow	SKU No. 8-85833-50926-1
AeroGroup Retail Group, Inc. 201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl. Edison, NJ 08817		
AeroGroup International, Inc. 201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl. Edison, NJ 08817		
Bioworld Merchandising, Inc. 2111 W. Walnut Hill Ln. Irving, TX 75038	n/a	n/a
Cornerstone Apparel, Inc. # 5807 Smithway Street Commerce, CA 90040	Breckelle's Leatherette Rosette Wedges in Red	SKU No. 13624810602 Style: SYDNEY06A
Fashion Eden # 19913 Harrison Ave Walnut, CA 91789	Liliana Spike Studs High Heels in Red	SKU No: jordan-red-8.5 Style Name: Jordan

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 chemicals that are 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.

March 9, 2012

Howard Hirsch

Attorney for CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California; my business address is 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California 94117. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause and my electronic notification address is pcarey@lexlawgroup.com.

On March 9, 2012, 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 asterisk).

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

Please see attached service list.

Also on this date, I transmitted via electronic mail the documents listed above to the electronic mail addresses set forth below at 2:52 p.m. on March 9, 2012:

Lon Wixson, Deputy District Attorney Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 wixson@contracostada.org

Birgit Fladager, District Attorney Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste. 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Prop65@standa.org

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney Monterey County 230 Church Street, Bldg. 2 Salinas, CA 93901 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us Karyn Sinunu-Towery,
Assistant District Attorney
Santa Clara County
70 West Hedding Street, West Wing
San Jose, CA 95110
epu@da.sccgov.org

Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney Napa County 931 Parkway Mail Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403 jbarnes@sonoma-county.org Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney Tulare County 221 S. Mooney Avenue, Rm. 224 Visalia, CA 93291 Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Rod Pacheco, District Attorney Riverside County 4075 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501 Prop65@rivcoda.org Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney Ventura County 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 daspecialops@ventura.org

The transmission was reported as complete and without error.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on March 9, 2012, at San Francisco, California.

Signed:

Patrick Carey

SERVICE LIST

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

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

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

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

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

District Attorney of Colusa County 547 Market Street, Ste. 102 Colusa, CA 95932

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

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

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

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

District Attorney of Humboldt County 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney of Imperial County 939 Main Street, Ste. 102 El Centro, CA 92243

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

District Attorney of Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 District Attorney of Kings County 1400 West Lacey Blvd. Hanford, CA 93230

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

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

District Attorney of Los Angeles County 210 W. Temple Street, Ste. 1800 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

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

District Attorney of Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130 San Rafael, CA 94903

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

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

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

District Attorney of Modoc County 204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney of Mono County P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93546

District Attorney of Nevada County 110 Union Street Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney of Orange County 401 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney of Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste. 240 Roseville, CA 95678 District Attorney of Plumas County 520 Main Street, Rm. 404 Quincy, CA 95971

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

District Attorney of San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Fl. Hollister, CA 95023

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

District Attorney of San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Ste. 1300 San Diego, CA 92101

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

District Attorney of San Joaquin County P.O. Box 990 Stockton, CA 95202

District Attorney of San Luis Obispo County 1050 Monterey Street, Rm. 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

District Attorney of San Mateo County 400 County Center, 3rd Fl. Redwood City, CA 94063

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

District Attorney of Santa Barbara County Attn: Jerry Lule-Jian 312-D E. Cook Street Santa Maria, CA 93454

District Attorney of Shasta County 1525 Court Street, 3rd Fl. Redding, CA 96001-1632 District Attorney of Sierra County Courthouse 100 Courthouse Sq., 2nd Fl. Downieville, CA 95936

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

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

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

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

District Attorney of Trinity County P.O. Box 310 11 Court Street Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney of Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney of Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695

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

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

San Diego City Attorney's Office 1200 Third Avenue, Ste. 1620 San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco City Attorney's Office City Hall, Room 234 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102

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

California Attorney General's Office Attention: Proposition 65 Coordinator and Robert Thomas 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550 President*
AeroGroup International, LLC
201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl.
Edison, NJ 08817

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AeroGroup International
Holdings, LLC
201 Meadow Road, 2nd Fl.
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President*
AeroGroup Retail Group, Inc.
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