

# 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d)

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**DATE:** May 10, 2012

**TO:** Mario Guevara, Chief Executive Officer – Bic Corporation  
Paul Lage, President – Norwood Promotional Products, LLC  
California Attorney General’s Office;  
District Attorney’s Office for 58 Counties; and  
City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento and Los Angeles

**FROM:** John Moore

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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My name is John Moore. I am a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. I seek to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items. This Notice is provided to the public agencies listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”). As noted above, notice is also being provided to the violators, Bic Corporation and Norwood Promotional Products, LLC (the “Violators”). The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposures, routes of exposure, and types of harm potentially resulting from exposure to the toxic chemicals (“listed chemicals”) identified below, as follows:

Product Exposure: See Section VII. Exhibit A  
Listed Chemicals: Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”); Di-n-butyl phthalate (“DBP”)  
Routes of Exposure: Ingestion, Dermal  
Types of Harm: Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm

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## II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

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The specific types of products that are causing consumer and occupational exposures in violation of Proposition 65, and that are covered by this Notice, are listed under “Product Category/Type” in Exhibit A in Section VII below. All products within the types covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the “products.” The sales of these products in California dating as far back as May 10, 2009 are subject to this Notice. As a result of the sales of these products, exposures to the listed chemicals have been occurring without clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposure to the listed chemicals resulting from contact with the products, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the toxic chemicals from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemicals. Women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemicals when they, among other activities, touch the products and transfer the listed chemicals from the products to their mouths through hand-to-mouth activities that may continue to occur for a significant period after contact with the products stops. Women of childbearing age are exposed to the listed chemicals through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the products.

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### **III. CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Please direct all questions concerning this notice to me through my counsel's office at the following address:

John Moore  
c/o Josh Voorhees  
The Chanler Group  
Parker Plaza  
2560 Ninth Street, Suite 214  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Telephone: (510) 848-8880

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### **IV. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION**

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For general information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, please feel free to contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's ("OEHHA") Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900. For the Violators' reference, I have attached a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" which has been prepared by OEHHA.

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### **V. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS**

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Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, I intend to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the alleged Violators unless such Violators enter into a binding written agreement to: (1) recall products already sold or undertake best efforts to ensure that the requisite health hazard warnings are provided to those who have received such products; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). If the alleged Violators are interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to time-consuming and expensive litigation, please feel free to contact my counsel identified in Section III above. It should be noted that neither my counsel nor I can: (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 this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with me will resolve my claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

## VI. ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION

Identified below is a specific example of a product recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California that is within the categories or types of offending products covered by this Notice. Based on publicly available information, the retailers, distributors and/or manufacturers of the example within the categories or types of products are also provided below. I believe and allege that the sale of the offending products also has occurred without the requisite Proposition 65 "clear and reasonable warnings" at one or more locations and/or via other means including, but not limited to, transactions made over-the-counter, business-to-business, through the internet and/or via a catalog by the Violators and other retailers and distributors of the manufacturer.

<i>Product*</i>	<i>Retailer(s)</i>	<i>Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)</i>
Norwood RCC Koozie Picnic Backpack, ASI 80330	Wise Buys Placer County, Northern California	Norwood Promotional Products, LLC; Bic Corporation

## VII. EXHIBIT A

<i>Product Category/Type</i>	<i>Such As*</i>	<i>Toxins</i>
Backpacks	Norwood RCC Koozie Picnic Backpack, ASI 80330	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Backpacks	Norwood RCC Koozie Picnic Backpack, ASI 80330	Di-n-butyl phthalate

\*The specifically identified example of the types of product that are subject to this Notice is for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposure to the listed chemicals from other items within the product categories/types listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that this example is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product of the types listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific products within the types or categories described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipients' custody or control) during the relevant period so as to ensure that the requisite toxic warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

# PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is Parker Plaza, 2560 Ninth Street, Suite 214, Berkeley, CA 94710.

On May 10, 2012, I served the following documents:

**60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);**

**PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY;**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (SERVED ONLY ON THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL)**

on the Violators listed below via First Class Certified Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to each Violator and providing each envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Mario Guevara, Chief Executive Officer  
Bic Corporation  
1 Bic Way, Suite 1  
Shelton, CT 06484

Paul Lage, President  
Norwood Promotional Products, LLC  
10 West Market Street, Suite 1400  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Paul Lage, President  
Norwood Promotional Products, LLC  
14421 Myerlake Circle  
Clearwater, FL 33760

as well as providing copies of the notice to the public enforcers by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to each party listed below, and served as follows:

<i>Via 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Air Service by placing such envelope in a Federal Express Drop-Off Box:</i>	The Attorney General of the State of California;
<i>By placing each envelope in a United States Postal Service mailbox, postage prepaid:</i>	The District Attorney for Each of the 58 counties in California; and  The City Attorney for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento

*A list of addresses for each of these recipients is attached.*

Executed on May 10, 2012, at Berkeley, California.



Caroline Liang

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Clifford A. Chanler, 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 and Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings;
2. I am the attorney for the noticing party;
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 chemicals that is the subject of this action;
4. 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 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 this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health and 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).

Dated: May 10, 2012

  
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Clifford A. Chanler