# SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986

(Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.) ("Proposition 65")

April 17, 2013

Todd Green, President, or Current President/CEO Novelty, Inc. 351 W. Muskegon Drive Greenfield, IN 46140 Marc J. Joseph, CEO Or Current President/CEO America's Suppliers, Inc., dba DollarDays International, LLC 7575 E Redfield Rd, Ste 201 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Marc J. Joseph, CEO Or Current President/CEO DollarDays International, Inc. 7575 E Redfield Rd, Ste 201 Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Marc J. Joseph, CEO Or Current President/CEO DollarDays International, LLC 7900 E Greenway Rd #114 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Current President/CEO Rock Bottom Deals 7101 W. 60<sup>th</sup> St. Chicago, IL 60638

AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 concerning Children's Hats with Lenticular Character Patch containing DEHP

To whom this may concern:

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. ("CAG"), the noticing entity, located at 9903 Santa Monica Boulevard #225, Beverly Hills, California 90212, serves this Notice of Violation ("Notice") on Novelty, Inc., America's Suppliers, Inc., dba DollarDays International, LLC, DollarDays International Inc., DollarDays International, LLC, and Rock Bottom Deals, (collectively "Violators") pursuant to and in compliance with Proposition 65. Violators may contact CAG concerning this Notice through its designated person within the entity, its attorney, Reuben Yeroushalmi 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, telephone no. (310) 623-1926, facsimile no. (310) 623-1930. This Notice satisfies a prerequisite for CAG to commence an action against Violators in any Superior Court of California to enforce Proposition 65. The violations addressed by this Notice occurred at numerous locations in each county in California as reflected in the district attorney addresses listed in the attached distribution list. CAG is serving this Notice upon each person or entity responsible for the alleged violations, the California Attorney General, the district attorney for each county where alleged violations occurred, and the City Attorney for each city with a population (according to the most recent decennial census) of over 750,000 located within counties where the alleged violations occurred.

- CAG is an organization based in California. CAG is an entity dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health, and supporting environmentally sound practices. By sending this Notice, CAG is acting "in the public interest" pursuant to Proposition 65.
- This Notice concerns violations of the warning prong of Proposition 65, which states that "[n]o person in the course of
  doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause
  cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual . . ." Cal. Health
  & Safety Code § 25249.6.
- Children's Hats with Lenticular Character Patch ("Hats") contain Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), also known as Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, which is known to the State of California to cause both cancer and reproductive toxicity, developmental, male. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added

DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive toxicity.

- o Exemplars of the violations caused by **Hats** include but are not limited to:
  - Disney/Pixar© Lenticular Hat with Wall-e character patch, barcode: "7 94080 24270 1", light blue colored hat with darker blue colored bill
  - Disney/Pixar© Lenticular Hat with Eve character patch, barcode: "7 94080 24270 1", purple and pink colored hat
  - Disney/Pixar© Lenticular Hat with M-O character patch, barcode: "7 94080 24270 1", beige colored hat
  - Disney/Pixar© Lenticular Hat with M-O character patch, barcode: "7 94080 24270 1", black colored hat with red colored bill
- This Notice addresses consumer products exposures. A "[c]onsumer products exposure' is an exposure which results
  from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good,
  or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." Cal. Code Regs. 27 tit. § 25602(b).

Violators caused consumer product exposures in violation of Proposition 65 by producing or making available for distribution or sale in California to consumers **Hats.** The packaging for **Hats** (meaning any label or other written, printed or graphic matter affixed to or accompanying the product or its container or wrapper) contains no Proposition 65-compliant warning. Nor did Violators, with regard to **Hats** provide a system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any other system, which provided clear and reasonable warnings. Nor did Violators, with regard to **Hats**, provide identification of the product at retail outlets in a manner that provided a warning through shelf labeling, signs, menus, or a combination thereof.

These violations occurred each day between April 17, 2010 and April 17, 2013, and are ever continuing thereafter.

The principal routes of exposure with regard to **Hats** are and were through dermal contact, ingestion, and inhalation. Persons sustain exposures by handling **Hats** without wearing gloves or any other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling **Hats** as well as through direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter dispersed from **Hats**.

Proposition 65 requires that notice of intent to sue be given to the violator(s) sixty (60) days before the suit is filed. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1). With this letter, CAG gives notice of the alleged violations to Violators and the appropriate governmental authorities. In absence of any action by the appropriate governmental authorities within sixty (60) calendar days of the sending of this notice (plus ten (10) calendar days because the place of address is beyond the State of California but within the United States), CAG may file suit. See Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1013; Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1); and Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27 § 25903(d)(1). CAG remains willing and open to discussing the possibility of resolving its grievances short of formal litigation.

With the copy of this notice submitted to the Violators, a copy of the following is attached: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary.

Reuben Yeroushalmi

Yeroushalmi & Associates

Attorneys for Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc.

## Appendix A

# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACTION 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 27 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 25000 through 27000.

# 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 735 chemicals have been listed as of November 16, 2001. 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.

Discharge 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 list 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. 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 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 25903). 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.

# Children's Hats with Lenticular Character Patch containing DEHP

#### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Reuben Yeroushalmi, hereby declare:

- This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the party(s) identified in the notice(s) has violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am the attorney for the noticing party.
- I have consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has
  reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the
  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 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.
- 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 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.

Dated:

April 17/13

By:

RBUBEN YEROUSHALMI

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this case. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My business address is 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610E, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

# ON THE DATE SHOWN BELOW, I SERVED THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue Under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6
- 2) Certificate of Merit: Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)
- 3) Certificate of Merit (Attorney General Copy): Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the certificate of merit (*only sent to Attorney General*)
- 4) The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

by enclosing copies of the same in a sealed envelope, along with an unsigned copy of this declaration, addressed to each person shown below and depositing the envelope in the U.S. mail with the postage fully prepaid. Place of Mailing: Beverly Hills, CA

# Name and address of each party to whom documents were mailed:

Name and address of each party to whom documents were maned:			
Todd Green, President, or	Marc J. Joseph, CEO	Marc J. Joseph, CEO	
Current President/CEO	Or Current President/CEO	Or Current President/CEO	
Novelty, Inc.	America's Suppliers, Inc., dba	DollarDays International, Inc.	
351 W. Muskegon Drive	DollarDays International, LLC	7575 E Redfield Rd, Ste 201	
Greenfield, IN 46140	7575 E Redfield Rd, Ste 201	Scottsdale, AZ 85260	
	Scottsdale AZ 85260		

Marc J. Joseph, CEO
Or Current President/CEO
DollarDays International, LLC
7900 E Greenway Rd #114
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Current President/CEO
Rock Bottom Deals
7101 W. 60<sup>th</sup> St.
Chicago, IL 60638

Name and address of each public prosecutor to whom documents were mailed: See Distribution List

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date of Mailing: 04 – 17 – 2013

By:

Hya Gingoyon

Distribution List		
Alameda County District Attorney 1225 Fallon St, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612	Los Angeles County District Attorney 210 W Temple St, 18th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012	Mono County District Attorney PO Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517
		<u> </u>
Alpine County District Attorney PO Box 248	Madera County District Attorney 209 W Yosemite Ave	San Joaquin County District Attorney PO Box 990
Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera, CA 93637	Stockton, CA 95201 -0990
Amador County District Attorney 708 Court, Suite 202	Mariposa County District Attorney P.O. Box 730	San Francisco County District Attorney 850 Bryant St, Rm 322
Jackson, CA 95642 Butte County District Attorney	Mariposa, CA 95338  Marin County District Attorney	San Francisco, CA 94103 San Diego County District Attorney
25 County Center Dr. Oroville, CA 95965-3385	3501 Civic Center Drive, #130 San Rafael, CA 94903	330 W. Broadway, Ste 1300 San Diego, CA 92101-3803
Calaveras County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney
891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	316 N Mountain View Ave San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004
Office of the Attorney General	Los Angeles City Attorney	San Francisco City Attorney
P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550	200 N Main St Ste 1800 Los Angeles CA 90012	# 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 234 San Francisco, CA 94102
Colusa County District Attorney	Inyo County District Attorney	Placer County District Attorney
Courthouse, 547 Market St. Colusa, CA 95932	P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526	10810 Justice Center Drive Suite 240
Courter Courte C	0	Roseville, CA 95678-6231
Contra Costa County District Attorney 725 Court St., Room 402 Martinez, CA 94553	Orange County District Attorney PO Box 808 Santa Ana, CA 92702	Merced County District Attorney 650 W. 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA 95340
Del Norte County District Attorney	Nevada County District Attorney	Napa County District Attorney
450 "H" St.	201 Church St, Suite 8	PO Box 720
Crescent City, CA 95531	Nevada City, CA 95959-2504	Napa, CA 94559-0720
El Dorado County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney	Riverside County District Attorney
515 Main St. Placerville, CA 95667-5697	520 Main Street, Rm 404 Quincy, CA 95971	3960 Orange St., Ste. 6 Riverside, CA 92501
Fresno County District Attorney	Sacramento County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney
2220 Tulare St, Ste. 1000	901 G Street	419 4th St
Fresno, CA 93721 Glenn County District Attorney	Sacramento, CA 95814 San Luis Obispo County District Attorney	Hollister, CA 95023 Siskiyou County District Attorney
PO Box 430	County Government Center, Rm 450	PO Box 986
Willows, CA 95988	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Yreka, CA 96097
Humboldt County District Attorney	San Mateo County District Attorney	Solano County District Attorney
825 5th St., 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	400 County Center	600 Union Ave
Eureka, CA 95501 Imperial County District Attorney	Redwood City, CA 94063 Santa Barbara County District Attorney	Fairfield, CA 94533 Sonoma County District Attorney
939 W. Main St., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	1112 Santa Barbara St.	600 Administration Dr.,
El Centro, CA 92243-2860	Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Rm 212-J
		Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Kern County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301	70 W Hedding St. San Jose, CA 95110	1525 Court St, 3rd Floor
Kings County District Attorney	Santa Cruz County District Attorney	Redding, CA 96001-1632 Sierra County District Attorney
Gov't Ctr, 1400 W Lacey Blvd Hanford, CA 93230	PO Box 1159 Santa Cruz, CA 95061	PO Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936-0457
Lake County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney	Trinity County District Attorney
255 N Forbes St	PO Box 442	PO Box 310
Lakeport, CA 95453-4790	Modesto, CA 95353	Weaverville, CA 96093
Modoc County District Attorney	Sutter County District Attorney	Yuba County District Attorney
204 S. Court Street Alturas CA 96101-4020	446 Second Street	215 5th St
Alturas, CA 96101-4020 San Diego City Attorney	Yuba City, CA 95991  Lassen County District Attorney	Marysville, CA 95901  Monterey County District Attorney
City Center Plaza	200 S Lassen St, Suite 8	PO Box 1131
1200 3rd Ave # 1100 San Diego, CA 92101	Susanville, CA 96130	Salinas, CA 93902
Tuolumne County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney	Yolo County District Attorney
2 S Green St	County Civic Center, Rm 224	310 Second St
Sonora, CA 95370	Visalia, CA 93291	Woodland, CA 95695
Ventura County District Attorney	Tehama County District Attorney	San Jose City Attorney
800 S Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009	P.O. Box 519	151 W. Mission St.
remara, CA 75007	Red Bluff, CA 96080	San Jose, CA 95110