# **60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

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

**DATE:** July 5, 2013

**To:** Bruce Peloquin, President – Fourstar Group USA Inc.

Michael Bloom, President – Family Dollar Stores, Inc.

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: Laurence Vinocur

#### I. INTRODUCTION

My name is Laurence Vinocur. 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 alleged violators, Fourstar Group USA Inc. and Family Dollar Stores, Inc. (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: Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate ("TDCPP");

Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate ("TCEP")

Routes of Exposure: Ingestion, Dermal, Inhalation

Types of Harm: Cancer

# II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

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 October 28, 2012 (for TDCPP) and July 5, 2010 (for TCEP), 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, including infants and children, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemicals. California citizens, including infants and children, 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. California citizens, including infants and children, are exposed to the listed chemicals through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the products. California citizens, including infants and children, inhale the listed chemicals when, among other activities, they breathe indoor air with airborne particles that are released from the products containing the listed chemicals.

#### III. CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

### IV. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

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.

### V. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

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.

Product*	Retailer(s)	Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)
Interiors by Design Mesh	Family Dollar Stores, Inc.	Fourstar Group USA Inc.;
Back Desk Chair, Style	Los Angeles County, Southern California	Midwood Brands, LLC
No. 11225134A, SKU		
0626129 V-80842		
(#0 32251 04725 1)		

### VII. EXHIBIT A

Product Category/Type	Such As*	Toxins
Upholstered Chairs with Foam	Interiors by Design Mesh	Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate
Padding containing Tris(1,3-	Back Desk Chair,	
dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate	Style No. 11225134A,	
· ·	SKU 0626129 V-80842	
	(#0 32251 04725 1)	
Upholstered Chairs with Foam	Interiors by Design Mesh	Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate
Padding containing Tris(2-	Back Desk Chair,	
chloroethyl) phosphate	Style No. 11225134A,	
	SKU 0626129 V-80842	
	(#0 32251 04725 1)	

<sup>\*</sup>The specifically identified example of the types of products 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 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 July 5, 2013, 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 entities 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 the entities listed below and providing each envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Bruce Peloquin, President
Fourstar Group USA Inc.
189 Main Street, Suite 31
Milford, MA 01757

Michael Bloom, President
Family Dollar Stores, Inc.
10401 Monroe Road
Matthews, NC 28105

Michael Bloom, President
Family Dollar Stores, Inc.
P.O. Box 1017

Charlotte, NC 28201

as well as by providing copies of the above documents electronically uploaded to the public enforcers according to directions from their respective offices, and/or by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to each party listed below, and served as follows:

Electronically Uploaded to the Attorney General's website, and sent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Air Service by placing such envelope in a Federal Express Drop-Off Box:	The Attorney General of the State of California;
By placing each envelope in a United States Postal Service mailbox, postage prepaid:	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 July 5, 2013, 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: July 5, 2013

Clifford A. Chanler

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#### **SERVICE LIST**

The Honorable Nancy O'Malley Alameda County District Attorney 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612

The Honorable Terese Drabec Alpine County District Attorney 270 Laramie Street, PO BOX 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

The Honorable Todd Riebe Amador County District Attorney 708 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642

The Honorable Michael Ramsey Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965

The Honorable Barbara Yook Calaveras County District Attorney 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

The Honorable John R. Poyner Colusa County District Attorney 346 Fifth Street Colusa, CA 95932

The Honorable Mark Peterson Contra Costa County District Attorney 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553

The Honorable Jon Alexander Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

The Honorable Vernon Pierson El Dorado County District Attorney 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667

The Honorable Elizabeth Egan Fresno County District Attorney 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno, CA 93721

The Honorable Robert Maloney Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

The Honorable Paul Gallegos Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5<sup>th</sup> Street Eureka, CA 95501

The Honorable Gilbert Otero Imperial County District Attorney 940 West Main Street, Suite 102 El Centro, CA 92243

The Honorable Arthur Maillet Inyo County District Attorney P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526

The Honorable Lisa Green Kern County District Attorney 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

The Honorable Greg Strickland Kings County District Attorney 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230

The Honorable Donald Anderson Lake County District Attorney 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453 The Honorable Robert Burns Lassen County District Attorney 220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130

The Honorable Steve Cooley Los Angeles County District Attorney 210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000 Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Michael Keitz Madera County District Attorney 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

The Honorable Edward Berberian Marin County District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903

The Honorable Robert Brown Mariposa County District Attorney 5101 Jones Street, P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338

The Honorable C. David Eyster Mendocino County District Attorney P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

The Honorable Larry Morse II Merced County District Attorney 550 W. Main Street Merced, CA 95340

The Honorable Gary Woolverton Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101

The Honorable George Booth Mono County District Attorney P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

The Honorable Dean Flippo Monterey County District Attorney P.O. Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902

The Honorable Gary Lieberstein Napa County District Attorney P.O. Box 720 Napa, CA 94559

The Honorable Clifford Newell Nevada County District Attorney 110 Union Street Nevada City, CA 95959

The Honorable Tony Rackauckas Orange County District Attorney 401 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Honorable Ronald Owens Placer County District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240 Roseville, CA 95678

The Honorable David Hollister Plumas County District Attorney 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971

The Honorable Paul Zellerbach Riverside County District Attorney 3960 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501

The Honorable Jan Scully Sacramento County District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 The Honorable Candice Hooper San Benito County District Attorney 419 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Second Floor Hollister, CA 95203

The Honorable Michael Ramos San Bernardino County District Attorney 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415

The Honorable Bonnie Dumanis San Diego County District Attorney 330 W. Broadway Street San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable George Gascon San Francisco County District Attorney 850 Bryant Street, Room 322 San Francisco, CA 94103

The Honorable James Willett San Joaquin County District Attorney P.O. Box 990 Stockton, CA 95201

The Honorable Gerald Shea San Luis Obispo County District Attorney 1035 Palm Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center, Third Floor Redwood City, CA 94063

The Honorable Joyce Dudley Santa Barbara County District Attorney 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

The Honorable Jeffrey Rosen Santa Clara County District Attorney 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing San Jose, CA 95110

The Honorable Bob Lee Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Honorable Stephen Carlton Shasta County District Attorney 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001

The Honorable Lawrence Allen Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square, Second Floor Downieville, CA 95936

The Honorable James Kirk Andrus Siskiyou County District Attorney P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

The Honorable Donald A. du Bain Solano County District Attorney 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

The Honorable Jill Ravitch Sonoma County District Attorney 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The Honorable Birgit Fladager Stanislaus County District Attorney 832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354

The Honorable Carl Adams Sutter County District Attorney 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991 The Honorable Gregg Cohen Tehama County District Attorney 444 Oak Street, Room L Red Bluff, CA 96080

The Honorable Michael B. Harper Trinity County District Attorney PO Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093

The Honorable Phillip Cline Tulare County District Attorney 221 South Mooney Boulevard, Suite 224 Visalia, CA 93291

The Honorable Donald Segerstrom, Jr Tuolumne County District Attorney 423 North Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

The Honorable Gregory Totten Ventura County District Attorney 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

The Honorable Jeff Reisig Yolo County District Attorney 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695

The Honorable Patrick McGrath Yuba County District Attorney 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901

The Honorable Carmen Trutanich Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles 200 North Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Jan Goldsmith Office of the City Attorney, San Diego 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620 San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable Eileen M. Teichert Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento 915 I Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dennis J. Herrera Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco City Hall, Room 234 San Francisco, CA 94102

The Honorable Richard Doyle Office of the City Attorney, San Jose 200 East Santa Clara Street San Jose, CA 95113

Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Oakland, CA 94612-0550