

Michael Freund & Associates

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Michael Freund, Esq.
Ryan Hoffman, Esq.

OF COUNSEL:
Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.

November 12, 2013

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Hitosho Ino
JFE Shoji Trade America, Inc.
340 Golden Shore, Suite 450
Long Beach, CA 90802

Office of the California Attorney General
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

District Attorneys of All California Counties
and Select City Attorneys
(See Attached Certificate of Service)

Re: Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc., (“CTWG”) a California non-profit corporation dedicated to reducing the amount of chemical toxins in consumer products. CTWG was created by David Steinman, a committed environmentalist, journalist, consumer health advocate, publisher and author. His major books include Diet for a Poisoned Planet (1990, 2007); The Safe Shopper’s Bible (1995); Living Healthy in a Toxic World (1996); and Safe Trip to Eden: Ten Steps to Save the Planet Earth from Global Warming Meltdown (2007). Through this Notice of Violation, CTWG seeks to reduce and/or eliminate exposures to cadmium ingested by consumers from oysters.

This letter constitutes notification that JFE Shoji Trade America, Inc. (“JFE Shoji”) has violated the warning requirement of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic enforcement Act (commencing with Section 25249.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The product subject to this Notice of Violation and the chemical in the product identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

Geisha Fancy Smoked Oysters in Cottonseed Oil - Cadmium

JFE Shoji has manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the above product which has exposed and continues to expose numerous individuals within California to cadmium. This chemical was listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1987 and as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male reproductive toxicity on May 1, 1997. These violations have occurred every day since

at least November 12, 2010, as well as every day since the product was introduced into the California marketplace and will continue every day until cadmium is removed from the noticed product, reduced to allowable levels or until clear and reasonable warnings are provided. The primary route of exposure has been through ingestion but may have also occurred through inhalation and/or dermal contact.

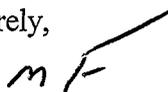
Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to certain listed chemicals. JFE Shoji is in violation of Proposition 65 because the company failed to provide a warning to consumers that they are being exposed to cadmium. While in the course of doing business, the company is knowingly and intentionally exposing consumers to this chemical without first providing a clear and reasonable warning. (Health and Safety Code § 25249.6.) The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25603.1, subd. (a).) JFE Shoji has not provided any Proposition 65 warnings on the company's label or any other appropriate warnings that persons handling, ingesting and/or otherwise using this product are being exposed to cadmium.

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be given to a violator 60-days before the suit is filed. With this letter, CTWG gives notice of the alleged violations to the noticed party and the appropriate governmental authorities. This Notice of Violation covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to the noticing party from information now available. CTWG is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations. A summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and referenced as Appendix A, has been provided to the noticed party.

CTWG is interested in a prompt resolution of this matter with an enforceable written agreement by JFE Shoji to (1) eliminate or reduce cadmium levels to allowable levels, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of this product; and (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures and expensive and time consuming litigation.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Michael Freund

cc: The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

Attachments:

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary to JFE Shoji Trade America, Inc.

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only)

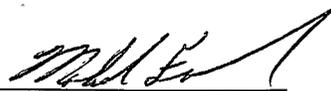
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

**Re: The Chemical Toxin Working Group Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations
by JFE Shoji Trade America, Inc.**

I, Michael Freund hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached Notice of Violation in which it is alleged that the party identified in the Notice 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 The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc. The Notice of Violation alleges that the party identified has exposed persons in California to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice. Please refer to the Notice of Violation for additional details regarding the product name(s) and alleged violations.
3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice. I have reviewed the laboratory testing results for the chemical subject to this Notice and relied on these results. The testing was conducted by a reputable testing laboratory by experienced scientists. The facts, studies or other data derived through this investigation overwhelmingly demonstrate that the party identified in the Notice of Violation exposes persons to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Notice.
4. Based on the information obtained through these consultants and on other information in my possession, I believe there is sufficient evidence that human exposures exist from exposure to the listed product from the noticed party. Furthermore, 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 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 California Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & 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: November 12, 2013



Michael Freund
Attorney for The Chemical Toxin Working
Group, Inc.

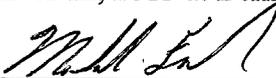
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Alameda. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105, Berkeley, California 94704. On November 12, 2013 I served the within:

Notice of Violation By JFE Shoji Trade America, Inc. for Violation of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq. and Certificate of Merit (Supporting Documentation sent to Attorney General only)

on the parties in said action, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Post Office mail box in Berkeley, California addressed to the names set forth on the Notice of Violation and on the attached Service List.

I, Michael Freund, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 12, 2013 at Berkeley, California


Michael Freund

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

Service List

- District Attorney, Alameda County
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612
- District Attorney, Alpine County
P.O. Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120
- District Attorney, Amador County
708 Court Street, Suite 202
Jackson, CA 95642
- District Attorney, Butte County
25 County Center Drive, Suite 245
Oroville, CA 95965
- District Attorney, Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
- District Attorney, Colusa County
346 Fifth Street Suite 101
Colusa, CA 95932
- District Attorney, Contra Costa County
900 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553.
- District Attorney, Del Norte County
450 H Street, Room 171
Crescent City, CA 95531
- District Attorney, El Dorado County
515 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667
- District Attorney, Fresno County
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721
- District Attorney, Glenn County
Post Office Box 430
Willows, CA 95988
- District Attorney, Humboldt County
825 5th Street 4th Floor
Eureka, CA 95501
- District Attorney, Imperial County
940 West Main Street, Ste 102
El Centro, CA 92243
- District Attorney, Inyo County
230 W. Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514
- District Attorney, Kern County
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
- District Attorney, Kings County
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
- District Attorney, Lake County
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
- District Attorney, Lassen County
220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8
Susanville, CA 96130
- District Attorney, Los Angeles County
210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- District Attorney, Madera County
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637
- District Attorney, Marin County
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130
San Rafael, CA 94903
- District Attorney, Mariposa County
Post Office Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338
- District Attorney, Mendocino County
Post Office Box 1000
Ukiah, CA 95482
- District Attorney, Merced County
550 W. Main Street
Merced, CA 95340
- District Attorney, Modoc County
204 S Court Street, Room 202
Alturas, CA 96101-4020
- District Attorney, Mono County
Post Office Box 617
Bridgeport, CA 93517
- District Attorney, Monterey County
Post Office Box 1131
Salinas, CA 93902
- District Attorney, Napa County
931 Parkway Mall
Napa, CA 94559
- District Attorney, Nevada County
110 Union Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
- District Attorney, Orange County
401 West Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92701
- District Attorney, Placer County
10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240
Roseville, CA 95678
- District Attorney, Plumas County
520 Main Street, Room 404
Quincy, CA 95971
- District Attorney, Riverside County
3960 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501
- District Attorney, Sacramento County
901 "G" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
- District Attorney, San Benito County
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor
Hollister, CA 95023
- District Attorney, San Bernardino County
316 N. Mountain View Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004
- District Attorney, San Diego County
330 West Broadway, Suite 1300
San Diego, CA 92101
- District Attorney, San Francisco County
850 Bryant Street, Suite 322
San Francisco, CA 94103
- District Attorney, San Joaquin County
222 E. Weber Ave. Rm. 202
Stockton, CA 95202
- District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County
1035 Palm St, Room 450
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
- District Attorney, San Mateo County
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
- District Attorney, Santa Barbara County
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- District Attorney, Santa Clara County
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110
- District Attorney, Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- District Attorney, Shasta County
1355 West Street
Redding, CA 96001
- District Attorney, Sierra County
PO Box 457
Downieville, CA 95936
- District Attorney, Siskiyou County
Post Office Box 986
Yreka, CA 96097
- District Attorney, Solano County
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500
Fairfield, CA 94533
- District Attorney, Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive,
Room 212J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
- District Attorney, Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Ste 300
Modesto, CA 95354
- District Attorney, Sutter County
446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991
- District Attorney, Tehama County
Post Office Box 519
Red Bluff, CA 96080
- District Attorney, Trinity County
Post Office Box 310
Weaverville, CA 96093
- District Attorney, Tulare County
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 224
Visalia, CA 93291
- District Attorney, Tuolumne County
423 N. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370.
- District Attorney, Ventura County
800 South Victoria Ave, Suite 314
Ventura, CA 93009
- District Attorney, Yolo County
301 2nd Street
Woodland, CA 95695
- District Attorney, Yuba County
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152
Marysville, CA 95901
- Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
City Hall East
200 N. Main Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- San Diego City Attorney's Office
1200 3rd Avenue, Ste 1620
San Diego, CA 92101
- San Francisco, City Attorney
City Hall, Room 234
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett PL
San Francisco, CA 94102
- San Jose City Attorney's Office
200 East Santa Clara Street,
16th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113