

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

DATE: January 16, 2014
To: ACE Hardware Corp.; State Industries Inc.; A.O. Smith Water Products Co.;
California Attorney General’s Office;
District Attorney’s Office for 58 Counties; and
City Attorney’s Office for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose and San Francisco.

From: Shefa LMV, LLC

I. INTRODUCTION

Our name is Shefa LMV, LLC. We are citizens and a Limited Liability Company of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. We seek to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve public health and safety by reducing the hazardous substances contained in such items. This Notice is provided to the parties listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §25249.6, et seq. (“Proposition 65”). The violations alleged by this Notice consist of product exposures, routes of exposures, and types of harm that may potentially result from exposures to the toxic chemical (“listed chemical”) identified below:

Product Exposure:	See Section VII, Exhibit A
Listed Chemical:	Lead and lead compounds
Routes of Exposure:	Ingestion, Dermal and Inhalation
Types of Harm:	Carcinogen, Causes Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Toxicity

II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

The specific type of product that is causing consumer and occupational exposures in violation of Proposition 65, and which is the subject of this Notice, is listed under “Product Category/Type” in Exhibit A in Section VII below. All products within the type covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the “products.” The sales of these products in California dating at least as far back as **December 26, 2013** are subject to this Notice. As a result of the sales of these products, exposures to the listed chemical have been occurring without clear and responsible warnings as required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings

regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical, resulting from dermal, inhalation and ingestion exposure, California citizenry lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the toxic chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

Through the act of buying, acquiring and using the products, citizens of California are exposed to the listed chemical in homes, workplaces and elsewhere throughout California where these products are used. This includes use of the products in occupational settings, such as the sale, installation, maintenance, and replacement of the products. Exposure to consumers includes, but is not limited to, when handling the product lead comes off on the hands and is then absorbed through the skin or ingested via inhalation, hand to mouth contact, hand to food to mouth contact, or through hand to cigarette to lung contact.

Exposure may continue to occur for a significant period after the initial contact. These activities cause women, pregnant women, and women of child-bearing age to be exposed directly through dermal, and other migration pathways, including but not limited to incidental ingestion after one touch's the chemical and then touch's food or otherwise places his hands on or near his lips where his tongue can or will continue this pathway to ingestion exposure.

People likely to be exposed are women, men, infants and children. These violations and threatened violations pertain to Proposition 65 chemicals that are listed by the State of California as carcinogens and as reproductive toxins.

III. CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Daniel N. Greenbaum, Esq.
1467 South Holt Avenue #2
Los Angeles, CA 90035
Phone: 310.200.2631
Email: danielgreenbaumesq@gmail.com

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 ("OEHHA") in the Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900. For the alleged Violator(s), I have attached a copy of "Proposition 65 in Plain Language" 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 Violator(s), unless such Violator enters 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 whom have received such products; and (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future, or reformulate such products to eliminate the lead exposures.

If the alleged Violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to time-consuming and expensive litigation, please feel free to contact my counsel identified in Section III. It should be noted that neither my counsel nor I can: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day Notice period elapses; nor (2) speak for the Attorney General or any District Attorney or City Attorney who received this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement that will resolve my claims, such may not be approved by the Attorney General after referral to them, or by the Court as the last voice on settlements.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>Product</u>	<u>Retailer(s)</u>	<u>Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)</u>
Water Heater Valve	Ace Hardware Corp.	State Industries Inc.; A. O. Smith Corporation;

Identified above are named products which contain the alleged chemicals at issue, and this reference is supportive of the material facts that are a part of my counsels Certificate of Merit that is attached hereto as being available for purchase or use in California that is within the category or type of offending product covered by this Notice. Based on publicly available information, the retailers, distributors and/or manufacturers of the example within the category or type of product 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 catalog by the alleged Violator(s) and other distributors and retailers of the product.

VII. EXHIBIT A

<u>Product</u> <u>Category/Type</u>	<u>Specific Product</u> ¹	<u>Toxins</u>
Water Heater Valve	UPC 020363104597	Lead

¹ The specific example identified above is of the type of product that is the subject of this Notice. I am identifying it herein for all recipients' benefit to assist in investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposure to the listed chemical from other items within the product category/type listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that this example does not represent an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of any, or all, specific products of the type listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violator(s) are obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific products within the type or category described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violator(s)' custody or control) during the relevant period so as to ensure that the requisite toxic warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this case or action. My business address is:
1467 S Holt Ave #2 Los Angeles CA 90035

A True and Correct copy of the documents entitled 60 DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY will be served or was served in the manner stated below:

I. Interested Parties (Served via Certified Mail): On January 16, 2014, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

Ace Hardware Corp.
2200 Kensington Court
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2100

A. O. Smith Corporation
11270 West Park Place, Suite 170
Milwaukee, WI 53224

State Industries Inc.
500 Tennessee Waltz Parkway
Ashland City, TN 37015-1002

II. California Attorney General (via website Portal): On January 16, 2014, I uploaded a true and correct copy thereof as a PDF file via the California Attorney General's website.

III. District and City Attorneys (via U.S. Mail): On January 16, 2014, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States Mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows

See attached pages for full service list

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

January 16, 2014

Daniel N. Greenbaum, Esq.

Date

Name



Signature

District Attorney
ALAMEDA COUNTY
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney
ALPINE COUNTY
PO Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney
AMADOR COUNTY
708 Court Street, #202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney
BUTTE COUNTY
25 County Center Drive —
Administration Building
Orville, CA 95965

District Attorney
CALAVERAS COUNTY
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney
COLUSA COUNTY
346 5th 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
PO Box 430
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney
HUMBOLDT COUNTY
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney
IMPERIAL COUNTY
940 West Main Street, Suite. 102
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney
INYO COUNTY
168 North Edwards
Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney
KERN COUNTY
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney
KINGS COUNTY
1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

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LAKE COUNTY
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

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LASSEN COUNTY
220 S. Lassen Street, Suite. 8
Susanville, CA 96130

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
210 W. Temple Street
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
PO BOX 730
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney
MENDOCINO COUNTY
PO BOX 1000
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney
MERCED COUNTY
550 West Main Street
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney
MODOC COUNTY
204 S. Court Street, Room 202
Alturas, CA 96101

District Attorney
MONO COUNTY
PO BOX 2053
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

District Attorney
MONTEREY COUNTY
PO BOX 1131
Salinas, CA 93902

District Attorney
NAPA COUNTY
PO BOX 720
Napa, CA 94559

District Attorney
NEVADA COUNTY
110 Union Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney
ORANGE COUNTY
401 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney
PLACER COUNTY
10810 Justice Center Drive
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 95812

District Attorney
SAN BENITO COUNTY
419 4th Street
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
303 W. Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY
330 W. Broadway, Suite 1300
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY
880 Bryant Street, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

District Attorney
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
PO BOX 990
Stockton, CA 95202

District Attorney
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
Courthouse Annex, 4th Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

District Attorney
SAN MATEO COUNTY
400 County Center, Third 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, West Wing
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
100 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936

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SISKIYOU COUNTY
PO BOX 986
Yreka, CA 96097

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675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
Fairfield, CA 94533

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SONOMA COUNTY
600 Administration Drive, Room 212J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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STANISLAUS COUNTY
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95353

District Attorney
SUTTER COUNTY
446 Second Street, Suite 102
Yuba City, CA 95991

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Red Bluff, CA 96080

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PO BOX 310
Weaverville, CA 96093

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Visalia, CA 93291

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VENTURA COUNTY
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Ventura, CA 93009

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San Jose, CA 95113

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City Attorney
CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
City Hall, Room 234
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

I, Daniel N. Greenbaum, hereby declare:


- (1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have 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.
- (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 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.

01/16/2014

Date

Daniel N. Greenbaum, Esq.

Printed Name



Signature