

# SUPPLEMENTAL 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

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**DATE:** April 16, 2014

**TO:** Jeffrey Levy, President – CJ Apparel Group, LLC  
Michael Keefe, President – Hilco, Inc.  
Stephen Knopik, Chief Executive Officer – Beall’s, Inc.  
Ernie Herrman, President – The TJX Companies, 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:** Dr. Whitney R. Leeman

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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My name is Whitney R. Leeman. I hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Engineering. 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”) and supplements the 60-Day Notice of Violation sent on December 30, 2013. As noted above, notice is also being provided to the alleged violators, CJ Apparel Group, LLC, Hilco, Inc., Beall’s, Inc. and The TJX Companies, Inc. (the “Violators”). The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposures, routes of exposure, and type 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”); Lead
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 categories covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the “products.” Exposures to the listed chemicals from the use of the products have been occurring without the clear and reasonable warning required by Proposition 65, dating as far back as April 16, 2011. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures 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 listed chemicals from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

**A. CONSUMER PRODUCT EXPOSURE (DEHP)**

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemical. Women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemical when they, among other activities, touch the products and transfer the listed chemical 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 chemical through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the products.

**B. CONSUMER PRODUCT EXPOSURE (LEAD)**

California consumers, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemical. By way of example but not limitation, exposures occur when California citizens use, display, clean, repair, pack, unpack, arrange, store or otherwise handle the products. These tasks cause consumers to be exposed directly or indirectly through the routine touching of the parts or portions of the products containing readily available surface amounts of the listed chemical. Additionally, exposure can occur through the routine touching and ingesting of other materials that are contaminated with the listed chemical from the products as a result of these tasks. People likely to be exposed include adults.

**C. OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE (LEAD)**

Similarly, men and women in California use or otherwise handle the products as a part of their jobs and are, therefore, subject to occupational exposures to the listed chemical. Employees are exposed at any California business locations of the apparent manufacturer, distributor and retailer (and their agents, assigns and divisions) as well as all other California locations where the products, or the component parts thereof that include the listed chemical are, by way of example but not limitation, used, packed, unpacked, labeled, arranged, displayed, cleaned, stocked, stored, repaired or otherwise handled. These tasks cause employee exposure directly and/or indirectly to the listed chemical through the routine touching of the parts or portions of the products containing readily available amounts of the listed chemical on the surface. Additionally, exposure can occur through the routine touching and ingesting of other materials that are contaminated with the listed chemical from the products as a result of these tasks. These products are also used by sole proprietors and other persons in settings not covered by the federal Occupational Safety Health Act ("OSHA"). This Notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposure governed by the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health (the "State Plan"). The State Plan incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions with regard to occupational exposures on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer may use the means of compliance contained in the general hazard communication requirement to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Accordingly, any settlement, civil complaint, or substantive court orders in this matter must be submitted to the California Attorney General.

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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:

Whitney R. Leeman  
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.

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### **VI. ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION**

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Identified below are specific examples of products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California that are 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 examples 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 warning" 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.

**VI. ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION (continued)**

<i>Product*</i>	<i>Retailer(s)</i>	<i>Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)</i>
Caribbean Joe Island Supply Co. Skinny Strap Watch, Style# CJ6005STK, UPC #8 45744 00743 0	Amazon.com, Inc.; Beall's, Inc. ( <a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a> )	CJ Apparel Group, LLC; Hilco, Inc.
Caribbean Joe Island Supply Co. Emboss Faux Leather Covered Flask, #44-829	Marshalls; The TJX Companies, Inc. Stanislaus County, Northern California	CJ Apparel Group, LLC; Hilco, Inc.

**VII. EXHIBIT A**

<i>Product Category/Type</i>	<i>Such As*</i>	<i>Toxins</i>
Vinyl/PVC Watch Straps	Caribbean Joe Island Supply Co. Skinny Strap Watch, Style# CJ6005STK, UPC #8 45744 00743 0	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Faux Leather Covered Flasks	Caribbean Joe Island Supply Co. Emboss Faux Leather Covered Flask, #44-829	Lead

\*The specifically identified examples of the types of products that are subject to this Notice are for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the listed chemicals from other items within the product categories/types listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that these examples are 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 April 16, 2014, I served the following documents:

**SUPPLEMENTAL 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:

Jeffrey Levy, President  
CJ Apparel Group, LLC  
1350 Broadway, Room 310  
New York, NY 10018

Jeffrey Levy, President  
CJ Apparel Group, LLC  
c/o Corporation Service Company  
80 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207

Michael Keefe, President  
Hilco, Inc.  
5 Revere Drive, Suite 206  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Stephen Knopik, Chief Executive Officer  
Beall's, Inc.  
1806 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Bradenton, FL 34208

Stephen Knopik, Chief Executive Officer  
Beall's, Inc.  
P.O. Box 25207  
Bradenton, FL 34206

Ernie Herrman, President  
The TJX Companies, Inc.  
770 Cochituate Road  
Framingham, MA 01701

Ernie Herrman, President  
The TJX Companies, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9133  
Framingham, MA 01701

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:

<i>Electronically Uploaded to the Attorney General's website:</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 April 16, 2014, at Berkeley, California.



Caroline Pak


# 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: April 16, 2014



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Clifford A. Chanler

## 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  
201 Commercial 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  
Downville, 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  
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The Honorable Birgit Fladager  
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The Honorable Carl Adams  
Sutter County District Attorney  
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The Honorable Gregg Cohen  
Tehama County District Attorney  
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Red Bluff, CA 96080

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Ventura, CA 93009

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301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

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

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200 North Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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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