# 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")

# August 4, 2014

Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Greenbrier International, Inc. 500 Volvo Parkway Chesapeake, Virginia 23320-1604

Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. 500 Volvo Parkway Chesapeake, Virginia 23320 Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., Store# 4095 426 S Alvarado St. Los Angeles, CA 90057-2902

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

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 concerning Gripper Pads Containing Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate

To whom else 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 Greenbrier International, Inc., Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., and Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., Store# 4095, (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 240W, 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.
- Gripper Pads contain Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ("DEHP"), also known as Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. CAG has discovered Gripper Pads specifically Gripper Pads ("Grip Pads") containing DEHP, 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. Both additions took place more than twenty (20) months before CAG served this Notice.

- o An exemplar of the violations caused by **Grip Pads** includes but is not limited to:
  - 4 GRIPPER PADS "Multipurpose, Open jar lid & caps, Prevent Objects from sliding, Wrap around tool, Handles for firmer grip" (5.5 in diameter, 13.97 cm diameter) 178052 1212 "Imported by Greenbrier International, Inc." Made In CHINA UPC.: 6 39277 98052 6
- 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 **Grip Pads** for distribution or sale in California to consumers. The packaging for **Grip Pads** (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 Violator, with regard to **Grip Pads**, 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 Violator, with regard to **Grip Pads**, provide identification of the product at retail outlets in a manner that provided a warning through shelf labeling, signs, menus, or a combination thereof.

• This Notice also concerns occupational exposures. An "[o]ccupational exposure' means an exposure to any employee in his or her employer's workplace." Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25602(f).

Violators caused occupational exposures, to their respective products, in violation of Proposition 65 by allowing employees to handle the **Grip Pads** in the course of packaging, shipping, distributing, promoting, and selling the **Grip Pads** without having first given clear and reasonable warnings to such employees that, by handling the **Grip Pads**, such employees would suffer exposures to **DEHP**. Violators' employees were exposed to **DEHP** by touching the **Grip Pads** with their bare skin at Violators' premises among other locations where these activities take place including but not limited to other distributing, shipping, warehousing, packaging and retail centers. Violators did not provide any Proposition 65-compliant warnings on any of the products or any substance present or any sign or system of signs within the workplace.

This notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposures governed by the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health. The State Plan incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal 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 (a) the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California; and (b) employers with less than ten (10) employees. The approval also provides that an employer may use any means of compliance in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement be 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.

These violations occurred each day between August 4, 2011 and August 4, 2014, and are ever continuing thereafter.

The principal routes of exposure were through dermal contact, ingestion, and inhalation. Persons sustain exposures by handling the **Grip Pads** without wearing gloves or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling **Grip Pads**, as well as direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to food to mouth, direct contact to food then to mouth, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter emanating from the **Grip Pads** during installation and use, as well as through environmental mediums that carry the **DEHP** once contained within the **Grip Pads**.

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 Violator 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 open and willing 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.

Dated: <u>8/4/14</u>

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 ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), 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 OEHHA's implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSONIDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

Proposition 65 appears in California law as Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13. The statute is available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.htm l. 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 25102 through 27001. These implementing regulations

are available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html.

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 and/or reproductive toxicity. This means that chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as damage to female or male reproductive systems or to the developing fetus. This list must be updated at least once a year. The current Proposition 65 list of chemicals is available on the OEHHA website at:

http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/New list.html.

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under this law. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving listed 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 unless an exemption applies; for example, when exposures are sufficiently low (see below). 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. Some exposures are exempt from the warning

All further regulatory references are to sections of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations unless otherwise indicated. The statute, regulations and relevant case law are available on the OEHHA website at: http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html

requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

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. Some discharges are exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

# DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

Yes. You should consult the current version of the statute and regulations (http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html) to determine all applicable exemptions, the most common of which are the following:

Grace Period. Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply until 12 months after the chemical has been listed. The Proposition 65 discharge prohibition does not apply to a discharge or release of a chemical that takes placeless than 20 months after the listing of the chemical.

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. This includes all employees, not just those present in California.

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" (NSRLs) for many listed carcinogens. Exposures below these levels are exempt from the warning requirement.

See OEHHA's website at:
http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html for a list of NSRLs, and Section 25701 et seq. of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question. For chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, 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" divided by a 1,000. This number is known as the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (MADL). See OEHHA's website at:

http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html for a list of MADLs, and Section 25801 et seq. of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

Exposures to Naturally Occurring Chemicals in a Food. Certain exposures to chemicals that occur in foods naturally (i.e., that do not result from any known human activity, including activity by someone other than the person causing the exposure) are exempt from the warning requirements of the law. If the chemical is a contaminant <sup>2</sup> it must be reduced to the lowest level feasible. Regulations explaining this exemption can be found in Section 25501.

Discharges 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 listed chemical has not, does not, or will not pass into or probably pass into a source of drinking water, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Section 25501(a)(4)

"significant amount" means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the "no significant risk" level for chemicals that cause cancer or that is 1,000 times below the "no observable effect" level for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity, if an individual were exposed to that 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. 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. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. The notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in Section 25903 of the regulations and in Title 11, sections 3100-3103. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action 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 to stop committing the violation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR REGULATIONS...
Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65

Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900 or via email at P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov.

Revised: July, 2012

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.

## **Gripper Pads containing DEHP**

#### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

### I, Reuben Yeroushalmi, hereby declare:

- 1. 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.
- 3. 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: S/4//4

By: Reuben 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 240W, 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:

Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Greenbrier International, Inc. 500 Volvo Parkway Chesapeake, Virginia 23320-1604 Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. 500 Volvo Parkway Chesapeake, Virginia 23320 Robert H. Rudman, President, or Current President/CEO Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., Store# 4095 426 S Alvarado St. Los Angeles, CA 90057-2902

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:

08-08-2014

Hya Gingoyon

# **Distribution List**

Alameda County District Attorney	Los Angeles County District Attorney	Mono County District Attorney
1225 Fallon St, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612	210 W Temple St, 18th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012	PO Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517
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	Mariposa, CA 95338	San Francisco, CA 94103
Butte County District Attorncy	Marin County District Attorney	San Diego County District Attorney
25 County Center Dr.	3501 Civic Center Drive, #130	330 W. Broadway, Ste 1300
Oroville, CA 95965-3385	San Rafael, CA 94903	San Diego, CA 92101-3803
Calaveras County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney 316 N Mountain View Ave
891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004
Office of the Attorney General P.O. Box 70550	Los Angeles City Attorney 200 N Main St Ste 1800	San Francisco City Attorney # 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 234
Oakland, CA 94612-0550	Los Angeles CA 90012	San Francisco, CA 94102
Colusa County District Attorney	Inyo County District Attorney	Placer County District Attorney
Courthouse, 547 Market St.	P.O. Drawer D	10810 Justice Center Drive
Colusa, CA 95932	Independence, CA 93526	Suite 240
		Roseville, CA 95678-6231
Contra Costa County District Attorney	Orange County District Attorney	Merced County District Attorney
725 Court St., Room 402	PO Box 808	650 W. 20th Street
Martinez, CA 94553  Del Norte County District Attorney	Santa Ana, CA 92702 Nevada County District Attorney	Merced, CA 95340 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	Plurnas County District Attorney	Riverside County District Attorney
515 Main St.	520 Main Street, Rm 404	3960 Orange St. Ste. 5
Placerville, CA 95667-5697	Quincy, CA 95971	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, Rrn 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., 4th Floor	400 County Center	600 Union Ave
Eureka, CA 95501	Redwood City, CA 94063	Fairfield, CA 94533
Imperial County District Attorney	Santa Barbara County District Attorney	Sonoma County District Attorney
939 W. Main St., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	1112 Santa Barbara St.	600 Administration Dr., Rrn 212-J
El Centro, CA 92243-2860	Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Kern County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave.	70 W Hedding St.	1525 Court St, 3rd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301	San Jose, CA 95110	Redding, CA 96001-1632
Kings County District Attorney	Santa Cruz County District Attorney	Sierra County District Attorney
Gov't Ctr, 1400 W Lacey Blvd	PO Box 1159	PO Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936-0457
Hanford, CA 93230	Santa Cruz, CA 95061 Stanislaus County District Attomey	Trinity County District Attorney
Lake 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	446 Second Street	215 5th St
Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Yuba City, CA 95991	Marysville, CA 95901
San Diego City Attorney	Lassen County District Attorney	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
San cheon CA 9/HD	T. L. C. Distilla Att	Yolo County District Attorney
		F FORG COMMY CONTIGE AUTORIES
Tuolumne County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney County Civic Center, Rm 224	1
Tuolumne County District Attorney 2 S Green St	County Civic Center, Rm 224	310 Second St
2 S Green St Sonora, CA 95370 Ventura County District Attorney	County Civic Center, Rm 224 Visalia, CA 93291	1
Tuolumne County District Attorney 2 S Green St Sonora, CA 95370	County Civic Center, Rm 224	310 Second St Woodland, CA 95695