

# 60 DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

DATE: August 21, 2014

To: President or CEO – FNA Group, Inc.  
President or CEO – Lowe’s Companies, Inc.  
President or CEO – Lowe’s HIW, Inc.  
President or CEO – Lowe’s Home Centers, LLC, Inc.  
California Attorney General’s Office;  
District Attorney’s Office for 58 counties;  
City Attorney’s for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, and Los Angeles.

From: Mr. Kingpun Cheng

I. My name is Kingpun Cheng. 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 parties listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §25249.6 et seq. (“Proposition 65”). The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposures, routes of exposures, and types of harm potentially resulting from exposure to the toxic chemical (“listed chemical”) identified below as follows:

<b>Product Exposure:</b>	<b>See Section VII. Exhibit A</b>
<b>Listed Chemical:</b>	<b>Lead and Lead Compounds</b>
<b>Routes of Exposure:</b>	<b>Dermal absorption, Ingestion, Inhalation.</b>
<b>Types of Harm:</b>	<b>Carcinogen, Causes Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm</b>

## 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 that is covered by 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 sale of these products in the state of California dating at least as far back as April 19, 2014 are subject to this notice. As a result, exposures to the listed chemical from the use of the products have been occurring without clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical, 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 chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

California citizens, including children, through the act of purchasing, acquiring, handling, or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemical in homes, workplaces and places throughout California where these products are used. By way of example but not limitation, exposures occur when California citizens use, tighten, repair, clean, assemble, move, store or otherwise handle these products, lead transfers onto the hands through routine touching of the parts and portions of the products containing readily available surface amounts of the listed chemical and is subsequently absorbed through the skin or ingested via inhalation, hand-to-mouth behavior, hand-to-food-to-mouth behavior, or through hand-to-cigarette-to-lung behavior. 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 migration of the listed chemical from the products. California citizens likely to be exposed are women, men, and children. These violations and threatened violations pertain to Proposition 65 chemicals that are listed as carcinogens and as reproductive toxins.

### III. CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Mr. Kingpun Cheng  
c/o Mr. Parker A. Smith  
Parker A. Smith, Attorney at Law  
2173 Salk Ave., Suite #250  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Tel: 619-335-5697

### 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 Violator's 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 Violator 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; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the Lead exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b). If the alleged Violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resort 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 INFORMATION

*THIS INFORMATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 22 CAL. CODE REGS., §12903 (b)(4).*

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 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 Violator and other distributors and retailers of the manufacturer.

Product*	Retailer(s)	Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)
Dial-N-Wash Universal Adjustable Pressure Regulator 879399001369	Lowe's Companies, Inc. Lowe's HIW, Inc. Lowe's Home Centers, LLC	FNA Group, Inc.

**VII. EXHIBIT A**

Product Category/Type	Such As*	Toxins
Universal Adjustable Pressure Regulator	Simpson Dial-N-Wash Universal Adjustable Pressure Regulator 879399001369	Lead and Lead Compound

\*The specifically identified example of the type of product which is subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit to assist in its 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 is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product of the type listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violator is 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 notice recipient'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.

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 PERSON IDENTIFIED 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.html>. 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.<sup>1</sup> 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/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.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 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 place less 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 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 "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 e-mail at [P65PublicComments@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:P65PublicComments@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.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

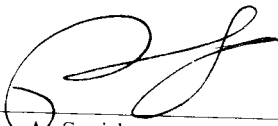
<sup>2</sup> See Section 25501(a)(4).

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Parker A. Smith, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the party identified in the notice has 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 chemical 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 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 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: August 21, 2014

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Parker A. Smith

# PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is, 2173 Salk Ave., Suite #250, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

On August 21, 2014, I served the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d);

PROPOSITION 65: SUMMARY;

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (SERVED ONLY ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL)

on the Violator listed below via First Class Certified Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Violator and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

FNA Group, Inc.  
Laurence Lynch or Current President or CEO  
1825 Greenleaf Avenue  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Lowe's HIW, Inc.  
Rick Damron or Current President or CEO  
PO Box 159, Mount Mourne, NC 28123

Lowe's Companies, Inc.  
Robert Niblock or Current President or CEO  
1000 Lowe's Blvd., Mooresville, NC, 28117

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC  
Rick Damron or Current President or CEO  
1605 Curtis Bridge Rd., Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Lowe's HIW, Inc.  
Rick Damron or Current President or CEO  
1000 Lowe's Blvd., Mooresville, NC, 28117

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC  
Rick Damron or Current President or CEO  
1000 Lowe's Blvd., Mooresville, NC, 28117

as well as providing copies of the notice to the public enforcers by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to each party listed below and served as follows:

By Uploading onto <http://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>

The Attorney General of the State of California

By placing each envelope in a United States Postal Service Box, first class postage pre-paid

The District Attorneys for each of the 58 California Counties and;

The City Attorneys for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco.

A list of address for each of the recipient's is attached.

Executed on August 21, 2014, San Diego, California

  
Parker A. Smith

District Attorney  
COLUSA COUNTY  
547 Market Street, Ste 102  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney  
DEL NORTE COUNTY  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney  
ALPINE COUNTY  
PO Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
725 Court Street, Fourth Floor  
Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney  
FL DORADO COUNTY  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

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

District Attorney  
FRESNO COUNTY  
2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney  
GLENN COUNTY  
PO Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney  
BUTTE COUNTY  
25 County Center Drive --  
Administration Building  
Oroville, CA 95965

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

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

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

District Attorney  
INYO COUNTY  
PO Drawer D  
Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney  
KERN COUNTY  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

District Attorney  
LAKE COUNTY  
255 N Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney  
LASSEN COUNTY  
220 S. Lassen Street, Ste 8  
Susanville, CA 96130

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  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

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

District Attorney  
MONO COUNTY  
PO BOX 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93546

District Attorney  
MONTEREY COUNTY  
PO BOX 1131  
Salinas, CA 95902

District Attorney  
NAPA COUNTY  
PO BOX 720  
Napa, CA 94559

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

District Attorney  
County of Los Angeles  
210 West Temple Street,  
Suite 18000  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

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 95814

District Attorney  
SAN BENITO COUNTY  
419 4th Street  
Hollister, CA 95023-3801

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  
1035 Palm Street  
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  
Downville, CA 95936

District Attorney  
SISKIYOU COUNTY  
PO 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 95353

District Attorney  
SUTTER COUNTY  
446 2nd Street, Suite 102  
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney  
TEHAMA COUNTY  
PO BOX 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney  
TRINITY COUNTY  
PO BOX 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney  
TULARE COUNTY  
221 South Mooney Blvd., Suite 224  
Visalia, CA 93291

District Attorney  
TUOLUMNE COUNTY  
423 No. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney  
VENTURA COUNTY  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

District Attorney  
YOLO COUNTY  
301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

District Attorney  
YUBA COUNTY  
215 Fifth Street, Ste 152  
Marysville, CA 95901

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

District Attorney  
County of San Bernardino  
316 N. Mountain View Ave  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004

Office of the City Attorney  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
200 N. Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Office of the City Attorney  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
Consumer and Environmental  
Protection  
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 700  
San Diego, CA 92101

Office of the City Attorney  
City Hall, Room 234  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4682

Office of the City Attorney  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113