

# SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

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DATE: November 25, 2014

TO: Eric Smidt, President – Central Purchasing, LLC  
Eric Smidt, President – Harbor Freight Tools USA, 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: Paul Wozniak

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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My name is Paul Wozniak. 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 Notices of Violation sent on March 26, 2014 and on September 12, 2014. As noted above, notice is also being provided to the alleged violators, Central Purchasing, LLC and Harbor Freight Tools USA, 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 chemical (“listed chemical”) identified below, as follows:

Product Exposure: See Section VII. Exhibit A  
Listed Chemical: Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”)  
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 chemical from the use of the products have been occurring without the clear and reasonable warning required by Proposition 65, dating as far back as November 25, 2011. 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 listed chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

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.

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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:

Paul Wozniak  
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 DEHP 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.

<i>Product*</i>	<i>Retailer(s)</i>	<i>Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)</i>
Garage/Counter Swivel Stool with Flame Design, SKU#91200 UPC #7 92363 91200 6	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. Contra Costa County, Northern California	Central Purchasing, LLC
Personal Sound Amplifier, Item 66863, UPC #7 92363 66863 7	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. Contra Costa County, Northern California	Central Purchasing, LLC
15 Ft. Pet Tie, Item 96484, UPC #7 92363 96484 5	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. Contra Costa County, Northern California	Central Purchasing, LLC
7 Piece Tweezer Set, #96124, UPC #7 92363 96124 0	Trains and Toys for Big Boys ( <a href="http://www.trainsandtoysforbigboys.com">http://www.trainsandtoysforbigboys.com</a> )	Central Purchasing, LLC
Central Pneumatic PVC Air Hose, Item 69709, UPC #7 92363 69709 5	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. Humboldt County, Northern California	Central Purchasing, LLC
Attache Case, #35233, UPC #7 92363 35233 8	Amazon.com, Inc.; ProTech Trader ( <a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a> )	Central Purchasing, LLC
Western Safety Ear Muffs, Item 94334, UPC #7 92363 94334 5	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. ( <a href="http://www.harborfreight.com">http://www.harborfreight.com</a> )	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
Western Safety Industrial Ear Muffs, Item 61372, UPC #7 92363 61372 9	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. ( <a href="http://www.harborfreight.com">http://www.harborfreight.com</a> )	Central Purchasing, LLC; Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.

**VII. EXHIBIT A**

<i>Product Category/Type</i>	<i>Such As*</i>	<i>Toxins</i>
Stools with Vinyl/PVC Upholstery containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Garage/Counter Swivel Stool with Flame Design, SKU#91200 UPC #7 92363 91200 6	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Earphones with Vinyl/PVC Cords containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Personal Sound Amplifier, Item 66863, UPC #7 92363 66863 7	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Vinyl/PVC Pet Ties containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	15 Ft. Pet Tie, Item 96484, UPC #7 92363 96484 5	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Tool Grips	7 Piece Tweezer Set, #96124, UPC #7 92363 96124 0	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Vinyl/PVC Hoses	Central Pneumatic PVC Air Hose, Item 69709, UPC #7 92363 69709 5	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Cases with Vinyl/PVC Shoulder Strap Pads	Attache Case, #35233, UPC #7 92363 35233 8	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Hearing Protection with Vinyl/PVC Ear Cushions	Western Safety Ear Muffs, Item 94334, UPC #7 92363 94334 5  Western Safety Industrial Ear Muffs, Item 61372, UPC #7 92363 61372 9	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate

\*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 chemical 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 November 25, 2014, I served the following documents:

**SECOND 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:

Eric Smidt, President  
Central Purchasing, LLC  
3491 Mission Oaks Boulevard  
Camarillo, CA 93012

Eric Smidt, President  
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.  
26850 Agoura Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

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 November 25, 2014, at Berkeley, California.



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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 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 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: November 25, 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  
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The Honorable Michael Ramsey  
Butte County District Attorney  
25 County Center Drive  
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The Honorable Barbara Yook  
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891 Mountain Ranch Road  
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The Honorable John R. Poyner  
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The Honorable Mark Peterson  
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The Honorable Gilbert Otero  
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San Bernardino, CA 92415

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Red Bluff, CA 96080

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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