

ATTORNEYS:

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May 19, 2015

**SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE FOR VIOLATION OF
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE § 25249.5 ET SEQ. (Proposition “65”)**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL COPY: CONTAINS OFFICIAL
INFORMATION PER EVIDENCE CODE § 1040**

Dear Public Enforcement Agencies:

GP Law Group, APC (hereinafter the “Firm”) represents Mr. Ali Zargarbashi (“Zargarbashi”), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. Mr. Zargarbashi seeks 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. The Firm and Mr. Zargarbashi have documented violations of California’s Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (“Proposition 65”), codified in *Health and Safety Code* Section 25249.5 et seq. This letter serves to provide the Firm’s and Mr. Zargarbashi’s notification of these violations to the public enforcement agencies. Notice is also being provided to the alleged violator, Lowe’s Companies, Inc. (hereinafter the “Violator”).

Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, the Firm intends to bring an enforcement action on behalf of Mr. Zargarbashi sixty (60) days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations. 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 at issue.

A summary of the statute and its implementing regulations, which was prepared by the lead agency designated under the statute, is enclosed with the copy of this notice served upon the violator. The specific details of the violations that are the subject of this notice are provided below.

Alleged Violator

The name of the violator covered by this notice is Lowe’s Companies, Inc.

Chemicals

The violation in question involves exposure to lead from the product listed below. The State of California has official listed lead and lead compounds as a chemical known to cause cancer. The State of California has also listed lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects or reproductive

harm. See Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity, available at http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html.

Consumer Product

The consumer product that is the subject of this notice is:

VACUUM BREAKER containing lead
Bar Code: 1191800903
Item Number: 21507

Consumer Product Exposure

California Consumers, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the product, are exposed to the listed chemical. By way of example but not limitation, exposures occur when California citizens wear, use, display, clean, repair, pack, unpack, arrange, store, or otherwise handle the product. 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 children and adults.

Use of the product identified in this notice results in human exposure to lead. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with this product regarding the reproductive and carcinogenic hazards of lead. The packaging for the product contains no Proposition-65 compliant warning. Nor did the violator, with respect to the product, provide identification of the product at retail outlets in a manner that provided a warning through shelf labeling, signs, or a combination thereof.

Duration of Violations

This ongoing violation has occurred on every day since at least September 29, 2013, as well as every day since the products were introduced in the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these toxic chemicals are removed from the products.

Pursuant to Title 11, Cal. Code Regs. section 3100, a certificate of merit is attached hereto.

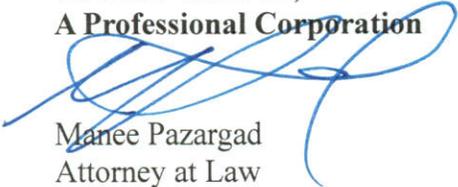
Proposition 65 requires that notice of intent to sue be given to the violator(s) sixty (60) days before the suit is filed. (See *Cal. Health & Safety Code* section 25249.7(d)(1).) With this letter, Mr. Zargarbashi gives notice of the alleged violation to the violator and the appropriate governmental authorities. In absence of any action by the appropriate governmental authorities within sixty (60) calendar days of the sending of this notice, Mr. Zargarbashi may file suit. In order to expeditiously rectify these ongoing violations of California law, Mr. Zargarbashi is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

You may discuss an early resolution of this matter by contacting Mr. Zargarbashi's counsel as follows:

Manee Pazargad, Esq.
GP Law Group, APC
204 South Beverly Drive, Suite 115
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Ph: 310.860.0600
Fax: 310.861.0506
Email: mp@gplitigation.com

Sincerely,

**GPLAW GROUP,
A Professional Corporation**



Manee Pazargad
Attorney at Law

Encl.: As Noted

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

I, Manee Pazargad, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the party in the notice has violated section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code 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 exposure to the listed chemicals that are 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 plaintiff’s case can be established and that 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 has attached to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for the certificate, including information identified in section 25249.7(h)(2) of the Health and Safety Code, 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: _____

5/19/15



Manee Pazargad

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 204 South Beverly Drive, Suite 115, 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 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:

Current President/CEO
Lowe's Companies, Inc.
1000 Lowes Blvd.
 Mooresville, NC 28117

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

Electronically Uploaded to the Attorney General's Website:

The Attorney General of the State of California

Name and address of each public prosecutor to whom documents were mailed:

SEE ATTACHED 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: _____

5/19/15

By: _____


David Gharakhanian

Appendix A

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACTION 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

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

Proposition 65 appears in California law as Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13. 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 25000 through 27000.

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, or birth defects or other reproductive harm. This list must be updated at least once a year. Over 735 chemicals have been listed as of November 16, 2001. Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under this law. Businesses that produce, use, release, or otherwise engage in activities involving those 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. 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. Exposures are exempt from the warning requirement if they occur less than twelve months after the date of listing of the chemical.

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. Discharges are exempt from this requirement if they occur less than twenty months after the date of listing of the chemical.

DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

Yes. The law exempts:

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.

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 for more than 250 listed carcinogens.

Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question. For chemicals known to the State to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm ("reproductive toxicants"), 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 (NOEL)," divided by a 1,000-fold safety or uncertainty factor. The "no observable effect level" is the highest dose level which has not been associated with an observable adverse reproductive or developmental effect.

Discharge 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 list chemical has not, does not, or will not enter any drinking water source, 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" or "no observable effect" test if an individual were exposed to such an 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 (those in cities with a population exceeding 750,000). 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. A notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in regulations (Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 25903). A private party may not pursue an enforcement action directly 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 of law to stop committing the violation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900.

Distribution List

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Fresno County District Attorney 2220 Tulare St, Ste 1000 Fresno, CA 93721	Sacramento County District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814	San Benito County District Attorney 419 4th St Hollister, CA 95023
Glenn County District Attorney PO Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	San Luis Obispo County District Attorney County Government Center, Rm 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Siskiyou County District Attorney PO Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097
Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5th St, 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center Redwood City, CA 94063	Solano County District Attorney 600 Union Ave Fairfield, CA 94533
Imperial County District Attorney 939 W Main St., 2 nd Floor El Centro, CA 92243-2860	Santa Barbara County District Attorney 1112 Santa Barbara St Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Sonoma County District Attorney 600 Administration Dr., Rm 212-J Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Kern County District Attorney 1215 Truxtun Ave Bakersfield, CA 93301	Santa Clara County District Attorney 70 W Hedding St San Jose, CA 95110	Shasta County District Attorney 1525 Court St, 3rd Floor Redding, CA 96001-1632
Kings County District Attorney Gov. Ctr. 1400 W Lacey Blvd Hanford, CA 93230	Santa Cruz County District Attorney PO Box 1150 Santa Cruz, CA 95061	Sierra County District Attorney PO Box 457 Downsville, CA 95936-0457
Lake County District Attorney 255 N Forbes St Lakeport, CA 95453-4700	Stanislaus County District Attorney PO Box 442 Modesto, CA 95353	Trinity County District Attorney PO Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
Madoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Sutter County District Attorney 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991	Yuba County District Attorney 215 5th St Marysville, CA 95901
San Diego City Attorney City Center Plaza 1200 4 th Ave # 1100 San Diego, CA 92101	Lassen County District Attorney 200 S Lassen St., Suite 8 Susanville, CA 96130	Monterey County District Attorney PO Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902
Tuolumne County District Attorney 2 S Green St Sonora, CA 95370	Tulare County District Attorney County Civic Center, Rm 224 Visalia, CA 93291	Yolo County District Attorney 310 Second St Woodland, CA 95695
Ventura County District Attorney 800 S Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009	Tehama County District Attorney PO Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	San Jose City Attorney 151 W. Mission St San Jose, CA 95110