

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”)

May 26, 2015

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
3491 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
26541 Agoura Road
Calabasas, CA 91302

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Central Purchasing, LLC
3491 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools Woodland
Hills CA #00217
22912 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools Huntington
Park CA #00373
5952 Pacific Blvd.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

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

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 concerning **Hand Tools Containing Di (2-ethylhexyl)
phthalate (“DEHP”)**

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 Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., Central Purchasing, LLC, Harbor Freight Tools Woodland Hills CA #00217 and Harbor Freight Tools Huntington Park CA #00373, (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.

- **Hand Tools** contain **Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”)**, also known as Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. CAG has discovered **Hand Tools** specifically **Grommet Pliers with Vinyl Grips (“Grommet Pliers”), Straight Hog Ring Pliers with Vinyl Grips (“Hog Ring Pliers”), Groove Joint Pliers with Vinyl Grips (“Joint Pliers”), Side Terminal Battery Ratchet Wrenches with Vinyl Grips (“Ratchet Wrenches”) and Oil Filter Wrenches with Vinyl Grips (“Oil Filter Wrenches”)** containing DEHP. DEHP 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.
 - An exemplar of the violations caused by **Grommet Pliers** includes but is not limited to:
 - **Pittsburgh® 2” GROMMET PLIERS WITH 100 GROMMETS, ITEM 66707, “GROMMET SET: 5-3/4” Long, 3/4” “JAW OPENING”, “Distributed by Harbor Freight Tools, Camarillo, CA, www.HarborFreight.com”, Barcode: 7 92363 66707 4**

 - An exemplar of the violations caused by **Hog Ring Pliers** includes but is not limited to:
 - **PITTSBURGH® STRAIGHT HOG RING PLIERS; “Lifetime Warranty”; “ITEM 3102”; “Vinyl Comfort grips”; “Machined and hardened forged steel”; “7-1/2” long”; “Distributed by Harbor Freight Tools, Camarillo, CA, www.HarborFreight.com”; Barcode: 7 92363 03102 8**

 - An exemplar of the violations caused by **Joint Pliers** includes but is not limited to:
 - **PITTSBURGH® PRO 20” Groove Joint Pliers; Lifetime Warranty; Item 60537; Laser heat treated teeth; Durable grip for comfort; Undercut tongue-and grove design; circular sticker placed to package with numbers: 35418 2622014 Barcode: 7 92363 60537 3**

 - An exemplar of the violations caused by **Ratchet Wrenches** includes but is not limited to:
 - **PITTSBURGH® Automotive 5/16” Side-Terminal Battery Ratchet Wrench, “For use on 5/16” battery terminal bolts found on GM and most other domestic vehicles”, “Reversible, ratcheting box wrench; Insulated vinyl grip handle to prevent electrical shock”, “Satin chrome-plated finish to resist corrosion”, “Overall dimensions: 5-5/8”L x 3/4”W”, “Distributed by Harbor Freight Tools, Camarillo, CA, www.HarborFreight.com, Item 97261, Made in China, circular sticker placed to package with numbers: 36972 3522013, barcode: 7 92363 97261 1**

 - An exemplar of the violations caused by **Oil Filter Wrenches** includes but is not limited to:
 - **PITTSBURGH® Automotive 3 3/4” Swivel Handle Oil Filter Wrench, “Fits filters 3 1/4” to 3 3/4”, “Non-slip rubber gripper even works on dented or oily**

filters”, “Distributed by Harbor Freight Tools, Camarillo, CA, www.HarborFreight.com, Item 68963, Made in China, circular sticker placed to package with numbers 36239 112014, barcode: 7 92363 68963 2

- 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 **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches** for distribution or sale in California to consumers. The packaging for **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches** (meaning any label or other written, printed or graphic matter affixed to or accompanying the product or its container or wrapper) contains no warning or Proposition 65-compliant warning. Nor did Violator, with regard to **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches**, provide a system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any other system, which provided warning or clear and reasonable warnings. Nor did Violator, with regard to **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches**, 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)*.¹

Violators caused occupational exposures, to their respective products, in violation of Proposition 65 by allowing employees to handle the **Joint Pliers** and **Oil Filter Wrenches** in the course of packaging, shipping, distributing, promoting, and selling the **Joint Pliers** and **Oil Filter Wrenches** without having first given warning or clear and reasonable warnings to such employees that, by handling the **Joint Pliers** and **Oil Filter Wrenches**, such employees would suffer exposures to **DEHP**. Violators’ employees were exposed to **DEHP** by touching the **Joint Wrenches** with their bare skin at Violators’ premises located at Harbor Freight Tools Huntington Park CA #00373, 5952 Pacific Blvd., Huntington Park, CA 90255 among other locations where these activities take place including but not limited to other distributing, shipping, warehousing, packaging and retail centers. Violators’ employees were exposed to **DEHP** by touching the **Oil Filter Wrenches** with their bare skin at Violators’ premises located at Harbor Freight Tools Woodland Hills CA #00217, 22912 Victory Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91367 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 warnings or 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.

¹ CAG alleges occupational exposure only as to: (1) Groove Joint Pliers with Vinyl Grips including but not limited to: “PITTSBURGH® PRO 20” Groove Joint Pliers; Lifetime Warranty; Item 60537; Laser heat treated teeth; Durable grip for comfort; Undercut tongue-and groove design; circular sticker placed to package with numbers: 35418 2622014 Barcode: 7 92363 60537 3” and (2) Oil Filter Wrenches with Vinyl Grips including but not limited to: “PITTSBURGH® Automotive 3 ¼” Swivel Handle Oil Filter Wrench, “Fits filters 3 ¼” to 3 ¾”, “Nonslip rubber gripper even works on dented or oily filters”, “Distributed by Harbor Freight Tools, Camarillo, CA, www.HarborFreight.com, Item 68963, Made in China, circular sticker placed to package with numbers 36239 112014, barcode: 7 92363 68963 2”

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 May 26, 2012 and May 26, 2015, and are ever continuing thereafter.

The principal routes of exposure were through dermal contact, ingestion, and inhalation. Persons sustain exposures by handling the **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches** without wearing gloves or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes with gloves after handling **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches**, 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 **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches** during installation and use, as well as through environmental mediums that carry the **DEHP** once contained within the **Grommet Pliers, Hog Ring Pliers, Joint Pliers, Ratchet Wrenches and Oil Filter Wrenches**.

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: May 26/15

Reuben Yeroushalmi
Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi
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. Please refer 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 Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13 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 27001.² These implementing regulations are available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html>.

WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?

The "Proposition 65 List." Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. 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.

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under Proposition 65. 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. The warning given must be "clear and reasonable." This means that the warning must: (1) clearly say 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 to that chemical. 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:

² 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>.

Grace Periods. 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 full and part-time employees, not just those present in California.

Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer. For chemicals that are listed under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure 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 causing the exposure 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 naturally occur in foods (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 contaminant³ 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 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 Title 27 and sections 3100-3103 of Title 11. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an enforcement 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.

³ See Section 25501(a)(4)

A private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. For the following types of exposures, the Act provides an opportunity for the business to correct the alleged violation:

- An exposure to alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent onsite consumption is permitted by law;
- An exposure to a Proposition 65 listed chemical in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises that is primarily intended for immediate consumption on- or off-premises. This only applies if the chemical was not intentionally added to the food, and was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination;
- An exposure to environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises;
- An exposure to listed chemicals in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking non-commercial vehicles.

If a private party alleges that a violation occurred based on one of the exposures described above, the private party must first provide the alleged violator a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form.

A private party may not file an action against the alleged violator for these exposures, or recover in a settlement any payment in lieu of penalties or any reimbursement for costs and attorney's fees, if the notice of violation was served on or after October 5, 2013, and the alleged violator has done all of the following within 14 days of being served notice:

- Corrected the alleged violation;
- Agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 (subject to change as noted below) to the private party within 30 days; and
- Notified the private party serving the notice in writing that the violation has been corrected.

The written notification to the private-party must include a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form completed by the alleged violator as directed in the notice. On April 1, 2019, and every five years thereafter, the dollar amount of the civil penalty will be adjusted by the Judicial Council based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index. The Judicial Council will publish the dollar amount of the adjusted civil penalty at each five-year interval, together with the date of the next scheduled adjustment.

An alleged violator may satisfy these conditions only one time for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility or on the same premises. The satisfaction of these conditions does not prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney of a city greater than 750,000 in population, or any full-time city prosecutor with the consent of the district attorney, from filing an enforcement action against an alleged violator. The amount of any civil penalty for a violation shall be reduced to reflect any payment made by the alleged violator for the same alleged violation to a private-party.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included with this notice and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>. The notice is reproduced here:

Date:
Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party:
Address:
Phone number:

**SPECIAL COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE
PROOF OF COMPLIANCE**

You are receiving this form because the Noticing Party listed above has alleged that you are violating California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 (Prop. 65).

The Noticing Party may not bring any legal proceedings against you for the alleged violation checked below if:

1. You have actually taken the corrective steps that you have certified in this form.
2. The Noticing Party has received this form at the address shown above, accurately completed by you, postmarked within 14 days of your receiving this notice.
3. The Noticing Party receives the required \$500 penalty payment from you at the address shown above postmarked within 30 days of your receiving this notice.
4. This is the first time you have submitted a Proof of Compliance for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility on the same premises.

PART 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOTICING PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR THE NOTICING PARTY

The alleged violation is for an exposure to: (check one)

Alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent on-site consumption is permitted by law.

A chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises for immediate consumption on or off premises to the extent: (1) the chemical was not intentionally added; and (2) the chemical was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination.

Environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises.

Chemicals known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking noncommercial vehicles.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. You have no potential liability under California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 if your business has nine (9) or fewer employees.
2. Using this form will NOT prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, or a prosecutor in whose jurisdiction the violation is alleged to have occurred from filing an action over the same alleged violations, and that in any such action, the amount of civil penalty shall be reduced to reflect any payment made at this time.

Date:
Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party:
Address:
Phone number:

PART 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ALLEGED VIOLATOR OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Certification of Compliance

Accurate completion of this form will demonstrate that you are now in compliance with California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 for the alleged violation listed above. You must complete and submit the form below to the Noticing Party at the address shown above, postmarked within 14 days of you receiving this notice.

I hereby agree to pay, within 30 days of completion of this notice, a civil penalty of \$500 to the Noticing Party only and certify that I have complied with Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by (check only one of the following):

Posting a warning or warnings about the alleged exposure that complies with the law, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises;

Posting the warning or warnings demanded in writing by the Noticing Party, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises; OR

Eliminating the alleged exposure, and attaching a statement accurately describing how the alleged exposure has been eliminated.

Certification

My statements on this form, and on any attachments to it, are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I have carefully read the instructions to complete this form. I understand that if I make a false statement on this form, I may be subject to additional penalties under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

Signature of alleged violator or authorized representative Date

Name and title of signatory

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 P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov.

Revised: May 2014

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.7, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.

Hand Tools containing DEHP

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

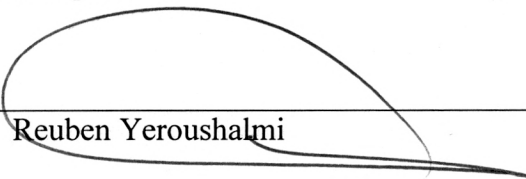
I, Reuben Yeroushalmi, hereby declare:

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:

May 26/15

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:

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
3491 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
26541 Agoura Road
Calabasas, CA 91302

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Central Purchasing, LLC
3491 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools Woodland
Hills CA #00217
22912 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Eric Smidt, CEO, or
Current CEO/President
Harbor Freight Tools Huntington
Park CA #00373
5952 Pacific Blvd.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

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

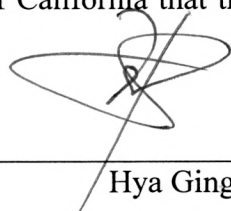
See Distribution List

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date of Mailing:

5/27/2015

By:



Hya Gingoyon

Distribution List

Alameda County District Attorney 1225 Fallon St, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612	Los Angeles County District Attorney 210 W Temple St, 18th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012	Mono County District Attorney PO Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517
Alpine County District Attorney PO Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera County District Attorney 209 W Yosemite Ave Madera, CA 93637	San Joaquin County District Attorney PO Box 990 Stockton, CA 95201 -0990
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