

# 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

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DATE: October 1, 2015

TO: John Venhuizen, President & CEO - Ace Hardware Corporation  
G. Louis Graziadio III, CEO - Boss Holdings, Inc., Boss Manufacturing Company  
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: Susan Davia

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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My name is Susan Davia. 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"). As noted above, notice is also being provided to the alleged violators, Red Steer Glove Company and Rafael Lumber. (the "Violator"). The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposures, routes of exposure, and types 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:	Lead and 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 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 type covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as "products." The sales of these products in California dating at least as far back as August 26, 2013, are subject to this Notice. As a result of the sales of these products, exposures to each identified listed chemical have been occurring without clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposure 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.

### CONSUMER PRODUCT EXPOSURE (DEHP)

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemical. Children men and women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemical when they 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. Children, men and women of childbearing age are exposed to the listed chemical through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle or touch the products during packing, unpacking and use or otherwise come into contact during use of the products or coming into close proximity with others using 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:

Susan Davia  
c/o Gregory Sheffer  
Sheffer Law Firm  
81 Throckmorton Ave., Suite 202  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
Telephone: (415) 388-0911

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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 Violator's 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 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 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 Violator is 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 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 examples within the categories or types 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 a catalog by the Violator and other retailers and distributors of the manufacturer.

Product*	Retailer	Manufacturer/Distributor
Boulder Creek Vinyl Rainsuit (#811412016240)	Ace Hardware, Alameda County	Ace Hardware Corporation, Boss Manufacturing Company, Boss Holdings, Inc.

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#### VII. EXHIBIT A

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Product Category/Type	Such As*	Toxins
Vinyl and PVC Rainsuits	Boulder Creek Vinyl Rainsuit (#811412016240)	DEHP

\*The specifically identified example of the category or type of product that 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 were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Gregory M. Sheffer, 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: October 1, 2015

Sheffer Law Firm



Gregory M. Sheffer

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Marin, State of California. 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 81 Throckmorton Avenue, Suite 202, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

On the date indicated below, I served the following documents, described as:

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

PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY;

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND

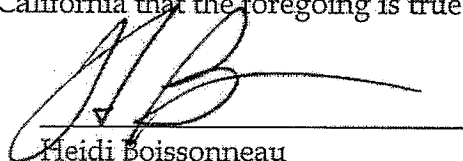
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (SERVED ONLY ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL)

on each entity or other mandatory recipient listed below by placing a true and correct copy of the foregoing document(s) in a sealed envelope addressed to each interested party as set forth hereafter and depositing each such envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, for collection and mailing with the United States Postal Service or agent authorized to accept mail on behalf of the United States Postal Service.

John Venhuizen President & CEO Ace Hardware Corporation 2200 Kensington Court Oak Brook, IL 60523	G. Louis Graziadio III Boss Holdings, Inc. Boss Manufacturing Company 1221 Page Street Kewanee, IL 61443-3241	
Attorney General of the State of California <i>(see attached list of addresses)</i>	The District Attorney for Each of the 58 counties in California <i>(see attached list of addresses)</i>	The City Attorney for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento <i>(see attached list of addresses)</i>

I also caused to be delivered an electronic copy of this Notice to the Honorable Jeff Reisig, Yolo County District Attorney, via the provided electronic mail address [cfepd@yolocounty.org](mailto:cfepd@yolocounty.org).

Executed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2015, at Mill Valley, California. I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
Heidi Boissonneau

# 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  
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25 County Center Drive  
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The Honorable Barbara Yook  
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The Honorable John Poyner  
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The Honorable Dale Trigg  
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The Honorable Vern Pierson  
El Dorado County District Attorney  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp  
Fresno County District Attorney  
2220 Tulare Street, #1000  
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The Honorable Dwayne Stewart  
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The Honorable Maggie Fleming  
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The Honorable Gilbert Otero  
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The Honorable Donald Anderson  
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255 North Forbes Street

Lakeport, CA 95453  
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Lassen County District Attorney  
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Susanville, CA 96130

The Honorable Jackie Lacey  
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The Honorable David Linn  
Madera County District Attorney  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

The Honorable Edward Berberian  
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The Honorable Thomas Cooke  
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The Honorable C. David Eyster  
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100 North State Street, P.O. Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

The Honorable Larry Morse II  
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

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San Mateo County District Attorney  
400 County Center, Third Floor  
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1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

The Honorable Richard Doyle  
Office of the City Attorney, San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor  
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