

# 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

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**DATE:** October 11, 2016

**TO:** David Greenstein, CEO - Divatex Home Fashions, Inc.;  
David Greenstein, CEO - Himatsingka North America, Inc.  
Shrikant Himatsingka, CEO - Himatsingka Seide Limited;  
Jeffrey Brotman, CEO - Costco Wholesale Corporation  
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

**RE:** Vinyl Bedding Storage/Packaging Cases

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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 Divatex Home Fashions, Inc., Himatsingka North America, Inc., Himatsingka Seide Limited and Costco Wholesale Corporation (collectively, "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:	di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), diisononyl phthalate (DINP)
Routes of Exposure:	Ingestion, Dermal, Inhalation
Types of Harm:	Cancer, 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 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 April 2014, 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**

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 directly contact the product with their mouth or place or hold the product in their mouths. 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 use of the products. Children, men and women of childbearing age are exposed to the listed chemical through indirect dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle or touch objects or items stored on the products. Children, men and women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemical when they transfer the listed chemical from the products, or intermediate objects, to their mouths through hand-to-mouth activities that may continue to occur for a significant period after contact with the products stops.

## **OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE**

Similarly, men and women in California retail locations that sell the products handle the products and their packaging as a part of their jobs and are, therefore, subject to occupational exposures to the listed chemical. Employees are exposed at any California business location of the noticed retailer(s) as well as all other California locations where the products, or the component parts thereof that include the listed chemical are, by way of example but not limitation, used, packed, unpacked, labeled, arranged, displayed, cleaned, stocked, stored, repaired or otherwise handled. These tasks cause employee exposure directly and/or indirectly to the listed chemical through the routine touching of the parts or portions of the products containing readily available amounts of the listed chemical on the surface or through the inhalation of vapors emanating from the products and product packaging. These products are also used by sole proprietors and other persons in settings not covered by the federal Occupational Safety Health Act ("OSHA").

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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  
Email: sheffesq@aol.com

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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 summary 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 listed chemical 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
vinyl bedding storage/packaging cases	Costco	Divatex Home Fashions, Inc., Himatsingka North America, Inc., Himatsingka Seide Limited

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## VII. EXHIBIT A

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Product Category/Type	Such As*	Toxins
vinyl bedding storage/packaging cases	Divatex Flannel Sheet Set, all sizes (such as #676102, 806222021447), Tranquil Nights Sheet Set, all sizes (such as #1022969, 806222028903)	DEHP, DINP

\*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.

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## VIII. SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES

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Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 338(b), please be advised that 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. This approval specifically placed certain conditions with regard to occupational exposures on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer

may use the means of compliance in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is 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 Attorney General

# 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. The California sale of the subject products was completed without the communication of any compliant statutory warning regarding the alleged chemical exposure. In-store investigation at the noticed retailer indicated the occupational exposure to California employees at such stores was done without providing them a compliant statutory warning regarding such occupational exposure.
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 11, 2016

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 (SERVED ONLY ON VIOLATORS);**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

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

(1) on each entity or other mandatory recipient listed below with a complete postal mailing address 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 and (2) on each entity or other mandatory recipient listed below with an electronic mail address by electronically mailing PDF copies of the foregoing documents to them at such designated electronic address (with delivery confirmation requested and without receiving any unresolved return message of failed delivery).

David Greenstein, CEO Divatex Home Fashions, Inc. 261 Fifth Avenue, Suite 501 New York, NY 10016	David Greenstein, CEO Himatsingka America, Inc. 261 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1400 New York, NY 10016	Shrikant Himatsingka, CEO Himatsingka Seide Limited 10/24 Kumara Krupa Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru - 560 001 Karnataka, India
Jeffrey Brotman, CEO Costco Wholesale Corporation Corporate Office 999 Lake Drive Issaquah WA 98027	The City Attorney for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento (see attached list of addresses)	The District Attorney for Each of the 58 counties in California (see attached list of addresses)

I also caused to be served the same documents on the Attorney General of the State of California by electronically uploading a copy to the California Attorney General's Website at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>,

Executed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016, 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  
Jackson, CA 95642

The Honorable Michael Ramsey  
Butte County District Attorney  
25 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965

The Honorable Barbara Yook  
Calaveras County District Attorney  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

The Honorable John Poyner  
Colusa County District Attorney  
346 Fifth Street  
Colusa, CA 95932

The Honorable Stacey Grassini,  
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Contra Costa County District  
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The Honorable Dale Trigg  
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Crescent City, CA 95531

The Honorable Vern Pierson  
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The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp  
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The Honorable Dwayne Stewart  
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The Honorable Maggie Fleming  
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The Honorable Thomas Hardy  
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The Honorable Keith Fagundas  
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The Honorable Stacey Montgomery  
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The Honorable Jackie Lacey  
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The Honorable Edward Berberian  
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The Honorable Jordan Funk  
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The Honorable Tim Kendall  
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The Honorable Dean Flippo  
Monterey County District Attorney  
c/o Dije Andreu, Deputy DA  
[Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us)

The Honorable Gary Lieberstein  
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The Honorable Gregg Cohen  
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The Honorable Richard Doyle  
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San Jose, CA 95113

Office of the California Attorney  
General  
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting  
Via Electronic filing  
<https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>