

Matthew M. Maclear mcm@atalawgroup.com 415.568.5200

December 18, 2017

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, SECTION 25249.5 *ET SEQ.* (PROPOSITION 65)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

ATA Law Group represents The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc., doing business as HealthyLivinG Foundation ("HLF"), at 1801 Chart Trail, Topanga, CA 90290. HLF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, organization dedicated to reducing the amount of chemical toxins in consumer products, the promotion of human health, environmental safety, and improvement of worker and consumer safety.

Through this Notice of Violation ("Notice"), HLF seeks to reduce and/or eliminate exposures to lead and cadmium ingested by consumers from baby clams produced, distributed, and/or sold by **Sun Hing Foods, Inc.** and **Island Pacific Seafood, Inc.** (the alleged "Violators").

This Notice constitutes written notification that Sun Hing Foods, Inc. has violated the warning requirements of Proposition 65, which is codified at California Health & Safety Code, section 25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the Subject Product identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with this product. Section 25249.6 of the statute provides 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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to this listed chemical that results from contact with this product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make an informed decision on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) their risk of exposure to the listed chemical from the reasonable use of the product.

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be provided to a violator 60 days before a suit is filed in connection therewith. With this Notice, HLF gives written notice of the alleged violation to the Noticed Parties and the appropriate governmental authorities. This Notice covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to the noticing party from information now available as specifically related to the violating product sold through Noticed Parties, and other retailers and/or distributors. HLF is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7, subdivision (d), HLF intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 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.

<u>Certificate of Merit and General Information about Proposition 65</u>. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, section 3100, a certificate of merit is attached hereto. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 25903, subdivision (b), a copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

Proposition 65 requires that a "clear and reasonable" warning be provided prior to exposure to certain listed chemicals. The Noticed Parties are in violation of Proposition 65 because the Noticed Parties have failed to provide a warning to consumers that they are being exposed to lead and cadmium. While in the course of doing business, the Violators "knowingly and intentionally" expose consumers to lead and cadmium without first providing a "clear and reasonable" warning. (See Health & Saf. Code, § 25249.6.) The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. (See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25603.1, subd. (a).) The Violators have not provided any Proposition 65 warnings on the Subject Product's label or any other appropriate warnings that persons handling, ingesting, and/or otherwise using the specified product are being exposed to lead and cadmium.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

- Sun Hing Foods, Inc. 271 Harbor Way South San Francisco, CA 94080
- Island Pacific Seafood, Inc. 21930 Marylee Street #94 Woodland Hills, CA 91367

<u>Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals</u>. The following is the product subject to this Notice of Violation (the "Subject Product") and the chemicals in the specified product identified as exceeding allowable levels under Proposition 65:

• Flower Brand Whole Baby Clams 20 oz. – Lead and Cadmium

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity: developmental toxicity, male reproductive toxicity, and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.



On October 1, 1987, the State of California officially listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause cancer. On May 1, 1997, the State of California officially listed Cadmium as causing reproductive toxicity: developmental toxicity and male reproductive toxicity.

In summary, lead and cadmium were listed under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity:

Chemical	CAS No.	Toxicological Endpoint	Listing Mechanism
Lead ¹	7439-92-1	Cancer; Reproductive	Authoritative Body-US EPA
		Toxicity	(AB-US EPA); Formally
			Required to be Labeled (FR)
Cadmium ²	7440-43-9	Cancer; Reproductive	State's Qualified Experts (SQE)
		Toxicity	

<u>Violations</u>. The alleged Violators knowingly and intentionally exposed and continue to knowingly and intentionally expose consumers within the State of California to lead at levels that, upon reasonable use of the product, exceed the No Significant Risk Level and/or the Maximum Allowable Dose Level without providing clear and reasonable warning of this exposure. In particular, the product does not warn that it contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity or developmental toxicity.

The Maximum Allowable Dose Level ("MADL") for lead, reproductive toxicity is 0.5 μ g/day. The MADL is calculated based on a body weight of 58 kg for an adult or pregnant woman, 70 kg for an adult male, 40 kg for an adolescent, 20 kg for a child, 10 kg for an infant, and 3.5 kg for a neonate. (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25803, subd. (b).) The exposure estimate from the Flower Brand Whole Baby Clams significantly exceeds the MADL set by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. As a result, Flower Brand Whole Baby Clams needs a clear a reasonable warning under Proposition 65.

The MADL - oral for cadmium, reproductive toxicity is 4.1 μ g/day. The exposure estimate from the Flower Brand Whole Baby Clams exceeds the MADL set by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. As a result, Flower Brand Whole Baby Clams needs a clear a reasonable warning under Proposition 65.

<u>Route of Exposure</u>. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of the product, ingestion. Consumers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age, are orally exposed to the listed chemicals by eating the product.

¹ https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/chemicals/lead-and-lead-compounds.

² https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/chemicals/cadmium.



Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least December 18, 2016, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons handling and/or using these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to the listed chemicals.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, HLF is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violators 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) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate further lead and cadmium exposures. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time consuming litigation.

HLF has retained ATA Law Group as legal counsel in connection with this matter. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention at the law office address and telephone number indicated herein.

Dated: December 18, 2017

Very truly yours,

matt under

Matthew C. Maclear AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP Attorney for The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.

Attachments: Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary (to Sun Hing Foods, Inc.) Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Sun Hing Foods, Inc.

I, Matthew Maclear, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that the party identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code, section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, and on 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. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code, section 25249.7, subdivision (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: December 18, 2017

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Matthew C. Maclear AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP Attorney for The Chemical Toxin Working Group, Inc.



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 828 San Pablo Avenue, Suite 115B, Albany, CA 94706. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Albany, California.

On December 18, 2017, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 *ET SEQ*.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; "THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY" on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Virginia Teng, CEO Sun Hing Foods, Inc. 271 Harbor Way South San Francisco, CA 94080

Current President or CEO Island Pacific Seafood, Inc. 21930 Marylee Street #94 Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Agent for Service of Process: Patrick Teng 808 El Camino Real, Unit B Burlingame, CA 94010

Agent for Service of Process: Andy Reyes 21930 Marylee Street #94 Woodland Hills, CA 91367

On December 18, 2017, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS**, **CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(d)**(1) were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice:

Office of the California Attorney General Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On December 18, 2017, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS**, **CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was **sent via electronic mail** to the party listed below:



Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney District Attorney, Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org

Birgit Fladager, District Attorney District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 <u>Prop65@standa.org</u>

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney District Attorney, Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940 <u>Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us</u>

Yen Dang, Supervising Deputy District Attorney District Attorney, Santa Clara County 70 W Hedding St San Jose, CA 95110 <u>EPU@da.sccgov.org</u>

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney District Attorney, Sonoma County 600 Administration Dr Sonoma, CA 95403 jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney District Attorney, Sacramento County 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 <u>Prop65@sacda.org</u>

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney District Attorney, San Joaquin County 222 E. Weber Avenue, Rm 202 Stockton, CA 95202 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney District Attorney, Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney District Attorney, Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 <u>cfepd@yolocounty.org</u> Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney District Attorney, Napa County 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559 <u>CEPD@countyofnapa.org</u>

Paul E. Zellerbach District Attorney, Riverside County 3072 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501 <u>Prop65@rivcoda.org</u>

Philip J. Cline District Attorney, Tulare County 221 S Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 95370 <u>Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us</u>

Gregory D. Totten District Attorney, Ventura County 800 S Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009 daspecialops@ventura.org

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator District Attorney, Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130 <u>mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us</u>

Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney District Attorney, San Francisco County 732 Brannan Street San Francisco, CA 94103 Gregory.alker@sfgov.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney District Attorney, Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us



On December 18, 2017, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION**, **CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by U.S. First Class Mail.

Executed on December 18, 2017, in Albany California.

AND

Amanda M. Prasuhn

Service List

District Attorney, Alameda County	District Attorney, Los Angeles County	District Attorney, Lake County
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900	210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000	255 N. Forbes Street
Oakland, CA 94612	Los Angeles, CA 90012	Lakeport, CA 95453
District Attorney, Alpine County	District Attorney, Madera County	District Attorney, Shasta County
P.O. Box 248	209 West Yosemite Avenue	1355 West Street
Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera, CA 93637	Redding, CA 96001
District Attorney, Amador County	District Attorney, Marin County	District Attorney, Sierra County
708 Court Street	3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130	PO Box 457
Jackson, CA 95642	San Rafael, CA 94903	Downieville, CA 95936
District Attorney, Butte County	District Attorney, Mariposa County	District Attorney, Siskiyou County
25 County Center Drive, Suite 245	Post Office Box 730	Post Office Box 986
Oroville, CA 95965	Mariposa, CA 95338	Yreka, CA 96097
District Attorney, Calaveras County	District Attorney, Mendocino County	District Attorney, Solano County
891 Mountain Ranch Road	Post Office Box 1000	675 Texas Street, Ste 4500
San Andreas, CA 95249	Ukiah, CA 95482	Fairfield, CA 94533
District Attorney, Colusa County	District Attorney, Merced County	Sacramento City Attorney's Office
346 Fifth Street Suite 101	550 W. Main Street	915 I Street, 4 th Floor
Colusa, CA 95932	Merced, CA 95340	Sacramento, CA 95814
District Attorney, Del Norte County	District Attorney, Modoc County	District Attorney, Sutter County
450 H Street, Room 171	204 S Court Street, Room 202	446 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531	Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Yuba City, CA 95991



District Attorney, El Dorado County	District Attorney, Mono County	District Attorney, Tehama County
515 Main Street	Post Office Box 617	Post Office Box 519
Placerville, CA 95667	Bridgeport, CA 93517	Red Bluff, CA 96080
District Attorney, Fresno County	District Attorney, Nevada County	District Attorney, Trinity County
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000	201 Commercial Street	Post Office Box 310
Fresno, CA 93721	Nevada City, CA 95959	Weaverville, CA 96093
District Attorney, Glenn County	District Attorney, Orange County	District Attorney, Tuolumne County
Post Office Box 430	401 West Civic Center Drive	423 N. Washington Street
Willows, CA 95988	Santa Ana, CA 92701	Sonora, CA 95370
District Attorney, Humboldt County	District Attorney, Placer County	District Attorney, Yuba County
825 5th Street 4th Floor	10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240	215 Fifth Street, Suite 152
Eureka, CA 95501	Roseville, CA 95678	Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Plumas County 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, Inyo County	District Attorney, San Benito County	San Diego City Attorney's Office
162 E. Line St.	419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor	1200 3rd Avenue, Ste 1620
Bishop, CA 93514	Hollister, CA 95023	San Diego, CA 92101
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 303 West 3 rd Street, 6 th Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502	San Francisco, City Attorney City Hall, 234 1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett PL San Francisco, CA 94102
District Attorney, Kings County	District Attorney, San Diego County	San Jose City Attorney's Office
1400 West Lacey Boulevard	330 West Broadway, Suite 1300	200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
Hanford, CA 93230	San Diego, CA 92101	San Jose, CA 95113
	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	