

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Acrylamide in Fried or Baked Potato or Sweet Potato Based Snack Foods

June 1, 2018

This Notice of Violation is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice of Violation is provided by the Center for Environmental Health (“CEH”), 2201 Broadway, Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health, and supporting environmentally sound practices. Charlie Pizarro is the Associate Director of and a responsible individual within CEH.

Description of Violation:

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are identified on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least June 1, 2015, and are ongoing.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice of Violation covers the “warning provision” of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The name of the listed chemical involved in these violations is acrylamide. Exposures to acrylamide occur from consumption of the products identified in this Notice.
- Type of Product: The specific type of product causing these violations is fried or baked potato or sweet potato based snack foods (“Snack Foods”). Potatoes or sweet potatoes can be found in the products in various forms, including but not limited to sliced potatoes, dehydrated potatoes, potato flour, potato flakes, potato starch, sliced sweet potatoes, sweet potato flour, and sweet potato powder. Non-exclusive examples of this specific type of product are identified on the attached Exhibit 1. With respect to ALDI Inc., doing business in California as ALDI Foods Inc., the type of product causing these violations is limited to Snack Foods sold under the Clancy’s brand. With respect to The Kroger Co. and Ralphs Grocery Company, the type of product causing these violations is limited to Snack Foods sold under the Kroger or Private Selection brands.

- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to acrylamide. Consumption of the products subject to this Notice results in human exposures to acrylamide. The products contain acrylamide, which is formed during the manufacturing process when the products are cooked at high temperatures. The primary route of exposure for the violations is direct ingestion when consumers eat the products. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces and everywhere else throughout California where the products are consumed. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic hazards of acrylamide.

Resolution of Noticed Claims:

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against each alleged violator unless such violator agrees in a binding written instrument to: (1) recall products already sold; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the acrylamide exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b). If any alleged violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact CEH through its counsel identified below. It should be noted that CEH cannot: (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 CEH's 60-day Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with CEH will resolve its claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Preservation of Relevant Evidence:

This Notice also serves as a demand that each alleged violator preserve and maintain all relevant evidence, including all electronic documents and data, pending resolution of this matter. Such relevant evidence includes but is not limited to all documents relating to the presence or potential presence of acrylamide in Snack Foods; purchase and sales information for such products; efforts to comply with Proposition 65 with respect to such products; communications with any person relating to the presence or potential presence of acrylamide in such products; and representative exemplars of each lot of each variety of any such products sold by each alleged violator since one year prior to the date of this Notice through the date of any trial of the claims alleged in this Notice.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH's counsel Howard Hirsch at Lexington Law Group, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800, hhirsch@lexlawgroup.com.

EXHIBIT 1
June 1, 2018 Notice of Violation
Acrylamide in Fried or Baked Potato or Sweet Potato Based Snack Foods

Names and Addresses of Responsible Parties	Further Limitation on Type of Product	Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products
<p>ALDI Inc., doing business in California as ALDI Foods Inc. 1200 N. Kirk Road Batavia, IL 60510</p>	<p>Sold under the Clancy's brand</p>	<p>Clancy's Original Potato Chips, sold with the Clancy's Snack Combo SKU No. 0-41498-12999-6</p>
<p>The Kroger Co. 1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45202</p> <p>Ralphs Grocery Company 1100 West Artesia Blvd. Compton, CA 90220</p>	<p>Sold under the Kroger or Private Selection brands</p>	<p>Kroger Kettle Cooked Original Potato Chips SKU No. 0-11110-79646-2</p> <p>Private Selection Texas Inspired BBQ Kettle Potato Chips SKU No. 0-11110-89940-8</p>

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

I, Howard Hirsch, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.


2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health.

3. Members of my firm and 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 exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, 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 the information did not prove that the alleged violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of the 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 & 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.

June 1, 2018



Howard Hirsch
Attorney for CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California; my business address is 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California 94117. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause and my electronic notification address is medgar@lexlawgroup.com.

On June 1, 2018, I served true copies of the following documents:

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY (only sent to those on service list marked with an asterisk).

On this date, I deposited fully prepaid and sealed envelopes containing the above-mentioned documents with the United States Postal Service, addressed to the following individuals:

Please see attached service list.

Also on this date, I transmitted via electronic mail the documents listed above to the electronic mail addresses set forth below at 10:53 A.m. on June 1, 2018:

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

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator
Lassen County
220 S. Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Yen Dang
Supervising Deputy District Attorney
Santa Clara County
70 West Hedding Street, West Wing
San Jose, CA 95110
epu@da.sccgov.org

Allison Haley, District Attorney
Napa County
1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney
Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

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221 S. Mooney Avenue, Rm. 224
Visalia, CA 93291
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

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Stockton, CA 95202
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Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District
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Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney
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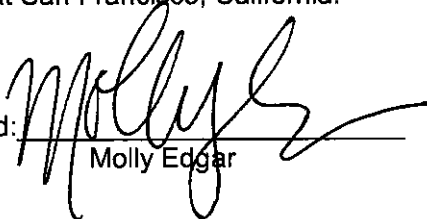
Mara W. Elliott, City Attorney
City of San Diego
1200 Third Ave, Suite 700
San Diego, CA 92101
CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov

Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney
Alameda County
7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

The transmission was reported as complete and without error.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on June 1, 2018, at San Francisco, California.

Signed:



Molly Edgar

SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alpine County
P.O. Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney of Amador County
708 Court Street, Ste. 202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County
Administration Building
25 County Center Drive
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District Attorney of Calaveras
County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Colusa County
346 Fifth Street, Suite 101
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Del Norte County
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Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of El Dorado
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Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney of Fresno County
2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000
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El Centro, CA 92243

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1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney of Kings County
1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney of Lake County
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

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County
Hall of Justice
211 W. Temple Street, Ste. 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

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209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

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San Rafael, CA 94903

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Valerie Jabbar, President*
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Francisco City Attorney's Office
City Hall, Room 234
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

San Jose City Attorney's Office
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

California Attorney General's Office
Attention: Proposition 65 Coordinator
and Robert Thomas
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2000
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

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