



## California Injury Agency LLP

729 1st St., Suite D, Brentwood, CA 94513

Email: [inbox@calinjuryagency.com](mailto:inbox@calinjuryagency.com)

Fax: 925-289-8846

Phone: 866-465-2999

# 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

*SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d)  
Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.6, et seq.*

**DATE:** Thursday, April 25, 2019

**TO:** John J. Mulligan, CEO Target Corporation;  
Target Corporation Legal Department;  
California Attorney General's Office;  
AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST  
ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**FROM:** California Health Advocates Division, LLC, C/O California Injury Agency, LLP

**Case ID:** TA-BATH-DHP-1443-4796

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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California Injury Agency, LLP represents California Health Advocates Division, LLC, a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and to improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items.

With respect to the product identified below, California Health Advocates Division, LLC has identified a violation of California's

Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) identified below 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 reasonably foreseeable use of the product.

**PLEASE ALLOW THIS LETTER TO SERVE AS NOTICE OF THIS VIOLATION TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATORS TARGET CORPORATION AND THE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. PURSUANT TO SECTION 25249.7(D) OF THE STATUTE, CALIFORNIA INJURY AGENCY, LLP INTENDS TO FILE A PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH ADVOCATES DIVISION, LLC SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER EFFECTIVE SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE UNLESS THE PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE COMMENCED AND ARE EARNESTLY PROSECUTING AN ACTION TO REDRESS THESE VIOLATIONS.**

The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposure, 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")
Routes of Exposure:	Ingestion, Dermal
Types of Harm:	Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm
Retailer(s):	Target Corporation, Brentwood, Contra Costa County
Manufacturer(s):	Target Corporation, Minneapolis, MN 55403

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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.

All products within the categories covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the "Products." Exposures to the Listed Chemical from the use of the Products have been occurring without the "clear and reasonable warning" required by Proposition 65, every day since the product was introduced to the California marketplace dating as far back as January 12 2019, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is

removed from the product.

Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures 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 Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the Products, are exposed to the Listed Chemical. By way of example, consumers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age and children, ingest the Listed Chemical when they, among other activities, touch the Products and 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. Additionally, consumers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age and children, are exposed to the Listed Chemical through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the Products. The California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health 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.

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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:

Thomas Morgan  
California Injury Agency, LLP  
729 First Street, Suite D  
Brentwood, CA 94513  
Telephone: 866-465-2999

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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 Violators' reference, I have attached a copy of "The Safe Drinking

Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary” which has been prepared by OEHHA, as Appendix A to this Notice.

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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 Violators unless such Violators enter 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 Violators are interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to time-consuming and costly litigation, please feel free to contact my counsel identified in Section III.** 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 are specific examples of Products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California that are within the categories or types 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 Products are also provided below. I believe and allege that the sale of the offending Products has also occurred without the requisite Proposition 65 “clear and reasonable warning” 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 Violators and other distributors and retailers of the manufacturer.

<i>Product*</i>	<i>Retailer(s)</i>	<i>Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)</i>
Pebble Bath Mat Clear Room Essentials TCIN: 14431124 UPC Number: 0 4796805935 0	Target Corporation, Contra Costa County, California	Target Corporation Minneapolis, MN 55403
Pebble Bath Mat Clear Room Essentials TCIN: 14431124 UPC Number: 0 4796805935 0	Target Corporation ( <a href="https://www.target.com">https://www.target.com</a> )	Target Corporation Minneapolis, MN 55403

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\*The specifically identified examples of the Products that are subject to this Notice are for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the product categories/types listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that these examples are not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product of the types listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific Products within the types or categories described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipients' 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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**VII. EXHIBIT A**

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<i>Product Category/Type</i>	<i>Such As*</i>	<i>Toxicant(s)</i>
Vinyl Bath Mats	Pebble Bath Mat Clear, Pebble Bath Mat Blue, Bathtub and Shower Mat	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate

\*The specifically identified examples of the Products that are subject to this Notice are for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the product categories/types listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that these examples are not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product of the types listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific Products within the types or categories described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipients' 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.

# PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. I am employed in Contra Costa County, California. My business address is 729 First Street, Suite D, Brentwood CA 94513.

On Thursday, April 25, 2019 I caused to be served the following documents:

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

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

**THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY**

XXXX **By First Class Certified Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, addressed to each alleged violator listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative.

John J. Mulligan, CEO Target Inc. 1000 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55403	Target Inc. Law Department 1000 Nicollet Mall TPS 3155 MINIAPOLIS MINISOTA 55403
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On Thursday, April 25, 2019, I caused to be served the following documents:

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

XXXX **By First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, addressed to each entity on the attached "Mail Service List" and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative, postage prepaid.

XXXX **By Electronic Mail** by sending true and correct copies of the above documents to the electronic notification (Email) address(es) on the attached "Email Service List".

On Thursday, April 25, 2019, I caused to be served the following documents:

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

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS**

XXXX **By Electronic Upload** by causing true and correct copies of the above documents to be uploaded to the California Attorney General's website at the web address on the attached "Electronic Upload Service List".

Executed on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at Brentwood, California.



Robert F. Buzzard, Esq.

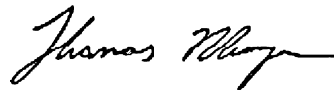
# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Thomas A. Morgan, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached supplemental sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the supplemental notice have 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 Violators 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 under Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(h)(2) including (i) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (ii) certain facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: Thursday, April 25, 2019



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Thomas A. Morgan, Esq.



# MAIL SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Nancy O'Malley  
Alameda County District Attorney  
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900  
Oakland, CA 94612

The Honorable Lisa Green  
Kern County District Attorney  
1215 Truxtun Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

The Honorable R. Scott Owens  
Placer County District Attorney  
10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

The Honorable Jill Ravitch  
Sonoma County District Attorney  
600 Administration Drive, Room 212 J  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The Honorable Michael Atwell  
Alpine County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

The Honorable Keith Fagundes  
Kings County District Attorney  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

The Honorable David Hollister  
Plumas County District Attorney  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

The Honorable Birgit Fladager  
Stanislaus County District Attorney  
832 12th Street, Suite 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

The Honorable Todd Riebe  
Amador County District Attorney  
708 Court Street  
Jackson, CA 95642

The Honorable Donald Anderson  
Lake County District Attorney  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

The Honorable Anne Marie Schubert  
Sacramento County District Attorney  
901 G Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Amanda Hopper  
Sutter County District Attorney  
463 Second Street, Suite 102  
Yuba City, CA 95991

The Honorable Michael Ramsey  
Butte County District Attorney  
25 County Center Drive, Suite 245  
Oroville, CA 95965

The Honorable Stacey Montgomery  
Lassen County District Attorney  
2950 Riverside Drive, Suite 102  
Susanville, CA 96130

The Honorable Candice Hooper  
San Benito County District Attorney  
419 4th Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

The Honorable Gregg Cohen  
Tehama County District Attorney  
444 Oak Street, Room L  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

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

The Honorable Jackie Lacey  
Los Angeles County District Attorney  
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Michael Ramos  
San Bernardino County District Attorney  
303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502

The Honorable Megan D. Marshall  
Trinity County Acting District Attorney  
P.O. Box 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

The Honorable Matthew R. Beauchamp  
Colusa County District Attorney  
346 Fifth Street, Suite 101  
Colusa, CA 95932

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

The Honorable Summer Stephan  
San Diego County District Attorney  
330 W. Broadway Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable Tim Ward  
Tulare County District Attorney  
221 South Mooney Boulevard, Rm 224  
Visalia, CA 93291-4593

The Honorable Diana Becton  
Contra Costa County District Attorney  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

The Honorable Edward Berberian  
Marin County District Attorney  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 145  
San Rafael, CA 94903

The Honorable Tori Verber Salazar  
San Joaquin County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 990  
Stockton, CA 95201

The Honorable Laura Krieg  
Tuolumne County District Attorney  
423 North Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

Del Norte County District Attorney  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

The Honorable Thomas Cooke  
Mariposa County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe  
San Mateo County District Attorney  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

The Honorable Gregory Totten  
Ventura County District Attorney  
800 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 314  
Ventura, CA 93009

The Honorable Vern Pierson  
El Dorado County District Attorney  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

The Honorable C. David Eyster  
Mendocino County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

The Honorable Jeffrey Rosen  
Santa Clara County District Attorney  
70 West Hedding Street, West Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110

The Honorable Patrick McGrath  
Yuba County District Attorney  
215 Fifth Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp  
Fresno County District Attorney  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

The Honorable Larry Morse II  
Merced County District Attorney  
550 W. Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

The Honorable Jeff Rosell  
Santa Cruz County District Attorney  
701 Ocean Street, Room 200  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Honorable Mike Feuer  
Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles  
James K. Hahn City Hall East  
200 North Main Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Dwayne Stewart  
Glenn County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

The Honorable Jordan Funk  
Modoc County District Attorney  
204 S. Court Street, Suite 202  
Alturas, CA 96101

The Honorable Stephanie Bridgett  
Shasta County District Attorney  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

The Honorable James Sanchez  
Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento  
915 I Street, 4th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Maggie Fleming  
Humboldt County District Attorney  
825 5th Street, Fourth Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501

The Honorable Tim Kendall  
Mono County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

The Honorable Lawrence Allen  
Sierra County District Attorney  
P.O. Box 886  
Downieville, CA 95936

The Honorable Mara Elliott  
Office of the City Attorney, San Diego  
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620  
San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable Gilbert Otero  
Imperial County District Attorney  
940 West Main Street, Suite 102  
El Centro, CA 92243

The Honorable Clifford Newell  
Nevada County District Attorney  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

The Honorable James Kirk Andrus  
Siskiyou County District Attorney  
311 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

The Honorable Dennis Herrera  
Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 234  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

The Honorable Thomas Hardy  
Inyo County District Attorney  
P.O. Box Drawer D  
Independence, CA 93526

The Honorable Tony Rackauckas  
Orange County District Attorney  
401 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Honorable Krishna Abrams  
Solano County District Attorney  
675 Texas Street, Suite 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

The Honorable Richard Doyle  
Office of the City Attorney, San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

## **EMAIL SERVICE LIST**

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

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

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

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney  
Yolo County  
301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
cfeprd@yolocounty.org

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

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

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

## **ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST**

Office of the California Attorney General  
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting  
ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator  
P.O. Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550  
<https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>

## 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. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA 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.

The text of 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. 1 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](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 make known 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:

**Grace Period.** 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 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 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 contaminant 2 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.

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 copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at:  
<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

#### 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](mailto:P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov).

Revised: May 2017

1 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>.

2 See Section 25501(a)(4).

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.

#### HISTORY

1. New Appendix A filed 4-22-97; operative 4-22-97 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(d) (Register 97, No. 17).
2. Amendment filed 1-7-2003; operative 2-6-2003 (Register 2003, No. 2).
3. Change without regulatory effect renumbering title 22, section 12903 and Appendix A to title 27, section 25903 and Appendix A, including amendment of appendix, filed 6-18-2008 pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations (Register 2008, No. 25).
4. Amendment filed 11-19-2012; operative 12-19-2012 (Register 2012, No. 47).
5. Amendment of appendix and Note filed 11-19-2014; operative 1-1-2015 (Register 2014, No. 47).
6. Amendment of Appendix A filed 8-23-2017; operative 10-1-2017 (Register 2017, No. 34).

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