



SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING  
WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986  
(*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.*) (“Proposition 65”)

April 3, 2020

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 concerning food products containing Lead and Lead compounds (“Lead”)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

Davitt, Lalley, Dey, & McHale, PC (“DLDM”) represents Key Sciences (“Key Sciences”), a limited liability company 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.

Key Sciences has identified violations of California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (“Proposition 65”), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, DLDM intends to file a private enforcement action on behalf of Key Sciences 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.

**General Information about Proposition 65.** A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

**Alleged Violators.** The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the “Violators”) are:

**WHOLE FOODS MARKET, INC.**

**Consumer Products and Listed Chemical.** The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

**1. 365 Everyday Value Balsamic Vinegar of Modena (16.9 fl. Oz)**

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

It should be noted that Key Sciences may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

**Route of Exposure.** The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.

**Approximate Time Period of Violations.** Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least 28 January, 2020, 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 this known toxic chemical is 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 chemical. 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 ingesting these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, Key Sciences is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violators to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Key Sciences has retained me 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 below.

Sincerely,



Shelley Clark

Associate Attorney

Davitt, Lalley, Dey, & McHale, PC

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Whole Foods Market, Inc., and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Re: Davitt, Lalley, Dey, & McHale, PC's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations Whole Foods Market, Inc.**

I, Shelley Clark, declare:

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

2. I am an Associate 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 Violators 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 §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: April 3, 2020



---

Shelley Clark

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903**

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 and over the age of 18 years of age. My business address is 250 Steele Street, Denver, CO. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Denver, CO.

On April 3, 2020, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §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 each of the parties listed below and depositing it in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO  
Whole Foods Market, Inc.  
550 Bowie St.  
ATTN: Tax Department  
Austin, TX 78703-4644

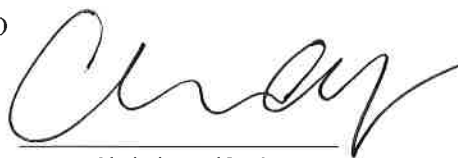
C T Corporation  
Whole Foods Market, Inc.  
1999 Bryan Street Suite 900  
Dallas, TX 75201

On April 3, 2020, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §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  
Post Office Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On April 3, 2020, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF 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 .PDF copy thereof to be sent via electronic mail to the parties listed below, pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., title 27, §25903(c)(1) or via First Class Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the entity listed below and providing such an envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative.

Executed on April 3, 2020, in Denver, CO



Christine Alford

**List for Service by Electronic Mail**

Alameda County District Attorney <a href="mailto:CEPDProp64@acgov.org">CEPDProp64@acgov.org</a>	Calaveras County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us">Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us</a>
Contra Costa County District Attorney <a href="mailto:sgrassini@contracostada.org">sgrassini@contracostada.org</a>	Inyo County District Attorney <a href="mailto:inyoda@inyocounty.us">inyoda@inyocounty.us</a>
Lassen County District Attorney <a href="mailto:mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us">mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us</a>	Monterey County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us">Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us</a>
Napa County District Attorney <a href="mailto:CEPD@countyofnapa.org">CEPD@countyofnapa.org</a>	Riverside County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65@rivcoda.org">Prop65@rivcoda.org</a>
Sacramento County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65@sacda.org">Prop65@sacda.org</a>	San Diego City Attorney <a href="mailto:CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov">CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov</a>
San Diego County District Attorney <a href="mailto:CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov">CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov</a>	San Francisco County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Gregory.alker@sfgov.org">Gregory.alker@sfgov.org</a>
San Francisco City Attorney <a href="mailto:Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org">Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org</a>	San Joaquin County District Attorney DA <a href="mailto:DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org">DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org</a>
San Luis Obispo County District Attorney <a href="mailto:edobroth@co.slo.ca.us">edobroth@co.slo.ca.us</a>	Santa Barbara County District Attorney <a href="mailto:DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us">DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us</a>
Santa Clara County District Attorney <a href="mailto:EPU@da.sccgov.org">EPU@da.sccgov.org</a>	Santa Cruz County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us">Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us</a>
Sonoma County District Attorney <a href="mailto:jbarnes@sonoma-county.org">jbarnes@sonoma-county.org</a>	Tulare County District Attorney <a href="mailto:Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us">Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us</a>
Ventura County District Attorney <a href="mailto:daspecialops@ventura.org">daspecialops@ventura.org</a>	Yolo County District Attorney <a href="mailto:cfepd@yolocounty.org">cfepd@yolocounty.org</a>

## List for Service by Mail

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

District Attorney, Amador County  
708 Court Street, Suite 202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte County  
25 County Center Drive, Suite  
245  
Oroville, CA 95965

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

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

District Attorney, El Dorado  
County  
778 Pacific St.  
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno County  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn County  
Post Office Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt County  
825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial County  
940 West Main Street, Ste 102  
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Kern County  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings County  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

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

District Attorney, Los Angeles County  
Hall of Justice 211 West Temple St., Ste  
1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera County  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Marin County  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130  
San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mariposa County  
Post Office Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendocino County  
Post Office Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced County  
550 W. Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc County  
204 S Court Street, Room 202  
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono County  
Post Office Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Nevada County  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney, Orange County  
401 West Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney, Placer County  
10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney, Plumas County  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney, San Benito County  
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor  
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney, San Bernardino County  
303 West Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Diego County  
330 West Broadway, Suite 1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney, San Mateo County  
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra County  
100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou County  
Post Office Box 986  
Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano County  
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus County  
832 12th Street, Ste 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter County  
463 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama County  
Post Office Box 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity County  
Post Office Box 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne County  
423 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba County  
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152  
Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office  
City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite  
800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Jose City Attorney's Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113