## VOORHEES & BAILEY, LLP 535 Ramona Street; Suite 1 Palo Alto, CA 94301 650-815-6022

### 60-Day Notice of Violation - California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

December 9, 2020

**Notice Recipients:** Prima Donna Designs, Inc.;

Stein Mart, Inc.

Noticing Party: Audrey Donaldson

**Covered Products:** PVC Coin Purses

**Listed Chemical:** Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)

Routes of Exposure: Ingestion; Dermal

**Potential Harm:** Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This Sixty-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") is provided by Audrey Donaldson. Ms. Donaldson is a private enforcer acting in the public interest pursuant to California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(d). Ms. Donaldson seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold and used in California and, if possible, to eliminate such exposures.

This Notice is provided to the alleged violators, Prima Donna Designs, Inc. and Stein Mart, Inc. (the "Notice Recipients"), as well as the California Attorney General's Office, the District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties, and the City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, and Los Angeles.

The Notice Recipients are hereby given notice that they have violated and continue to violate provisions of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, which is codified at California Health & Safety Code section 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). Specifically, the Notice Recipients have violated and continue to violate the warning requirement of section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code, which provides, "No 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 giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual...." The alleged violations that are the subject of this Notice are provided below.

#### II. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

<u>Product Type/Category</u>: The specific type or category of products that are causing consumer exposures in violation of Proposition 65, and that are covered by this Notice, are PVC Coin Purses ("Covered Products").

Identified below is a specific example of Covered Products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California (the "Exemplar Product"). Based on publicly available information, the retailers, distributors, and/or manufacturers of the Exemplar Product is also provided.

The Exemplar Product is identified for the Notice Recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of the allegations set forth in this Notice. The Exemplar Product is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product falling within the specific type or category of Covered Products at issue in this Notice. It is the private enforcer's position that the Notice Recipients are obligated to conduct good-faith investigations into other specific products falling within the type or category of Covered Products that have been manufactured, imported, distributed, sold, shipped, stored, or are otherwise within the Notice Recipients' custody or control, so as to ensure the requisite toxic warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

Covered Products	Exemplar Product Information	
PVC Coin Purses	Prima Design "Queen Bee" Mug and Coin Purse	
	Stein Mart SKU: 74428988	
	Retailer: Stein Mart, Inc. (Folsom, CA)	
	Manufacturer/Distributor: Prima Donna Designs, Inc.	

<u>Listed Chemical</u>: The alleged violation involves exposures to the Proposition 65-listed chemical di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), hereinafter the "Listed Chemical". On October 24, 2003, the State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

<u>Statement of Violations</u>: The Notice Recipients knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continue to knowingly and intentionally expose, consumers within the State of California to DEHP, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm, without first giving clear and reasonable warning of this exposure to such individuals. In particular, the Notice Recipients failed to provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers that the Covered Products expose consumers to DEHP.

Route of Exposure: California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the Covered Products, are exposed to the Listed Chemical. Children, men, and women of childbearing age ingest the Listed Chemical when they touch and handle the Covered Products, transfer the Listed Chemical from the Covered Products onto their fingers and hands, and transfer the Listed Chemical from their fingers and hands to their mouths through hand-to-

mouth activities that may continue to occur for a significant period after contact with the Covered Product. 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 Covered Products.

<u>Number and Duration of Violations</u>: Each and every sale of a Covered Product to a consumer in California without a clear and reasonable warning is a violation, including transactions made over-the-counter, through the internet, and/or via catalogue by the Notice Recipients and any other sellers of the Covered Products. These violations have been occurring since at least December 9, 2019, as well as every day since the Covered Products were first introduced and sold in the State of California, as far back as December 9, 2017. The violations are ongoing.

#### III. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and Title 11, California Code of Regulations, section 3100, a Certificate of Merit is attached hereto. A second copy of the entire notice and Certificate of Merit is served on the Attorney General, with all supporting documentation required by Section 3102 attached thereto.

### IV. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION – A SUMMARY

A summary of Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the lead agency designated under Proposition 65, is enclosed with the copy of the Notice served on the Notice Recipients.

### V. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Ms. Donaldson intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the Notice Recipients upon the expiration of the sixty-day notice period, provided no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to enforce the violations alleged in the Notice.

If the Notice Recipients are interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to time-consuming and expensive litigation, they should contact counsel at the address provided below. It should be noted that no settlement may be finalized before the sixty-day notice period has expired and then only if no public prosecutor has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the alleged violation.

#### VI. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

This Notice also serves as a demand that the Notice Recipients 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 the Listed Chemical in the Covered Products; purchase and sales information for the Covered Products; efforts to comply with Proposition 65 with respect to the Covered Products; communications with any person relating to the presence or potential presence of the Listed Chemical in Covered Products; and representative exemplars of each specific model falling within the Covered Products. This demand applies to all relevant evidence for Covered Products sold in the State of California, as far back as December 9, 2017, through the date of any trial of the claims alleged in this Notice.

### VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Ms. Donaldson has retained me as legal counsel in this matter. Please direct all communications related to this Notice of Violation to the following:

Troy Bailey, Esq.
Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
535 Ramona Street; Suite 1
Palo Alto, CA 94301
troy@voorheesbailey.com

Sincerely,

Josh Voorhees

Voorhees & Bailey, LLP

Attorneys for Audrey Donaldson

cc: California Attorney General's Office; District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties;

and City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, and Los Angeles

Attachments: Certificate of Merit; Proof of Service; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic

Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary (Prima Donna Designs, Inc. and Stein Mart, Inc. *only*); and Confidential Information in Support of

Certificate of Merit (Attorney General Only)

### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Josh Voorhees, 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 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, 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) certain facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: December 9, 2020

Josh Voorhees

#### 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 Santa Clara County, California. My business address is 535 Ramona Street; Suite 1, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

On December 9, 2020, 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.

Evan Hakimi, Registered Agent For Prima Donna Designs, Inc. 41 Madison Ave., 8th Floor New York, New York, 10010 Stein Mart, Inc. c/o National Registered Agents, Inc. 818 West Seventh Street; Suite 930 Los Angeles, CA 90017

On December 9, 2020, 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 "U.S. 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 "Electronic Mail Service List".

On December 9, 2020, 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 December 9, 2020, at Palo Alto, California.

Josh Voorhees

# **U.S. Mail Service List**

Alpine County District Attorney P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	Los Angeles County District Attorney 211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012	San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center Redwood City, CA 94063
Amador County District Attorney	Madera County District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
708 Court Street	209 West Yosemite Avenue	1355 West Street
Jackson, CA 95642	Madera, CA 93637	Redding, CA 96001
Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	Marin County District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 145 San Rafael, CA 94903	Sierra County District Attorney P.O. Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936
Colusa County District Attorney	Office of the City Attorney, San Jose	Siskiyou County District Attorney
346 Fifth Street, Suite 101	200 East Santa Clara Street,16th Floor	311 4th Street
Colusa, CA 95932	San Jose, CA 95113	Yreka, CA 96097
Del Norte County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	Solano County District Attorney
450 H Street, Room 171	P.O. Box 1000	675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
Crescent City, CA 95531	Ukiah, CA 95482	Fairfield, CA 94533
El Dorado County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney
778 Pacific Street	419 4th Street	832 12th Street, Suite 300
Placerville, CA 95667	Hollister, CA 95023	Modesto, CA 95354
Fresno County District Attorney	Modoc County District Attorney	Sutter County District Attorney
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000	204 S. Court Street, Suite 202	463 Second Street, Suite 102
Fresno, CA 93721	Alturas, CA 96101	Yuba City, CA 95991
Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	Mono County District Attorney P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	Tehama County District Attorney 444 Oak Street, Room L Red Bluff, CA 96080
Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5th Street, Fourth Floor Eureka, CA 95501	Lake County District Attorney 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	P.O. Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
Imperial County District Attorney	Orange County District Attorney	Tuolumne County District Attorney
940 West Main Street, Suite 102	401 Civic Center Drive West	423 North Washington Street
El Centro, CA 92243	Santa Ana, CA 92701	Sonora, CA 95370
Kern County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney	Yuba County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Avenue, 4th Floor	303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor	215 Fifth Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301	San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502	Marysville, CA 95901
Kings County District Attorney 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230		Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles James K. Hahn City Hall East 200 North Main Street, 8th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012

# **Electronic Mail Service List**

	T	T =
Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney	Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney	Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney
Alameda County District Attorney	Riverside County	San Luis Obispo County
7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650	3072 Orange Street	County Govt Center Annex, 4th Floor
Oakland, CA 94621	Riverside, CA 92501	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
CEPDProp65@acgov.org	Prop65@rivcoda.org	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us
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	Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney	
Supervising Deputy District Attorney	Yolo County	City of San Diego
Santa Clara County	301 Second Street	1200 Third Avenue
70 W Hedding St	Woodland, CA 95695	San Diego, CA 92101
San Jose, CA 95110	cfepd@yolocounty.org	CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov
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800 S Victoria Ave	220 S. Lassen Street	Santa Barbara County
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Barbara Yook, District Attorney	Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney	Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney
Calaveras County	Invo County	City of San Francisco
891 Mountain Ranch Road.	168 North Edwards Street	1390 Market Street, 7th Floor
		San Francisco, CA 94102
San Andreas, CA 95249	Independence, CA 93526	•
Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us	inyoda@inyocounty.us	Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org
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Merced County	Mariposa County	Nevada County
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	David Hollister, District Attorney	
Placer County	Plumas County	San Diego County
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Roseville, CA 95678	Quincy, CA 95971	San Diego, CA 92101
prop65@placer.ca.gov	davidhollister@countyofplumas.com	SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org
i		

# **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