

April 22, 2022

VIA REGISTERED INT'L MAIL

Current CEO or President
Harman Investments Ltd.
310 Annagem Blvd.
Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 2V5
Canada

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

William J. Griffin, CEO/President, and
Registered Agent for Service
Griffin Hardware Co.
3501 W. 1st Street
Santa Ana, California 92703

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

John Venhuizen, CEO/President
Ace Hardware Corporation
2200 Kensington Court
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Current CEO/President
Ace Hardware Corporation
c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oak Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, California 95833

Current Manager or Managing Member
Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC
c/o Corporation Service Company
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

State of California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting
Filing link: oag.ca.gov/prop65

VIA U.S. MAIL and EMAIL

District Attorney's Office for all Counties in
California and applicable City Attorneys
(See Attached - Certificate of Service)

**Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water
and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986**

(California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

We represent CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC (“CCPG”), an 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 Violations (this “**Notice**”), CCPG is acting “in the public interest” pursuant to “Proposition 65” (as defined below), and seeks to reduce and/or eliminate exposures to toxic chemicals, including Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“**DEHP**”), by consumers and workers from exposure to DEHP in household goods, and other consumer goods manufactured, produced, distributed and/or sold by Harman Investments Ltd., Griffin Hardware Co., Ace Hardware Corporation, and Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC (collectively, the “**Noticed Parties**”), among other retailers, distributors and/or sellers.

This Notice constitutes written notification that the Noticed Parties have violated the warning requirements of The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (codified at California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5, *et seq*) (“**Proposition 65**”). The product subject to this Notice (the “**specified product**”) and the chemical in the specified product identified as exceeding allowable levels are the following:

■ **Harman Soft Touch Placemat (UPC 62010430601) – (DEHP)**

The Noticed Parties have manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the specified product, as applicable, which has exposed and continues to expose numerous individuals within California to DEHP. DEHP was listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on January 01, 1988, and reproductive toxicity on October 24, 2003.

With respect to the specified product listed above, the violations: commenced on the latter of the date that the specified product was first offered for sale in California or the date upon which California law codified the allowable level of the relevant chemical surpassed by the specified product; has continued every day since the relevant date the violations commenced; and will continue every day henceforth until DEHP is removed from the specified product, reduced to allowable levels, or until a “clear and reasonable” warning is provided to consumers by the Noticed Parties in accordance with the law.

The primary route of exposure has been through contact with human skin in handling or touching the specified product in the course of using or transporting the specified product, resulting in dermal exposure to plasticizers, and oral exposure from activities involving direct and indirect hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, trans-dermal absorption, or breathing in particulate matter emanating from the specified product, as well as through environmental mediums that carry the DEHP contained within the specified product.

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 DEHP. While in the course of doing business, the Noticed Parties

are “knowingly and intentionally” exposing consumers to DEHP without first providing a “clear and reasonable” warning. See Cal. Health and Safety Code § 25249.6. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product’s label. See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25602, subd. (a)(3), and subd. (b) for internet purchases, as applicable.

The Noticed Parties have not provided any Proposition 65 warnings on the specified product’s label or any other appropriate warnings that persons handling and/or otherwise using the specified product are being exposed to DEHP.

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, CCPG gives written notice of the alleged violations 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 specified product sold through or by the Noticed Parties. CCPG is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations.

Pursuant to Title 27, C.C.R. § 25903(b), copies of the documents entitled (i) “The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary”, referenced as Appendix “A”, and (ii) “The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): Special Compliance Procedure”, referenced as Appendix “B”, are attached hereto for reference by the Noticed Parties, as applicable. Please review for applicability, however, note the “Special Compliance Procedure” is only available for certain products and under certain conditions as explained in Appendix B.

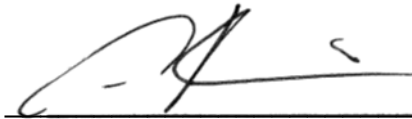
Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a “Certificate of Merit” is attached hereto.

CCPG is interested in a prompt resolution of this matter with an enforceable written agreement by the Noticed Parties to (1) eliminate or reduce DEHP to an allowable level in, or provide appropriate warning on the label of, the specified product; and (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures and expensive and time-consuming litigation.

In keeping with its public interest mission and to expeditiously rectify these ongoing violations of California law, CCPG is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my office on behalf of CCPG.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.
Thank you for your time and consideration with respect to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
KHANSARI LAW CORP., APC



Andre A. Khansari, Esq.
(Attachments)

Attachments:

1. Certificate of Merit;
2. Certificate of Service;
3. Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only); and
4. Appendix "A" – "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary", and Appendix "B" – "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): Special Compliance Procedure" (to the Noticed Parties only)

Cc: CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC (via email only)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

**Re: CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC's Notice of Proposition 65
Violations by Harman Investments Ltd., Griffin Hardware Co.,
Ace Hardware Corporation, and Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC**

I, Andre A. Khansari, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit (this "Certificate") accompanies the attached Notice of Violations dated April 22, 2022 (the "NOV") in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the NOV ("alleged violators") have violated California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
2. I am the attorney for the noticing party CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC. The NOV alleges that the alleged violators have exposed persons in California to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Certificate. Please refer to the NOV for additional details regarding the product(s) name(s) and alleged violations.
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 alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Certificate. I have reviewed the laboratory testing results for the chemical subject to the NOV and relied on the results. The testing was conducted by a reputable testing laboratory, with proper accreditation, and by experienced scientists. The facts, studies and other data derived through this investigation demonstrate that the alleged violators expose persons, including workers, to the listed chemical that is the subject of this Certificate.
4. Based on the information obtained through these consultants and on other information in my possession, I believe there is sufficient evidence that the listed product(s) in the NOV expose(s) individuals to unlawful levels of the specified chemical. Furthermore, 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. The copy of this Certificate served on the California Attorney General attaches to it information sufficient to establish the basis for this Certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 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 22, 2022



Andre A. Khansari, Esq.
Attorney for CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC

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

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>.

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.

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 contaminant² 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.

² See Section 25501(a)(4).

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.

Revised: May 2017

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.

APPENDIX B

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): SPECIAL COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE

This Appendix B contains the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form 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”). Under the Act, a private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. These exposures are:

- 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.

A private party may not file an action against the alleged violator for these exposures, or recover in a settlement any payment in lieu of penalties any reimbursement for costs and attorney's fees, if the alleged violator has done *all* of the following within 14 days of being served notice:

- Corrected the alleged violation;
- Agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 (subject to change in 2019 and every five years thereafter) to the private party within 30 days; and

- Notified the private party serving the notice in writing that the violation has been corrected.

An alleged violator may satisfy these conditions only one time for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility or on the same premises. The satisfaction of these conditions does not prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney of a city of greater than 750,000 population, or any full-time city prosecutor with the consent of the district attorney, from filing an enforcement action against an alleged violator.

When a private party sends a notice of alleged violation that alleges one or more of the exposures listed above, the notice must include a notice of special compliance procedure, and a proof of compliance form to be completed by the alleged violator as directed in the notice.

The notice and proof of compliance form is reproduced here:

Date:
Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party:
Address:
Phone number:

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SPECIAL COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE
PROOF OF COMPLIANCE

You are receiving this form because the Noticing Party listed above has alleged that you are violating California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 (Prop. 65).

The Noticing Party may not bring any legal proceedings against you for the alleged violation checked below if:

- (1) You have actually taken the corrective steps that you have certified in this form.**
- (2) The Noticing Party has received this form at the address shown above, accurately completed by you, postmarked within 14 days of your receiving this notice.**
- (3) The Noticing Party receives the required \$500 penalty payment from you at the address shown above postmarked within 30 days of your receiving this notice.**
- (4) This is the first time you have submitted a Proof of Compliance for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility on the same premises.**

PART 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOTICING PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR THE NOTICING PARTY

The alleged violation is for an exposure to: (check one)

___Alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent on-site consumption is permitted by law.

___A chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises for immediate consumption on or off premises to the extent: (1) the chemical was not intentionally added; and (2) the chemical 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.

___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.

___Chemicals known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking noncommercial vehicles.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

(1) You have no potential liability under California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 if your business has nine (9) or fewer employees.

(2) Using this form will NOT prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, or a prosecutor in whose jurisdiction the violation is alleged to have occurred from filing an action over the same alleged violations, and that in any such action, the amount of civil penalty shall be reduced to reflect any payment made at this time.

Date:

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Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party:

Address:

Phone number:

PART 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ALLEGED VIOLATOR OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Certification of Compliance

Accurate completion of this form will demonstrate that you are now in compliance with California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 for the alleged violation listed above. You must complete and submit the form below to the Noticing Party at the address shown above, postmarked within 14 days of you receiving this notice.

I hereby agree to pay, within 30 days of completion of this notice, a civil penalty of \$500 to the Noticing Party only and certify that I have complied with Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by (check only one of the following):

☐ Posting a warning or warnings about the alleged exposure that complies with the law, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises;

☐ Posting the warning or warnings demanded in writing by the Noticing Party, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises; OR

☐ Eliminating the alleged exposure, and attaching a statement accurately describing how the alleged exposure has been eliminated.

Certification

My statements on this form, and on any attachments to it, are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I have carefully read the instructions to complete this form. I understand that if I make a false statement on this form, I may be subject to additional penalties under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

Signature of alleged violator or authorized representative

Date

Name and title of signatory

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.

Revised: May 2017

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.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Los Angeles. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action or process. My business address is **16133 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1200, Encino, California 91436.**

On April 22, 2022, I served the following documents:

- (i) **Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC's Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by Harman Investments Ltd., Griffin Hardware Co., Ace Hardware Corporation, and Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC, for Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 *et seq.*,**
- (ii) **Certificate of Merit,**
- (iii) **Appendix "A" – "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary", and Appendix "B" – "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): Special Compliance Procedure" (to the Noticed Party only), and**
- (iv) **Certificate of Service,**

on the following party(ies) by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party below, and causing each envelope to be deposited at a United States Postal Service Office in Los Angeles, California for delivery by Certified Mail or Registered International Mail, as applicable:

Current CEO or President
Harman Investments Ltd.
310 Annagem Blvd.
Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 2V5
Canada

William J. Griffin, CEO/President, and
Registered Agent for Service
Griffin Hardware Co.
3501 W. 1st Street
Santa Ana, California 92703

John Venhuizen, CEO/President
Ace Hardware Corporation
2200 Kensington Court
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Current CEO/President
Ace Hardware Corporation
c/o CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oak Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, California 95833

Current Manager or Managing Member
Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC
c/o Corporation Service Company
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

On April 22, 2022, I served the following documents:

- (i) **Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC's Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by Harman Investments Ltd., Griffin Hardware Co., Ace Hardware Corporation, and Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC, for Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 *et seq.*,**
- (i) **Certificate of Merit,**
- (ii) **Additional Information and Supporting Documentation Required by Title 11, C.C.R. §3102, and**
- (iii) **Certificate of Service,**

on the following party by filing electronically a true and correct copy thereof as permitted through the website of the California Office of the Attorney General via link at oag.ca.gov/prop65:

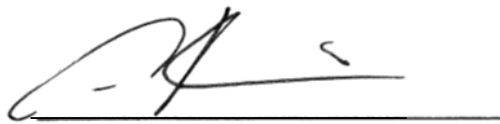
State of California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

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- (i) **Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC's Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 by Harman Investments Ltd., Griffin Hardware Co., Ace Hardware Corporation, and Ace Wholesale Holdings LLC, for Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.,**
- (i) **Certificate of Merit, and**
- (ii) **Certificate of Service,**

on each of the parties on the service list attached hereto (see attached "**Service List**") by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the District Attorney and City Attorney offices listed on the attached Service List, and causing each envelope to be deposited at a United States Postal Service mail box for delivery by First Class Mail, except for the Contra Costa County District Attorney, Lassen County District Attorney, Riverside County District Attorney, Sacramento County District Attorney, San Francisco County District Attorney, Napa County District Attorney, San Joaquin County District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County District Attorney, Santa Clara County District Attorney, Sonoma County District Attorney, Tulare County District Attorney, Ventura County District Attorney, Monterey County District Attorney, Yolo County District Attorney, Santa Barbara County District Attorney, Alameda County District Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney, Calaveras County District Attorney, Inyo County District Attorney, Santa Cruz County District Attorney, San Diego City Attorney, Mariposa County District Attorney, Merced County District Attorney, Nevada County District Attorney, Placer County District Attorney, Plumas County District Attorney, San Diego County District Attorney, Fresno County District Attorney, Santa Clara City Attorney, and Orange County District Attorney, all of whom have requested electronic service only via the following email addresses: sgrassini@contracostada.org; mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us; prop65@rivcoda.org; prop65@sacda.org; Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org; cepd@countyofnapa.org; daconsumer.environmental@sjcda.org; edobroth@co.slo.ca.us; epu@da.sccgov.org; Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org; prop65@co.tulare.ca.us; daspecialops@ventura.org; Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us; cfepd@yolocounty.org; DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; CEPDProp65@acgov.org; Valerie.lopez@sfcityatty.org; Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us; inyoda@inyocounty.org; Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us; CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov; mcda@mariposacounty.org; Prop65@countyofmerced.com; DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us; prop65@placer.ca.gov; davidhollister@countyofplumas.com; SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org; consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov; Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov; and Prop65Notice@da.ocgov.com.

I, Andre A. Khansari, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on April 22, 2022, in the City and County of Los Angeles, California.



Andre A. Khansari

SERVICE LIST

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALAMEDA COUNTY 1225 FALLON STREET, SUITE 900 OAKLAND, CA 94612 CEPDProp65@acgov.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY KERN COUNTY 1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301	DISTRICT ATTORNEY NEVADA COUNTY 201 COMMERCIAL STREET NEVADA CITY, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us
DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALPINE COUNTY P.O. BOX 248 MARKLEEVILLE, CA 96120	DISTRICT ATTORNEY KINGS COUNTY 1400 WEST LACEY BLVD. HANFORD, CA 93230	DISTRICT ATTORNEY ORANGE COUNTY P.O. BOX 808 SANTA ANA, CA 92702 Prop65Notice@da.ocgov.com
DISTRICT ATTORNEY AMADOR COUNTY 708 COURT STREET, SUITE 202 JACKSON, CA 95642	DISTRICT ATTORNEY LAKE COUNTY 255 N. FORBES STREET LAKEPORT, CA 95453	DISTRICT ATTORNEY PLACER COUNTY 10810 JUSTICE CENTER DRIVE ROSEVILLE, CA 95678 Prop65@placer.ca.gov
DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUTTE COUNTY 25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, STE 245 OROVILLE, CA 95965	DISTRICT ATTORNEY LASSEN COUNTY 220 SOUTH LASSEN STREET, SUITE 8 SUSANVILLE, CA 96130 mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us	DISTRICT ATTORNEY PLUMAS COUNTY 520 MAIN STREET QUINCY, CA 95911 davidhollister@countyofplumas.com
DISTRICT ATTORNEY CALAVERAS COUNTY 891 MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD SAN ANDREAS, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us	DISTRICT ATTORNEY LOS ANGELES COUNTY 210 WEST TEMPLE STREET, STE 18000 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012	DISTRICT ATTORNEY RIVERSIDE COUNTY 3072 ORANGE STREET RIVERSIDE, CA 92501 Prop65@rivcoda.org
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DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 900 WARD STREET. MARTINEZ, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARIN COUNTY 350 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, RM. 130 SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN BENITO COUNTY 419 4TH STREET HOLLISTER, CA 95023
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEL NORTE COUNTY 450 H STREET SUITE 171 CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531	DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARIPOSA COUNTY POST OFFICE BOX 730 MARIPOSA, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY 316 N. MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415
DISTRICT ATTORNEY EL DORADO COUNTY 778 PACIFIC STREET PLACERVILLE, CA 95667	DISTRICT ATTORNEY MENDOCINO COUNTY P. O. BOX 1000 UKIAH, CA 95482	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN DIEGO COUNTY 330 WEST BROADWAY SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcdca.org
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FRESNO COUNTY 2220 TULARE STREET FRESNO, CA 93721 consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov	DISTRICT ATTORNEY MERCED COUNTY 550 W. MAIN STREET MERCED, CA 95340 Prop65@countyofmerced.com	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY 350 RHODE ISLAND STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY IMPERIAL COUNTY 940 WEST MAIN STREET, STE 102 EL CENTRO, CA 92243	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SANTA CLARA COUNTY 70 WEST HEDDING STREET SAN JOSE, CA 95110 EPU@da.sccgov.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY TRINITY COUNTY P. O. BOX 310 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093
DISTRICT ATTORNEY INYO COUNTY 168 NORTH EDWARDS STREET INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us	DISTRICT ATTORNEY TULARE COUNTY 221 S. MOONEY BLVD. VISALIA, CA 95370 Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us
DISTRICT ATTORNEY MODOC COUNTY 204 S. COURT STREET, ROOM 202 ALTURAS, CA 96101	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHASTA COUNTY 1355 WEST STREET REDDING, CA 96001	DISTRICT ATTORNEY TUOLUMNE COUNTY 423 N. WASHINGTON ST. SONORA, CA 95370
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SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY 1390 MARKET STREET, 7 TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 Valerie.lopez@sfcityatty.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SISKIYOU COUNTY P. O. BOX 986 YREKA, CA 96097	BERKELEY CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2180 MILVIA STREET, 4TH FLOOR BERKELEY, CA 94704
DISTRICT ATTORNEY NAPA COUNTY 1127 First Street, Suite C NAPA, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SOLANO COUNTY 675 TEXAS STREET, STE 4500 FAIRFIELD, CA 94533	DISTRICT ATTORNEY YUBA COUNTY 215 FIFTH STREET, SUITE 152 MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY 222 E. WEBER AVE., RM. 202 STOCKTON, CA 95202 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org	DISTRICT ATTORNEY SONOMA COUNTY 600 ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVE SONOMA, CA 95403 Jeannie.barnes@sonoma-county.org	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 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, 16 th Floor SAN JOSE, CA 96113	DISTRICT ATTORNEY STANISLAUS COUNTY 83212 STREET, SUITE 300 MODESTO, CA 95354	SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 1200 THIRD AVENUE SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ANNEX, 4th FLOOR SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us		