## SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)

**DATE:** October 19, 2022

**To:** Alvin Herman Jr., President – Alco Sales & Service Co.

Andy Jassy, CEO – Amazon.com, Inc. California Attorney General's Office;

District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties; and

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

FROM: Paul Wozniak

## I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

My name is Paul Wozniak. I am a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. I seek to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items. This Notice is provided to the public agencies listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). As noted above, notice is also being provided to the alleged violators, Alco Sales & Service Co. and Amazon.com, Inc. (the "Violators"). 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 chemicals ("Listed Chemicals") identified below, as follows:

Product Type: See Section VII. Exhibit A
Listed Chemicals: Diisononyl Phthalate ("DINP")

Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate ("DEHP")

Routes of Exposure: Ingestion, Dermal

Types of Harm: Cancer, Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm

## II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

The specific type of product that is causing consumer exposures in violation of Proposition 65, and that is covered by this Notice, is listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A in Section VII. All products within the category covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the "Products." Exposures to the Listed Chemicals from the use of the Products have been occurring without the compliant "clear and reasonable warning", on product and/or when offered for sale on the internet, required by Proposition 65, dating as far back as October 19, 2019. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemicals 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 Chemicals from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

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California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the Products, are exposed to the Listed Chemicals. By way of example, consumers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age, ingest the Listed Chemicals when they, among other activities, touch the Products and transfer the Listed Chemicals 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 ceases with each episode. Additionally, consumers and other individuals, including children and women of childbearing age, are exposed to the Listed Chemicals through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use accessible components of 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.

## III. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions concerning this Notice to me through my counsel's office at the following address:

Paul Wozniak c/o Clifford A. Chanler Paul Wozniak c/o Steven Y. Chen

Chanler, LLC Steven Y. Chen, A Professional Law Corporation

72 Huckleberry Hill Road 2650 River Avenue, Unit A New Canaan, CT 06840-3801 Rosemead, California 91770 Telephone: (203) 594-9246 Telephone: (626) 782-5017 clifford@chanlerllc.com schen@schenlaw.com

### IV. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

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.

### V. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

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: (a) 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; (b) provide "clear and reasonable warnings" for Products sold in the future or, preferably, reformulate such Products to eliminate the DEHP and DINP exposures (or undertake best efforts to ensure upstream selling entities in the chain of commerce such as manufacturers, exporters, importers or distributors do so); and (c) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b). If the alleged Violators are

particularly 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 finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired nor speak for the Attorney General or any other public enforcers. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with me will resolve my claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

#### VI. ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION

Identified below is a specific example of a Product recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California that is within the category or type of offending Product covered by this Notice. Based on publicly available information, the retailers, distributors and/or manufacturers of the example within the category or type of Product are also provided below. I allege that the sale of the offending Products has also occurred without the requisite or compliant Proposition 65 "clear and reasonable warning" including, but not limited to, transactions made through the internet. <sup>1</sup>

| Product* | Retailer(s)/Distributor(s)               | Seller                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| , ,      | Amazon.com, Inc. (http://www.amazon.com) | Alco Medical;<br>Alco Sales & Service Co. |

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If an applicable manufacturer, supplier, seller, exporter and/or importer of one or more of the Products does not have a known agent for process of service in California or employs less than ten people as defined by the operative regulation, then the online, brick and mortar or other retail seller is alleged to have heightened regulatory responsibilities beyond 27 CCR §25600.2(d) especially if the Violator is also an importer or fulfills additional upstream roles in the commercial marketplace.

## VII. EXHIBIT A

| Product Category/Type                    | Such As*                                                                                                     | Toxicant(s)                                       |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Padded Armrest Pads used for wheelchairs | Alco Heavy Duty Desk<br>Length 10-1/4")<br>Wheelchair Arm Pads,<br>Black, #AL66055BK-A3,<br>ASIN #B0767VLR6F | Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate<br>Diisononyl Phthalate |

<sup>\*</sup>The specifically identified example of the Products that are subject to this Notice is for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemicals from other items within the product category/type listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that this example is **not** meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product of the type 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 expeditious investigation into other specific Products within the type or category 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 unless they have been reformulated.

## 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 a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My business address is 72 Huckleberry Hill Road, New Canaan, CT 06840.

On October 19, 2022, I caused to be served the following documents:

SIXTY-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.

Alvin Herman Jr., President Alco Sales & Service Co. 6851 High Grove Blvd. Burr Ridge, IL 60527 Andy Jassy, CEO Amazon.com, Inc. 410 Terry Avenue N Seattle, WA 98109

On October 19, 2022, I caused to be served the following documents:

SIXTY-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 or placing such envelope in a United States Postal Service mailbox, 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 October 19, 2022, I caused to be served the following documents:

SIXTY-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 October 19, 2022, in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Lorent Guimaraes

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Clifford A. Chanler, 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 Chemicals that are the subject of this action and/or the Listed Chemicals in substantially similar products and exposes individuals through the same potential routes;
- 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: October 19, 2022

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## **EMAIL SERVICE LIST**

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

The Honorable Todd Riebe Amador County District Attorney 708 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642 amadorda@amadorgov.org

The Honorable Michael Ramsey Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965 DA@ButteCounty.net

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The Honorable Tori Verber Salazar San Joaquin County District Attorney P.O. Box 990 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95201 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

The Honorable Clifford Newell Nevada County District Attorney 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us The Honorable Donna Daly Trinity County District Attorney P.O. Box 310 11 Court Street Weaverville, CA 96093 trinityjournal@dcacable.net

The Honorable Sally O. Moreno Madera County District Attorney 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637 Sally.Moreno@co.madera.ca.gov

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

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The Honorable Laura L. Krieg Tuolumne County District Attorney 423 North Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370 da@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

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The Honorable Sandra Groven Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square, Room B1 P.O. Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936 sgroven@sierracounty.ca.gov

The Honorable Walter Wall Mariposa County District Attorney 5085 Bullion Street P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org

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

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# **MAIL SERVICE LIST**

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# **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