## **SUPPLEMENTAL 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

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

DATE: September 27, 2023

TO: Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.; Central Purchasing, LLC; and the public prosecutors listed on the service list accompanying the attached proof of service.

FROM: APS&EE, LLC

#### I. INTRODUCTION

APS&EE is an organization based in the State of California with an interest in protecting the environment, which includes promoting awareness of exposure to toxic chemicals and reducing exposure to hazardous substances found in consumer products. It is providing this Notice to the violators and the public agencies listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). This Notice supplements the notice sent on September 14, 2023. Please direct all questions concerning this Notice to it through its designated person for the entity, its attorney: Lucas T. Novak, Esq., Law Offices of Lucas T. Novak, 8335 W Sunset Blvd., Suite 217, Los Angeles, CA 90069; Tel: (323) 337-9015; Email: lucas.nvk@gmail.com.

### II. NATURE OF THE VIOLATION

- A. <u>Violators</u>: Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., 26677 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302; Central Purchasing, LLC, 26677 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302.
- B. <u>Time Period of Exposure</u>: Violations have been occurring since at least September 14, 2022, and continue to occur to this day.
- C. <u>Listed Chemicals</u>: Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate also known as Bis (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate ("DEHP") in both the hammers and hacksaws. Lead in the hammers.
- D. <u>Types of Harm</u>: DEHP is listed as known to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity, developmental, male. Lead is listed as known to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- E. <u>Types of Products</u>: The specific types of products causing the violations are: 1) hammers, including but not limited to Pittsburgh 4-in-1, Item 69093, UPC #1-93175-48133-7, and 2) hacksaws, including but not limited to Pittsburgh 12", Item 62780, UPC #7-92363-62780-1, being sold by Violators throughout California. All products within the type covered by this Notice shall be hereinafter referred to as the "products."
- F. <u>Routes of Exposure</u>: Ingestion and dermal contact.
- G. <u>Description of Exposure</u>: The sales of these products in California dating as far back as September 14, 2022 are subject to this notice. As a result of the sales of these products, exposures to the listed chemical have been occurring without clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. 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 toxic chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products. California consumers, including children, through the act of buying, acquiring or using the products, are exposed to the listed chemicals. By way of example but not limitation, exposures occur when California citizens use, display, clean, pack, unpack, arrange, store, mouth, or otherwise handle the products. These actions cause consumers to be exposed directly or indirectly through the routine touching of the parts or portions of the products containing readily available surface amounts of the listed chemical. Additionally, exposure can occur through the routine touching and ingesting of other materials that are contaminated with the listed chemical from the products as a result of these tasks. People likely to be exposed include both children and adults.

### III. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, attached is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" which has been prepared by Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at (916) 445-6900.

## IV. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, the noticing party intends to file a Private Enforcer lawsuit against the alleged Violators unless such Violators enters 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 lead 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 expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact counsel identified above. It should be noted that a Private Enforcer cannot: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired; or (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.

# **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Lucas Novak, Esq. hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged 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) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons).

Hall

Dated: September 27, 2023

Lucas Novak, Esq.

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, Lucas Novak, Esq., declare under penalty of perjury:

I am an active member of the California State Bar, a citizen of the United States over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is 8335 W Sunset Blvd., Suite 217, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

On September 27, 2023, I served the following documents:

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

**PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY (not sent to the public enforcement agencies);** 

# **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

# **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (served only on the Attorney General)**

by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage for first class mail thereon fully prepaid in Los Angeles, California, in the United States mail addressed as follows, and to the public prosecutors listed in the attached service list:

Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.	Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc.
Attn: Current President or CEO	c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc.
26677 Agoura Road	5901 W Century Blvd. #750
Calabasas, CA 91302	Los Angeles, CA 90045
Central Purchasing, LLC	Central Purchasing, LLC
Attn: Current President or CEO	c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc.
26677 Agoura Road	5901 W Century Blvd. #750
Calabasas, CA 91302	Los Angeles, CA 90045

Additionally, on this date, I uploaded the documents listed above to the California Attorney General via its website:

Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550 http://oag.ca.gov/prop65 Also on this date, I transmitted via electronic mail the documents listed above to the electronic mail addresses as follows:

District Attorney of Contra Costa	District Attorney of Monterey	District Attorney of Napa County
County	County	1127 First Street, Suite C
900 Ward Street	PO Box 1131	Napa, CA 94559
Martinez, CA 94553	Salinas, CA 93902	CEPD@countyofnapa.org
sgrassini@contracostada.org	Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us	
District Attorney of Riverside	District Attorney of Santa Clara	District Attorney of Sonoma County
County	County	600 Administration Dr
3072 Orange Street	70 W Hedding St	Sonoma, CA 95403
Riverside, CA 92501	San Jose, CA 95110	jbarnes@sonoma-county.org
Prop65@rivcoda.org	epu@da.sccgov.org	
District Attorney of Tulare County	District Attorney of Ventura County	District Attorney of Stanislaus
221 S Mooney Blvd	800 S Victoria Ave	County
Visalia, CA 95370	Ventura, CA 93009	832 12th Street, Ste 300
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us	daspecialops@ventura.org	Modesto, CA 95354
		Prop65@standa.org
District Attorney of Yolo County	District Attorney of Lassen County	District Attorney of Sacramento
301 Second St.	220 S. Lassen Street	County
Woodland, CA 95695	Susanville, CA 96130	901 G Street
cfepd@yolocounty.org	dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us	Sacramento, CA 95814
	Ŭ	Prop65@sacda.org
District Attorney of San Francisco	District Attorney of San Joaquin	District Attorney of San Luis Obispo
County	County	County
350 Rhode Island Street	222 E. Weber Avenue, Rm 202	County Government Center Annex
San Francisco, CA 94103	Stockton, CA 95202	4th Floor
alethea.sargent@sfgov.org	DAConsumer.Environmental	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
	@sjcda.org	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us
District Attorney of Santa Cruz	San Diego City Attorney's Office	District Attorney of Santa Barbara
County	1200 Third Avenue, Ste 1620	County
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 200	San Diego, CA 92101	1112 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060	CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us		DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
District Attorney of Alameda	District Attorney of Calaveras	District Attorney of Inyo County
County	County	168 North Edwards Street
1225 Fallon Street, Rm 900	891 Mountain Ranch Road	Independence, CA 93526
Oakland, CA 94612	San Andreas, CA 95249	inyoda@inyocounty.us
CEPDProp65@acgov.org	Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us	myodula myocounty.us
San Francisco City Attorney's	District Attorney of San Diego	District Attorney of Mariposa
Office	County	County
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor	330 West Broadway	5101 Jones St., P.O. Box 730
San Francisco, CA 94102	San Diego, CA 92101	Mariposa, CA 95338
Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org	SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org	mcda@mariposacounty.org
District Attorney of Merced County	District Attorney of Nevada County	District Attorney of Placer County
2222 "M" Street	201 Commercial Street	10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240
Merced, CA 95340		-
	Nevada City, CA 95959	Roseville, CA 95678
Prop65@countyofmerced.com	DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us	prop65@placer.ca.gov
District Attorney of Plumas County	San Jose City Attorney	
520 Main Street, Rm. 404	200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor	
Quincy, CA 95971	San Jose, CA 96113	
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com	Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov	

The electronic transmissions were reported as sent and without error.

Executed on September 27, 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

Hal

Lucas Novak, Esq.

#### SERVICE LIST

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office 800 City Hall East 200 N. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	District Attorney of Alpine County 270 Laramie St., P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney of Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642
District Attorney of Butte County Administration Building 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney of Yuba County 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901	District Attorney of Colusa County 310 6th Street Colusa, CA 95932
District Attorney of Del Norte County	District Attorney of El Dorado County	District Attorney of Fresno County
450 H Street, Ste 171	515 Main Street	2100 Tulare St
Crescent City, CA 95531	Placerville, CA 95667	Fresno, CA 93721
District Attorney of Glenn County	District Attorney of Humboldt County	District Attorney of Imperial County
P.O. Box 430	825 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	940 W. Main Street, Ste 102
Willows, CA 95988	Eureka, CA 95501	El Centro, CA 92243
District Attorney of Trinity County	District Attorney of Kern County	District Attorney of Kings County
P.O. Box 310	1215 Truxtun Avenue	1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Weaverville, CA 96093	Bakersfield, CA 93301	Hanford, CA 93230
District Attorney of Lake County	District Attorney of Los Angeles County	District Attorney of Madera County
255 N. Forbes Street	211 W. Temple Street, Ste 1200	209 West Yosemite Avenue
Lakeport, CA 95453	Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210	Madera, CA 93637
District Attorney of Marin County	District Attorney of Modoc County	District Attorney of Mendocino County
3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130	204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202	P.O. Box 1000
San Rafael, CA 94903	Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Ukiah, CA 95482
District Attorney of Tehama County	District Attorney of Orange County	District Attorney of Mono County
P.O. Box 519	300 N Flower St	P.O. Box 617
Red Bluff, CA 96080	Santa Ana, CA 92703	Bridgeport, CA 93517
District Attorney of Solano County	District Attorney of San Benito County	District Attorney of San Bernardino County
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500	419 Fourth Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	316 N. Mountain View Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533	Hollister, CA 95023	San Bernardino, CA 92415
District Attorney of Sierra County Courthouse	District Attorney of San Mateo County	District Attorney of Tuolumne County
100 Courthouse Sq., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	400 County Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	423 N. Washington Street
Downieville, CA 95936	Redwood City, CA 94063	Sonora, CA 95370
District Attorney of Sutter County	Sacramento City Attorney's Office	District Attorney of Shasta County
463 2nd Street, Suite 102	915 I Street, 4th Floor	1355 West Street
Yuba City, CA 95991	Sacramento, CA 95814	Redding, CA 96001
District Attorney of Siskiyou County P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097		