

January 26, 2024

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”)

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 concerning Peanut Powder containing Lead.

Dear Alleged Violators and Public Enforcement Agencies:

Keep America Safe and Beautiful (“KASB”), serves this Notice of Violation (“Notice”) on Columbus Brands, LLC; Peanut Butter & Co., Inc.; and Amazon.com Services, LLC (collectively “Violators”) pursuant to and in compliance with Proposition 65. KJT Law Group, LLP represents Keep America Safe and Beautiful (KASB). This Notice satisfies a prerequisite for KASB to commence an action against Violators in any Superior Court of California to enforce Proposition 65. The violations addressed by this Notice occurred at numerous locations in each county in California as reflected in the district attorney addresses listed in the attached distribution list. KASB is serving this Notice upon each person or entity responsible for the alleged violations, the California Attorney General, the district attorney for each county where alleged violations occurred, and the City Attorney for each city with a population (according to the most recent decennial census) of over 750,000 located within counties where the alleged violations occurred.

KASB is a California nonprofit corporation acting in the interest of the general public, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d). KASB’s contact information is the following: 10512 Sycamore Avenue, Stanton, California 90680 | 714.227.7269. KASB’s Chief Executive Officer is Lance Nguyen. KASB seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by eliminating hazardous substances contained in such items, promoting corporate responsibility.

This Notice concerns violations of the warning prong of Proposition 65, which states that “[n]o 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 . . .” *Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*

Pursuant to § 25249.7(d) of the statute, KASB intends to bring an enforcement action against the Violators sixty (60) days after the effective service of this notice unless public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations. A summary of the statute and its implementing regulations, which was prepared by the Office of Environmental Hazard Assessment, the lead agency designated under the State, is enclosed with the copy of this notice served upon the violators (“Proposition 65: A Summary”). The specific details of the violations that are the subject of this notice are provided below.

Consumer Product and Chemical(s) Involved

KASB has discovered that Peanut Powder contains lead. Lead is known to the State of California to cause cancer. “Lead and lead compounds” have been listed as carcinogens since October 1, 1992 and “lead” has been listed as a developmental toxicant for males and females since February 27, 1987. 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.

Identifiers for the Peanut Powder include but are not limited to: **“Peanut Butter & Co – Peanut Powder – Flax & Chia – UPC #: 8 61619 00000 9.”**

This Notice addresses consumer products exposures. A “[c]onsumer products exposure’ is an exposure which results from a person’s acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service.” Cal. Code Regs. 27 tit. § 25602(b).

Description of Violation

Violators caused consumer product exposures in violation of Proposition 65 by producing or making available Peanut Powder for distribution or sale in California to consumers. The packaging for Peanut Powder (meaning any label or other written, printed or graphic matter affixed to or accompanying the product or its container or wrapper) contains no Proposition 65-compliant warning. Nor did Violator, with regard to Peanut Powder, provide a system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any other system, which provided clear and reasonable warnings. Nor did Violator, with regard to Peanut Powder, provide identification of the product at retail outlets in a manner that provided a warning through shelf labeling, signs, menus, or a combination thereof.

Route of Exposure

Use of the product identified above results in human exposure to lead. The primary route of lead exposure to consumers is through direct ingestion when consumers eat the Peanut Powder. These exposures take place throughout the State of California. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with regards to the carcinogenic and/or reproductive hazard of lead as required by State law.

Duration of Violations

These violations have been occurring every day between since at least January 26, 2023, and every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided with regards to the carcinogenic and/or reproductive hazard of lead as required by State law or until these known toxic chemicals are removed or reduced to allowable levels in the products.

Counsel

KASB is represented in connection with this matter and may be contacted through:

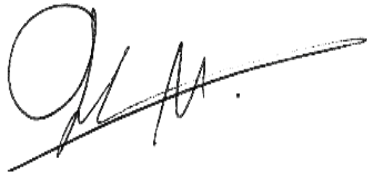
Tro Krikorian, Esq.
KJT Law Group, LLP
230 N. Maryland Avenue, Suite 306, Glendale, CA 91206
Telephone: (818) 507-8525
Email: Tro@KJTLawGroup.com

In keeping with the public interest goals of the statute and the objective of protecting individuals and the community at-large from further toxic exposures, KJT Law Group, LLP is interested in seeking a constructive and immediate resolution of this matter in order to avoid continuing unwarned exposure to listed chemicals.

Proposition 65 requires that notice of intent to sue be given to the violator(s) sixty (60) days before the suit is filed. *Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d)(1). With this letter, KASB gives notice of the alleged violations to Violator and the appropriate governmental authorities. In absence of any action by the appropriate governmental authorities within sixty (60) calendar days of the sending of this notice (plus ten (10) calendar days because the place of address is beyond the State of California but within the United States), KASB may file suit. *See Cal. Code Civ. Proc.* § 1013; *Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d)(1); and *Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27 § 25903(d)(1). KASB remains open and willing to discussing the possibility of resolving its grievances short of formal litigation.

All communications regarding this notice can be made to Tro Krikorian, Esq. at the above listed firm address and telephone number.

Regards,



Tro Krikorian, Esq.
KJT Law Group, LLP

Attachments:

Certificate of Merit
Supporting Documentation for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General Only)
Proposition 65: A Summary
Proof of Service (including DA Service List)

**Peanut Powder containing Lead
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et. seq.**

I, Tro Krikorian, hereby declare:

- 1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty (60) day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2) I am the attorney for the noticing parties.
- 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 the 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 plaintiffs’ case can be established and 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 of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and 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: January 26, 2024



Tro Krikorian, Esq.
KJT Law Group, LLP

PROOF OF SERVICE

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, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the action. I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California; my business address is 230 N. Maryland Avenue, Suite 306, Glendale, CA 91206.

On **January 26, 2024** I served the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS; 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 the party listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by **Certified Mail**:

Entity Address: Columbus Brands, LLC Attn: Legal Department 119 West 57 th Street, STE 300 New York, NY 10019	Registered Agent for Service of Process: Columbus Brands, LLC Attn: Agent for Service of Process 119 West 57 th Street, STE 300 New York, NY 10019
Entity Address: Peanut Butter & Co., Inc. Attn: Legal Department 119 West 57 th Street, STE 300 New York, NY 10019	Registered Agent for Service of Process: Peanut Butter & Co., Inc. Attn: Agent for Service of Process 119 West 57 th Street, STE 300 New York, NY 10019
Entity Address: Amazon.com Services, LLC 410 Terry Avenue North Seattle, WA 98109	Registered Agent for Service of Process: Amazon.com Services, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833

On **January 26, 2024** I served the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

on the following parties by uploading the foregoing documents at the webpage listed below:

Office of the California Attorney General | Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2000 | Post Office Box 70550 | Oakland, California 94612-0550
<https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>

On **January 26, 2024** I served the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

by sending a true and correct copy via electronic mail to the address listed below:

Alameda County District Attorney's Office
The Honorable Pamela Y. Price
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900, Oakland, CA 94612 | CEPDProp65@acgov.org

Executed under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California in Glendale, California on **January 26, 2024**.



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PROOF OF SERVICE AFFIDAVIT
CCP 1013(a), CCP 1013(b), and CCP 1013a(3)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

My name is David Birdsall.

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the related cause(s).

I am employed at DocuCents in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, which is where the mailing occurred.

My business address is: 960 S Village Oaks Dr, Covina, CA 91724, which is where I placed the correspondence described herein for deposit in the United States Postal Service unless otherwise stated.

I am readily familiar with the business' practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service.

The following correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service this same day in the ordinary course of business.

Each envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on 01/26/2024, following ordinary business practices.

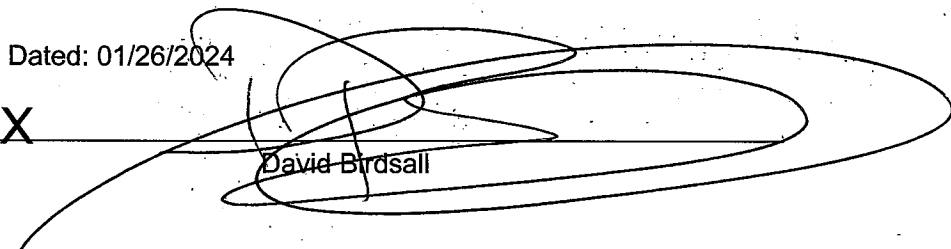
The exact TITLE of the document(s) served and the name(s) and address(s) of the people or entities being served are listed on the following attached Service List(s). This affidavit may include multiple Service Lists for documents which were mailed to many different parties on unrelated causes as part of the ordinary course of services.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing and all information contained in the attached Service List(s) is true and correct.

Printed name: David Birdsall

Dated: 01/26/2024

X


David Birdsall

Attachments: Service List(s) included as part of this affidavit.

