

SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

DATE: April 19, 2024

TO: Thomas Stortz, President - John Stortz & Son
California Attorney General's Office
District Attorneys and Certain City Attorneys Throughout California

FROM: Laurence Vinocur

My name is Laurence Vinocur. I am a citizen of the State of California acting in furtherance of the public interest. I seek to promote awareness of exposures to certain toxic chemicals in consumer 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, this letter is also being provided to the alleged violator, John Stortz & Son, which has acknowledged in writing that is a person in the course of doing business for purpose of Proposition 65 (Violator). The violations covered by this notice consist of the product exposure, routes of exposure and types of harm potentially resulting from exposure to the hazardous substance identified below (listed chemical), as follows:

Products:	Lead Ingots/Bars
Listed Chemical:	Lead
Routes of Exposure:	Ingestion, Ingestion and Dermal
Types of Harm:	Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm

I. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (CONSUMER PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

Lead Ingots that are causing consumer exposures in violation of Proposition 65 and that are covered by this letter shall be referred to hereinafter as the "Products." Exposures to the listed chemical from the use of the Products have been occurring without the "clear and reasonable warning" required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical resulting from the use of the Products, California citizens are unable to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the identified toxicant.

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring, receiving or utilizing the Products, are exposed to the listed chemical. By way of example, consumers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age, ingest the listed chemical when they, among other activities, touch the Products and transfer the listed chemical from the Products to their mouths through hand-to-mouth activities that may continue to occur for a significant period after one or more contacts with the Products ceases. Additionally, consumers, workers and other individuals, including women of childbearing age, are exposed to the listed chemical through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the Products. Further, there are reasonably foreseeable uses of the Products that result in direct ingestion and inhalation. Lead ingots are often utilized to cast other items such as bullets,

fishing weights and sinkers as well as in soldering or as decorative items, paperweights and other objects that do not require the bar to be altered.

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 so long as they are based in the United States. The approval also provides that a United States employer may use the means of compliance in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement be subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Any settlement, civil complaint or substantive court orders in this matter shall be submitted/uploaded onto the state Attorney General's portal as may be required by law.

II. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to me through my counsel's office at the following address, email and/or telephone number:

Primary Contact:

Laurence Vinocur
c/o Steven Y. Chen
Steven Y. Chen, APLC
2650 River Avenue, Unit A
Rosemead, California 91770
Telephone: (626) 782-5017
schen@schenlaw.com

Secondary Contact:

Laurence Vinocur
c/o Clifford A. Chanler
Chanler, LLC
72 Huckleberry Hill Road
New Canaan, CT 06840-3801
Telephone: (203) 594-9246
clifford@chanlerllc.com

III. 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 Violator's 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.

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 or employed in the county where the mailing occurred.

On **April 19, 2024**, 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 Electronic Mail** by sending a true and correct copy of the foregoing documents at the electronic mail address shown below:

Thomas Stortz, President
John Stortz & Son
210 Vine St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
tom@stortz.com

On **April 19, 2024**, 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 Electronic Mail** by sending true and correct copies of the above documents to the electronic notification addresses on the attached "Email Service List."

On **April 19, 2024**, 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 **April 19, 2024**, in Rosemead, California.



Steven Chen

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

California Health & 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 party identified in the notice has violated Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings;
2. I am one of the attorneys 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 notice and/or the listed chemical in substantially similar products sold through one or more downstream sellers of the Products including amazon.com;
4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations and 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 citizen’s claims can be established. Further, the Violator has expressly waived any exemptions under California Health & Safety Code §25249.6 *et seq.* and agreed to accept electronic service of this 60-Day Notice of Violation at the email address noted in the Proof of Service above. The Violator further waived any argument that the Products do not expose individuals to lead and that any affirmative defense exists under California Health & Safety Code §25249.10(c);
5. A copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General references the factual and legal 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: April 19, 2024



Clifford A. Chanler

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.

EMAIL SERVICE LIST

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

Devin Chandler, Program Coordinator
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8284
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

The Honorable David Hollister
Plumas County District Attorney
520 Main Street, Room 404
Quincy, CA 95971
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

The Honorable Lisa A. Smittcamp
Fresno County District Attorney
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

The Honorable Maggie Fleming
Humboldt County District Attorney
825 5th Street, Fourth Floor
Eureka, CA 95501
districtattorney@co.humboldt.ca.us

The Honorable Pamela Y. Price
Alameda County
7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

The Honorable Allison Haley
Napa County
1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

The Honorable Phillip J. Cline
Tulare County District Attorney
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291-4593
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

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 H. Newell
Nevada County District Attorney
201 Commercial Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us

The Honorable Summer Stephan
San Diego County District Attorney
330 West Broadway Street
San Diego, CA 92101
SanDiegoDAProp65@sdccda.org

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

Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
Prop65@sfcityatty.org

The Honorable C. David Eyster
Mendocino County District Attorney
100 North State Street, Room G-10
P.O. Box 1000
Ukiah, CA 95482
enviroh@mendocinocounty.org

The Honorable Kimberly Lewis
Merced County District Attorney
550 West Main Street
Merced, CA 95340
Prop65@countyofmerced.com

The Honorable Samuel D. Kylo
Modoc County District Attorney
204 South Court Street, Suite 202
Alturas, CA 96101
da@co.modoc.ca.us

The Honorable Tim Kendall
Mono County District Attorney
278 Main Street
P.O. Box 617
Bridgeport, CA 93517
districtattorney@mono.ca.gov

The Honorable Jeannine M. Pacioni
Monterey County District Attorney
1200 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

The Honorable Jill R. Ravitch
Sonoma County District Attorney
600 Administration Drive
Sonoma, CA 95403
Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney, San Diego
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620
San Diego, CA 92101
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

James Clinchard, Assistant DA
County of El Dorado
778 Pacific Street
Placerville, CA 95667
EDCDAPROP65@edcda.us

The Honorable Jeff W. Reisig
Yolo County
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695
cfepd@yolocounty.org

The Honorable Jason Anderson
San Bernardino County District Attorney
303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502
da@sbccda.org

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant DA
San Francisco District Attorney's Office
350 Rhode Island Street N. Bldg., 400N
San Francisco, CA 94103
alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

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

Stacey Grassini, Deputy DA
Contra Costa County
900 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553
sgrassini@contracostada.org

The Honorable Susan J. Kroner
Lake County District Attorney
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
Susan.Kroner@lakecountyca.gov

The Honorable Jeffrey S. Rosell
Santa Cruz County District Attorney
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

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 W. Wall
Mariposa County District Attorney
5085 Bullion Street
P.O. Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338
mcd@mariposacounty.org

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy DA
Santa Barbara County
1112 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

The Honorable Barbara Yook
Calaveras County District Attorney
891 Mountain Ranch Rd.
San Andreas, CA 95249
Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us

The Honorable Lori E. Frugoli
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 145
San Rafael, CA 94903
consumer@marincounty.org

The Honorable Paul E. Zellerbach
Riverside County
3072 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Prop65@rivcoda.org

The Honorable Cynthia Zimmer
Kern County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Avenue, 4th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
CZimmer@kernda.org

The Honorable Gregory D. Totten
Ventura County District Attorney
800 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 314
Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

The Honorable Anne Marie Schubert
Sacramento County District Attorney
901 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Prop65@sacda.org

The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire
Placer County District Attorney
10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240
Roseville, CA 95678
Prop65@placer.ca.gov

The Honorable Nora V. Frimann
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
San Jose, CA 96113
Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

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

Bud Porter, Deputy District Attorney
Santa Clara County
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney
San Luis Obispo County
County Govt Center Annex, 4th Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

The Honorable Susan Alcalá Wood
Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento
915 I Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
clerk@cityofsacramento.org

The Honorable Krishna A. Abrams
Solano County District Attorney
675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
Fairfield, CA 94533
SolanoDA@solanocounty.com

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>