# SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

**DATE:** May 29, 2025

To: Daniel Pidgeon, CEO – Transform SR Brands, LLC

Daniel Pidgeon, CEO - Transform Holdco, LLC

California Attorney General's Office;

District Attorneys and Certain City Attorneys Throughout California

FROM: Jay Epps

My name is Jay Epps. 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 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, Transform SR Brands, LLC and Transform Holdco LLC (collectively "Violator") (for its role as an online retailer), which is a person in the course of doing business in California. The violations covered by this notice consist of the products at issue, route of exposure and type of harm potentially resulting from exposure to the hazardous substance identified below (listed chemical), as follows:

Products: Soldering Wire Containing Lead

Listed Chemical: Lead

Route of Exposure: Inhalation, Ingestion and Dermal

Types of Harm: Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm

## I. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (CONSUMER PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

The specific products that are causing consumer exposures and potentially occupational 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, dating as far back as May 29, 2021. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical resulting from the use of 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 chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

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 of lead.

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, by which the Products are branded (e.g., manufacturer's name appears on Product label), occurring outside the State of California so long as the named manufacturer is 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 must be submitted to the state Attorney General. It is important to note that the sale of the Products through online means of transaction must provide the customer with a clear and reasonable warning for the risk of reproductive toxicity pursuant to Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations, even if the Violator's role is limited that of an online retail seller.

## 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:<sup>1</sup>

Jay Epps c/o Clifford A. Chanler Chanler, LLC 72 Huckleberry Hill Road New Canaan, CT 06840-3801 Telephone: (203) 722-4514 clifford@chanlerllc.com Jay Epps c/o Steven Y. Chen Steven Y. Chen, APLC 2650 River Avenue, Unit A Rosemead, California 91770 Telephone: (626) 782-5017 schen@schenlaw.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.

Sears.Solder.Wire 2

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Should your attempt to contact me through my counsel be unsuccessful, I can be reached by mail at 1010 Liberty Drive, Suisun, CA 94585, or by phone at (415) 849-6181.

### IV. POTENTIAL RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Based on the assertions set forth in this notice, I intend to file a citizen enforcement action against the Violator unless such alleged person in the course of doing business enters into a binding written agreement (and/or upstream parties such as a supplier enters into an agreement which would resolve one or more of the Products at issue shipped to the Violator) to: (a) recall Products already sold; (b) provide "clear and reasonable warnings" for Products to be sold in the future or, preferably, reformulate such Products to eliminate the lead exposures (or undertake best efforts to ensure upstream selling entities in the chain of commerce such as manufacturers, exporters, importers or distributors do so) or delist the offending Products from the Violator's website; and (c) pay an appropriate civil fine, if any, based on the factors enumerated in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b). If the alleged Violator is particularly interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to litigation, please feel free to contact my counsel identified in Section II above. It should be noted that neither my counsel nor I can finalize any settlement with the Violator until after the statutory sixty-day notice period has expired for the covered Products; nor speak for the state Attorney General, any state district attorney or the city attorneys who received this notice.

#### V. <u>ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION</u>

Examples of the Products that were recently purchased in California without the requisite warnings are identified on Exhibit A. I allege that the sale of the offending Products that were shipped to an address in California has also occurred without the requisite Proposition 65 "clear and reasonable warning," dating as far back as May 29, 2021.

The examples on the attachment is for the recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the listed chemical from other items within the definition of Products. The examples are <u>not</u> meant to be a list of each specific offending Product.

The alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific Products in addition to the exemplars that were imported, distributed, facilitated for online sale and/or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control since May 29, 2021, to determine whether a clear and reasonable warning for reproductive toxicity was provided on the product display pages prior to each Product purchased by a California citizen (or purchases made by non-California residents, but shipped to an address in California). Further, such investigation should also ensure that all online offering pages for the Products going forward contain the requisite conspicuous placement of, and clear language for, the risk of reproductive toxicity associated with exposure to lead.

Sears, Solder, Wire

# **EXHIBIT A**

Product	Item #
Mandala Crafts Rosin Core Solder Wire with 60-40 Tin Lead, 0.8mm 50g	SPM10070445802
HengTianMei Tin Lead 63/37 Rosin core Low Temp Solder Wire For Electronics Components And DIY repair 0.8mm 50g	SPM16438271024
SONEAK 60/40 Tin Lead Solder With Rosin core For Electrical Soldering 1.0mm 50g	SPM16420126124
Maiyum 63-37 Tin Lead Rosin Core Solder Wire for Electrical Soldering 0.8mm 50g	SPM16393338524

# 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. My business address is 2650 River Avenue, Unit A, Rosemead, CA 91770.

On May 29, 2025, 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 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 and their agents listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service representative.

Daniel Pidgeon, CEO Transform SR Brands, LLC 5407 Trillium Blvd Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 Daniel Pidgeon, CEO Transform Holdco LLC 5407 Trillium Blvd Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

On May 29, 2025, 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 May 29, 2025, 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 May 29, 2025, in Rosemead, California.

Steven Chen

# **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

California Health & Safety Code §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 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 are the subject of this action and/or the listed chemical 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 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 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: May 29, 2025

Clifford A. Chanler

# **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

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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@sdcda.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

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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. Kyllo Modoc County District Attorney 204 South Court Street, Suite 202 Alturas, CA 96101 da@co.modoc.ca.us

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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.gov

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

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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 Susan J. Krones Lake County District Attorney 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453 Susan.Krones@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

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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