

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(Supplements Notice 2025-03049)

California Safe Drinking Water
and Toxic Enforcement Act

Hexavalent Chromium in Footwear Made with Leather Materials

March 17, 2026

This Supplemental Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice is provided by the Center for Environmental Health ("CEH"), 2201 Broadway, Suite 508, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. This Notice adds a set of alleged violators related to a previously noticed set of violations relating to Group JS International Ltd. (noticed in AG No. 2025-03049). CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health, and supporting environmentally sound practices. Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon is the Senior Director of the Toxic Exposures and Pollution Prevention program of and a responsible individual within CEH.

Description of Violation:

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are identified on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least March 17, 2023, and are ongoing.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice covers the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The name of the listed chemical involved in these violations is chromium (hexavalent compounds), which is also known as hexavalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity. Exposures to hexavalent chromium occur from use of the products identified in this Notice.
- Type of Product: The specific type of product that is the subject of this Notice and is causing these violations is footwear made with leather materials. Non-exclusive examples of this specific type of product are identified on the attached Exhibit 1.

- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to hexavalent chromium. Use of the products identified in this Notice results in human exposures to hexavalent chromium. The routes of exposure for the violations are: (1) dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers wear, touch, or handle the products or otherwise have direct skin to leather contact with the leather parts of the products; and (2) ingestion via hand to mouth contact after consumers wear, touch, or handle the products. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of hexavalent chromium.

Resolution of Noticed Claims:

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against each alleged violator unless such violator agrees in a binding written instrument to: (1) recall products already sold; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the hexavalent chromium exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). If any alleged violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact CEH through its counsel identified below. It should be noted that CEH cannot: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired; nor (2) speak for the Attorney General or any District or City Attorney who received CEH's 60-day Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with CEH will resolve its claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Preservation of Relevant Evidence:

This Notice also serves as a demand that each alleged violator preserve and maintain all relevant evidence, including all electronic documents and data, pending resolution of this matter. Such relevant evidence includes but is not limited to all documents relating to the presence or potential presence of hexavalent chromium in footwear; purchase and sales information for such products; efforts to comply with Proposition 65 with respect to such products; communications with any person relating to the presence or potential presence of hexavalent chromium in such products; and representative exemplars of each unit of any such products sold by each alleged violator in the year preceding this Notice through the date of any trial of the claims alleged in this Notice.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH's counsel Joseph Mann at Lexington Law Group, LLP, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800, jmann@lexlawgroup.com.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

I, Joseph Mann, 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 & Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health.

3. Members of my firm and 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 exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on 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 the 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 & 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.

March 17, 2026



Joseph Mann
Attorney for CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

EXHIBIT 1
March 17, 2026 Supplemental Notice of Violation
Hexavalent Chromium in Footwear Made with Leather Materials

Name and Address of Responsible Parties	Non-Exclusive Example of the Products	Further Description of Non-Exclusive Exemplar Product	Further Limitation on Products Sold by Violators
Designer Brands Inc. DSW Shoe Warehouse, Inc. 810 DSW Drive Columbus, OH 43219	BCBG Max Azria Surali Sandal in Black	UPC 1-94655-54687-4 Style No. MX4SUR01	Sold Under the BCBGMAXAZRIA Brand
Vida Shoes International, Inc. 29 West 56th Street New York, NY 10019	BCBG Max Azria Surali Sandal in Black	UPC 1-94655-54687-4 Style No. MX4SUR01	None
Marquee Brands LLC 330 West 34th Street, 15th Floor New York, NY 10001	BCBG Max Azria Surali Sandal in Black	UPC 1-94655-54687-4 Style No. MX4SUR01	Sold Under the BCBGMAXAZRIA Brand

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I, Kaitlyn M. Carpenter, declare:

3 I am a citizen of the United States and employed in the County of San Francisco, State of
4 California. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to this action. My business
5 address is 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 and my email address is
kcarpenter@lexlawgroup.com.

6 On March 17, 2026, I served the following document(s) on all interested parties in this
7 action by placing a true copy thereof in the manner and at the addresses indicated below:

8 **NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND
TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;**

9 **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT;** and

10 **THE SAFE DRINKING AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986**
11 **(PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY** (only sent to those on service list marked with an
asterisk).

12 **BY MAIL:** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice for collecting and processing mail
13 with the United States Postal Service ("USPS"). Under that practice, mail would be deposited
14 with USPS that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at San Francisco, California in the
ordinary course of business. On this date, I placed sealed envelopes containing the above
mentioned documents for collection and mailing following my firm's ordinary business practices.

15 *Please see attached service list.*

16 **BY ELECTRONIC UPLOAD:** I transmitted a PDF version of the document(s) listed above,
17 as well as a Confidential Supporting Certificate of Merit, to the Office of the Attorney General of
California via the Proposition 65 60-Day Notice Search website at [https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-](https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-day-notice-search)
18 [day-notice-search](https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-day-notice-search).

19 **BY ELECTRONIC MAIL:** I transmitted a PDF version of the document(s) listed above via
20 email to the email address(es) indicated on the attached service list [or noted above] before 5 p.m.
on the date executed.

21 Ursula Jones Dickson., District Attorney 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650 Oakland, CA 94621 CEPDProp65@acgov.org	Stacey Grassini, Contra Costa Deputy District Attorney 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org
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23 Robert K. Priscaro, District Attorney P.O.Box 248 Markleville, CA 96120 prop65enf@alpinecountyca.gov	James Clinchard, El Dorado Assistant District Attorney 778 Pacific Street Placerville, CA 95667 EDCDAPROP65@edcda.us
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26 Barbara Yook, Calaveras District Attorney 891 Mountain Ranch Rd. San Andreas, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us	Lisa A. Smittcamp, Fresno District Attorney 2100 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov
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1	Thomas L. Hardy, Inyo District Attorney 168 North Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.us	David Hollister, Plumas District Attorney 520 Main St. Quincy, CA 95971 davidhollister@countyofplumas.com
3	Devin Chandler, Lassen Program Coordinator 2950 Riverside Dr Susanville, CA 96130 dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us	Paul E. Zellerbach, Riverside District Attorney 3072 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501 Prop65@rivcoda.org
6	Lori E. Frugoli, Marin District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 145 San Rafael, CA 94903 consumer@marincounty.gov	Anne Marie Schubert, Sacramento District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Prop65@sacda.org
9	Walter W. Wall, Mariposa District Attorney P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org	Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney 330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org
11	Kimberly Lewis, Merced District Attorney 550 West Main Street Merced, CA 95340 Prop65@countyofmerced.com	Mark Ankcorn, San Diego Deputy City Attorney 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov
14	Jeannine M. Pacioni, Monterey District Attorney 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us	Brooke Jenkins, District Attorney 350 Rhode Island Street San Francisco, CA 94103 Prop65@sfgov.org
17	Allison Haley, Napa District Attorney 1127 First Street, Suite C Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org	Henry Lifton, San Francisco Deputy City Attorney 1390 Market Street, 7th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Prop65@sfcityatty.org
19	Clifford H. Newell, Nevada District Attorney 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us	Tori Verber Salazar, San Joaquin District Attorney 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95202 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org
22	Todd Spitzer, District Attorney of Orange County 300 N Flower St Santa Ana, CA 92703 Prop65Notice@ocdapa.org	Eric J. Dobroth, San Luis Obispo Deputy District Attorney County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us
24	Morgan Briggs Gire, Placer District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 prop65@placer.ca.gov	

1 Christopher Dalbey, Santa Barbara Deputy
2 District Attorney
3 1112 Santa Barbara St.
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5 DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

6 Nora V. Frimann, Santa Clara City Attorney
7 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
8 San Jose, CA 96113
9 Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

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11 District Attorney
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13 San Jose, CA 95110
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20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
21 foregoing is true and correct.

22 Executed on March 17, 2026 at San Francisco, California.

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Kaitlyn M. Carpenter

SERVICE LIST

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