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12 Attorney for Defendants
13 MASON VITAMINS, INC., individually and doing
business as MASON NATURAL, ITO EN (NORTH
14 AMERICA) INC., individually and doing business as
MASON NATURAL, MASON DISTRIBUTORS,
15 INC., individually and doing business as MASON
NATURAL

16 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
17 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

18 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH**
19 **CENTER, INC., a California non-profit**
20 **corporation**

21 **Plaintiff,**

22 **vs.**

23 **MASON VITAMINS, INC, individually and**
doing business as MASON NATURAL, ITO
EN (NORTH AMERICA) INC.,
24 **individually and doing business as MASON**
NATURAL, MASON DISTRIBUTORS,
25 **INC., individually and doing business as**
26 **MASON NATURAL, and DOES 1-100**

27 **Defendants.**

CASE NO. RG17785412

STIPULATED CONSENT
JUDGMENT

Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

Action Filed: March 10, 2017

Trial Date: None set

1 **1. INTRODUCTION**

2 **1.1** On March 10, 2017, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. (“ERC”), a
3 non-profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by
4 filing a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties (the “Complaint”)
5 pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.*
6 (“Proposition 65”), against Mason Vitamins, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason
7 Natural, ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural,
8 Mason Distributors, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural (collectively
9 “Mason Natural”), and Does 1-100. In this action, ERC alleges that a number of products
10 manufactured, distributed, or sold by Mason Vitamins, Inc. and Mason Distributors, Inc.
11 contain lead, a chemical listed under Proposition 65 as a carcinogen and reproductive toxin, and
12 expose consumers to this chemical at a level requiring a Proposition 65 warning. These
13 products (referred to hereinafter individually as a “Covered Product” or collectively as
14 “Covered Products”) are: (1) Mason Natural Colon Herbal Cleanser, (2) Mason Natural Fat
15 Burner Plus Super Citrimax with Chromium Picolinate, 5-HTP & Thermogenic Herbals, (3)
16 Mason Natural Coral Calcium 1500mg Plus Vitamin D & Magnesium, (4) Mason Natural
17 Garcinia Cambogia 500 mg, (5) Mason Natural Coral Calcium 1000mg, (6) Mason Natural
18 Spirulina Blue-Green Algae 500 MG, (7) Mason Natural Echinacea 500 MG, (8) Mason
19 Natural Double Strength +D Glucosamine Chondroitin Bone Health Plus Vitamin D³ 2000iu,
20 and (9) Mason Natural Glucosamine Sulfate 500 MG.

21 **1.2** ERC and Mason Natural are hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” or
22 collectively as the “Parties.”

23 **1.3** ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other
24 causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of
25 hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees,
26 and encouraging corporate responsibility.

27 **1.4** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that Mason Natural is a
28 business entity that has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action, and

1 qualifies as a “person in the course of business” within the meaning of Proposition 65. Mason
2 Vitamins, Inc. and Mason Distributors, Inc. manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered
3 Products.

4 **1.5** The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notice of Violation
5 dated December 16, 2016 that was served on the California Attorney General, other public
6 enforcers, and Mason Natural (“Notice”). A true and correct copy of the 60-Day Notice dated
7 December 16, 2016 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and is incorporated herein by reference.
8 More than 60 days have passed since the Notice was served on the Attorney General, public
9 enforcers, and Mason Natural and no designated governmental entity has filed a complaint
10 against Mason Natural with regard to the Covered Products or the alleged violations.

11 **1.6** ERC’s Notice and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Products exposes
12 persons in California to lead without first providing clear and reasonable warnings in violation
13 of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6. Mason Natural denies all material
14 allegations contained in the Notice and Complaint.

15 **1.7** The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle,
16 compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.
17 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute or
18 be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,
19 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, franchisees,
20 licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact, issue of law, or
21 violation of law.

22 **1.8** Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall
23 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in any
24 current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

25 **1.9** The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is the date on which it is entered as
26 a Judgment by this Court.

27 **2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

28 For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become

1 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter
2 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint, personal jurisdiction
3 over Mason Natural as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda
4 County, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final
5 resolution of all claims up through and including the Effective Date which were or could have
6 been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notice and Complaint.

7 **3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, REFORMULATION, TESTING AND WARNINGS**

8 **3.1** Beginning on the Effective Date, Mason Natural shall be permanently enjoined
9 from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, "Distributing into the State of
10 California", or directly selling in the State of California, any Covered Products which exposes a
11 person to a "Daily Lead Exposure Level" of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day unless it
12 meets the warning requirements under Section 3.2.

13 **3.1.1** As used in this Consent Judgment, the term "Distributing into the State
14 of California" shall mean to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in
15 California or to sell a Covered Product to a distributor that Mason Natural knows or has reason
16 to know will sell the Covered Product in California.

17 **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the "Daily Lead Exposure
18 Level" shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:
19 micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the
20 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings
21 of the product per day (using the largest number of servings in a recommended dosage
22 appearing on the product label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day.

23 **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

24 If Mason Natural is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, either of the two
25 following warnings must be utilized ("Warning"):

- 26 1. **WARNING:** This product contains a chemical known to the state of California to cause
27 birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- 28 2. **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including lead

1 which is [are] known to the State of California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other
2 reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

3 Effective August 30, 2018, if Mason Natural is required to provide a warning pursuant to
4 Section 3.1, the following warning must be utilized (“Warning”):

5 **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including lead which is
6 [are] known to the State of California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other
7 reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

8 Mason Natural shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning only if the “Daily Lead Exposure
9 Level” is greater than 15 micrograms of lead as determined pursuant to the quality control
10 methodology set forth in Section 3.4.

11 The Warning shall be securely affixed to or printed upon the container or label of each
12 Covered Product. In addition, for any Covered Product sold over Mason Natural’s website, the
13 Warning shall appear on Mason Natural’s checkout page on its website for California consumers
14 identifying any Covered Product and also appear prior to completing checkout on Mason
15 Natural’s website when a California delivery address is indicated for any purchase of any
16 Covered Product.

17 The Warning shall be at least the same size as the largest of any other health or safety
18 warnings also appearing on its website or on the label or container of Mason Natural’s product
19 packaging and the word “**WARNING**” shall be in all capital letters and in bold print. No
20 statements contradicting or conflicting with the Warning shall accompany the Warning.

21 Mason Natural must display the above Warning with such conspicuousness, as compared
22 with other words, statements, design of the label, container, or on its website, as applicable, to
23 render the Warning likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary
24 conditions of purchase or use of the product.

25 **3.3 Reformulated Covered Products**

26 A Reformulated Covered Product is one for which the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” is no
27 greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day as determined by the quality control methodology
28 described in Section 3.4.

1 **3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology**

2 **3.4.1** Beginning within one year of the Effective Date, Mason Natural shall
3 arrange for lead testing of the Covered Products at least once a year for a minimum of five
4 consecutive years by arranging for testing of five randomly selected samples of each of the
5 Covered Products, in the form intended for sale to the end-user, which Mason Natural intends
6 to sell or is manufacturing for sale in California, directly selling to a consumer in California or
7 “Distributing into the State of California.” If tests conducted pursuant to this Section
8 demonstrate that no Warning is required for a Covered Product during each of five consecutive
9 years, then the testing requirements of this Section will no longer be required as to that Covered
10 Product. However, if during or after the five-year testing period, Mason Natural changes
11 ingredient suppliers for any of the Covered Products and/or reformulates any of the Covered
12 Products, Mason Natural shall test that Covered Product annually for at least four (4)
13 consecutive years after such change is made. The testing requirement does not apply to any
14 Covered Product for which Mason has provided the Warning specified in Section 3.2.

15 **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the “Daily Lead Exposure Level,” the highest
16 lead detection result of the five (5) randomly selected samples of the Covered Products will be
17 controlling.

18 **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed using a
19 laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate
20 for the method used, including limit of detection, qualification, accuracy, and precision that
21 meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (“ICP-MS”)
22 achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.010 mg/kg or any other testing
23 method subsequently agreed to in writing by the Parties and approved by the Court through
24 entry of a modified consent judgment.

25 **3.4.4** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an
26 independent third party laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory
27 Accreditation Program or an independent third-party laboratory that is registered with the
28 United States Food & Drug Administration.

1 **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Mason Natural's ability to
2 conduct, or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Products, including
3 the raw materials used in their manufacture.

4 **3.4.6** Within thirty (30) days of ERC's written request, Mason Natural shall
5 deliver lab reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Mason Natural shall retain all test
6 results and documentation for a period of five years from the date of each test.

7 **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

8 **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement payments,
9 attorney's fees, and costs, Mason Natural shall make a total payment of \$87,500.00 ("Total
10 Settlement Amount") to ERC within 10 business days of the Effective Date ("Due Date").
11 Mason Natural shall make this payment by wire transfer to ERC's escrow account, for which
12 ERC will give Mason Natural the necessary account information. The Total Settlement
13 Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

14 **4.2** \$29,088.20 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and
15 Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$21,816.15) of the civil penalty to
16 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") for deposit in the Safe
17 Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety
18 Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$7,272.05) of the civil penalty.

19 **4.3** \$4,498.81 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable
20 costs incurred in bringing this action.

21 **4.4** \$21,816.11 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment
22 ("ASP"), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, sections 3203, subdivision (d) and
23 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as allegedly
24 caused by Mason Natural in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support ERC's
25 overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in dietary
26 supplement products in California. ERC's activities have had, and will continue to have, a direct
27 and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers will be benefitted
28 by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to lead in dietary supplements and/or by

1 providing clear and reasonable warnings to California consumers prior to ingestion of the
2 products.

3 Based on a review of past years' actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of
4 activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen
5 enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those
6 activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing dietary
7 supplement products that may contain lead and are sold to California consumers. This work
8 includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent judgments and settlements to
9 ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations thereunder, with a specific focus on
10 those judgments and settlements concerning lead. This work also includes investigation of new
11 companies that ERC does not obtain any recovery through settlement or judgment; (2)
12 VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (10-20%): maintaining ERC's Voluntary
13 Compliance Program by acquiring products from companies, developing and maintaining a case
14 file, testing products from these companies, providing the test results and supporting
15 documentation to the companies, and offering guidance in warning or implementing a self-
16 testing program for lead in dietary supplement products; and (3) "GOT LEAD" PROGRAM (up
17 to 5%): maintaining ERC's "Got Lead?" Program which reduces the numbers of contaminated
18 products that reach California consumers by providing access to free testing for lead in dietary
19 supplement products (Products submitted to the program are screened for ingredients which are
20 suspected to be contaminated, and then may be purchased by ERC, catalogued, sent to a
21 qualified laboratory for testing, and the results shared with the consumer that submitted the
22 product).

23 ERC shall be fully accountable in that it will maintain adequate records to document and
24 will be able to demonstrate how the ASP funds will be spent and can assure that the funds are
25 being spent only for the proper, designated purposes described in this Consent Judgment. ERC
26 shall provide the Attorney General, within thirty days of any request, copies of documentation
27 demonstrating how such funds have been spent.

1 **4.5** \$10,950.00 shall be distributed to Michael Freund & Associates as
2 reimbursement of ERC's attorney's fees, \$385.00 shall be distributed to Ryan Hoffman as
3 reimbursement of ERC's attorney's fees while \$20,761.88 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-
4 house legal fees. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and
5 costs.

6 **4.6** In the event that Mason Natural fails to remit the Total Settlement Amount owed
7 under Section 4 of this Consent Judgment on or before the Due Date, Mason Natural shall be
8 deemed to be in material breach of its obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC shall
9 provide written notice of the delinquency to Mason Natural via electronic mail. If Mason
10 Natural fails to deliver the Total Settlement Amount within five (5) days from the written
11 notice, the Total Settlement Amount shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment interest rate
12 provided in the California Code of Civil Procedure section 685.010. Additionally, Mason
13 Natural agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorney's fees and costs for any efforts to collect the
14 payment due under this Consent Judgment.

15 **5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

16 **5.1** This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by
17 written stipulation of the Parties or pursuant to Section 5.4 and (ii) upon entry by the Court of a
18 modified consent judgment.

19 **5.2** If Mason Natural seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1, then
20 Mason Natural must provide written notice to ERC of its intent ("Notice of Intent"). If ERC
21 seeks to meet and confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent, then ERC
22 must provide written notice to Mason Natural within thirty (30) days of receiving the Notice of
23 Intent. If ERC notifies Mason Natural in a timely manner of ERC's intent to meet and confer,
24 then the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith as required in this Section. The Parties
25 shall meet in person or via telephone within thirty (30) days of ERC's notification of its intent
26 to meet and confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if ERC disputes the proposed
27 modification, ERC shall provide to Mason Natural a written basis for its position. The Parties
28 shall continue to meet and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to resolve any

1 remaining disputes. Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing to different
2 deadlines for the meet-and-confer period.

3 **5.3** In the event that Mason Natural initiates or otherwise requests a modification
4 under Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or application of the
5 Consent Judgment, Mason Natural shall reimburse ERC its costs and reasonable attorney's fees
6 for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and arguing the motion or
7 application. In the event that ERC initiates or otherwise requests a modification under Section
8 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or application of the Consent
9 Judgment, ERC shall reimburse Mason Natural its costs and reasonable attorney's fees for the
10 time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and arguing the motion or application.

11 **5.4** Where the meet-and-confer process does not lead to a joint motion or
12 application in support of a modification of the Consent Judgment, then either Party may seek
13 judicial relief on its own.

14 **6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT** 15 **JUDGMENT**

16 **6.1** This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or terminate
17 this Consent Judgment.

18 **6.2** If ERC alleges that any Covered Product fails to qualify as a Reformulated
19 Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall
20 inform Mason Natural in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including information
21 sufficient to permit Mason Natural to identify the Covered Products at issue. Mason Natural
22 shall, within thirty (30) days following such notice, provide ERC with testing information, from
23 an independent third-party laboratory meeting the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4,
24 demonstrating Mason Natural's compliance with the Consent Judgment, if warranted. The
25 Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter prior to ERC taking any further legal action.

26 **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

27 This Consent Judgment may apply to, be binding upon, and benefit the Parties and their
28 respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries,

1 divisions, franchisees, licensees, customers (excluding private labelers), distributors, wholesalers,
2 retailers, predecessors, successors, and assigns. This Consent Judgment shall have no
3 application to any Covered Product which is distributed or sold exclusively outside the State of
4 California and which is not used by California consumers.

5 **8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

6 **8.1** This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC,
7 on behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Mason Natural and its respective officers,
8 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers,
9 franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Mason Natural),
10 distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the
11 distribution chain of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any
12 of them (collectively, "Released Parties"). ERC hereby fully releases and discharges the
13 Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities,
14 damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted from
15 the handling, use, or consumption of the Covered Products, as to any alleged violation of
16 Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations arising from the failure to provide Proposition
17 65 warnings on the Covered Products regarding lead up to and including the Effective Date.

18 **8.2** ERC on its own behalf only, and Mason Natural on its own behalf only, further
19 waive and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or
20 statements made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition
21 65 in connection with the Notice and Complaint up through and including the Effective Date,
22 provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party's right to seek to
23 enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

24 **8.3** It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts
25 alleged in the Notice and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Products, will develop or be
26 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Mason Natural on behalf of itself only,
27 acknowledge that this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such
28 claims up through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore.

1 ERC and Mason Natural acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 above
2 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to
3 any such unknown claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

4 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE
5 CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER
6 FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF
7 KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS
8 OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

9 ERC on behalf of itself only, and Mason Natural on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and
10 understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code
11 section 1542.

12 **8.4** Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to
13 constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by the Released Parties regarding alleged exposures
14 to lead in the Covered Products as set forth in the Notice and Complaint.

15 **8.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or
16 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Mason
17 Natural's products other than the Covered Products.

18 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

19 In the event that any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are held by a court to be
20 unenforceable, the validity of the remaining enforceable provisions shall not be adversely affected.

21 **10. GOVERNING LAW**

22 The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by and construed in
23 accordance with the laws of the State of California.

24 **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

25 All notices required to be given to either Party to this Consent Judgment by the other shall
26 be in writing and sent to the following agents listed below via first-class mail. Courtesy copies via
27 email may also be sent.

28 **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:**

Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center
3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92108

1 Tel: (619) 500-3090
2 Email: chris_erc501c3@yahoo.com

3 With a copy to:
4 Michael Freund
5 Ryan Hoffman
6 Michael Freund & Associates
7 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105
8 Berkeley, CA 94704
9 Telephone: (510) 540-1992
10 Facsimile: (510) 540-5543

11 **MASON VITAMINS, INC, individually and doing**
12 **business as MASON NATURAL, ITO EN (NORTH AMERICA) INC.,**
13 **individually and doing business as MASON NATURAL,**
14 **MASON DISTRIBUTORS, INC., individually and**
15 **doing business as MASON NATURAL**

16 Gary Pigott, President/ COO
17 Mason Vitamins, Inc.
18 15750 NW 59 Avenue
19 Miami Lakes, FL 33014
20 Direct: 1-305-428-6801

21 With a copy to:
22 Michael C. Marsh
23 Jennifer Glasser
24 Akerman LLP
25 Three Brickell City Centre
26 98 Southeast Seventh Street, Suite 1100
27 Miami, FL 33131
28 Telephone: (305) 374-5600
Facsimile: (305) 374-5095

29 **COURT APPROVAL**

30 **11.1** Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a
31 Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this
32 Consent Judgment.

33 **11.2** If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment,
34 the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible

1 prior to the hearing on the motion.

2 **11.3** If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be
3 void and have no force or effect.

4 **12. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

5 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be
6 deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be construed to be as valid
7 as the original signature.

8 **13. DRAFTING**

9 The terms of this Consent Judgment have been reviewed by the respective counsel for each
10 Party prior to its signing, and each Party has had an opportunity to fully discuss the terms and
11 conditions with legal counsel. The Parties agree that, in any subsequent interpretation and
12 construction of this Consent Judgment, no inference, assumption, or presumption shall be drawn,
13 and no provision of this Consent Judgment shall be construed against any Party, based on the fact
14 that one of the Parties and/or one of the Parties' legal counsel prepared and/or drafted all or any
15 portion of the Consent Judgment. It is conclusively presumed that all of the Parties participated
16 equally in the preparation and drafting of this Consent Judgment.

17 **14. GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES**

18 If a dispute arises with respect to either Party's compliance with the terms of this Consent
19 Judgment entered by the Court, the Parties shall meet and confer in person, by telephone, and/or in
20 writing and endeavor to resolve the dispute in an amicable manner. No action or motion may be
21 filed in the absence of such a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute beforehand.

22 **15. ENFORCEMENT**

23 ERC may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda
24 County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action
25 brought by ERC to enforce this Consent Judgment, ERC may seek whatever fines, costs,
26 penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.
27 To the extent the failure to comply with the Consent Judgment constitutes a violation of
28 Proposition 65 or other laws, ERC shall not be limited to enforcement of this Consent Judgment,

1 but may seek in another action whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are provided by
2 law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

3 **16. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION**

4 **16.1** This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and
5 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, and any and all
6 prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related hereto. No
7 representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have
8 been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to
9 herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.

10 **16.2** Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully
11 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

12 **17. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF**
13 **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

14 This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The
15 Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed
16 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

17 (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and
18 equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint that the matter has
19 been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and

20 (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section
21 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

22 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

23 Dated: 5/4, 2017

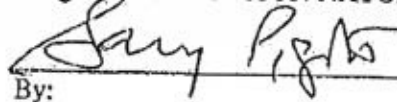
24 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
25 CENTER, INC.

26 By: 
27 Chris Hopwood, Executive Director

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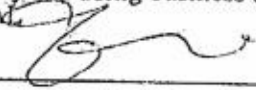
Dated: 5/4/1, 2017

MASON VITAMINS, INC, individually and
doing business as MASON NATURAL


By: _____
Its:

Dated: 5/8/1, 2017

ITO EN (NORTH AMERICA) INC.,
individually and doing business as MASON
NATURAL


By: _____
Its:

Dated: 5/4/1, 2017

MASON DISTRIBUTORS, INC.,
individually and doing business as MASON
NATURAL


By: _____
Its:

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

2 Dated: 5/9/, 2017

MICHAEL FREUND & ASSOCIATES

3
4 By: mi
5 Michael Freund
6 Ryan Hoffinan
7 Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental
8 Research Center, Inc.

9 Dated: May 9, 2017

10 AKERMAN LLP
11 By: Karen Ciccone
12 Karen Ciccone
13 Attorney for Defendants Mason Vitamins,
14 Inc., individually and doing business as
15 Mason Natural, ITO EN (North America)
16 Inc., individually and doing business as
17 Mason Natural, and Mason Distributors,
18 Inc., individually and doing business as
19 Mason Natural

20 ORDER AND JUDGMENT

21 Based upon the Parties' Stipulation, and good cause appearing, this Consent Judgment is
22 approved and Judgment is hereby entered according to its terms.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.

24 Dated: _____, 2017

25 _____
26 Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT A

Michael Freund & Associates

1919 Addison Street, Suite 105
Berkeley, CA 94704
Voice: 510.540.1992 • Fax: 510.540.5543

Michael Freund, Esq.
Ryan Hoffman, Esq.

OF COUNSEL:
Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.

December 16, 2016

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.
(PROPOSITION 65)**

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC's Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

ERC has identified violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d), ERC intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

General Information about Proposition 65. A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

Alleged Violators. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

**Mason Vitamins, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural
ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural
Mason Distributors, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural**

Consumer Products and Listed Chemical. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

- 1. Mason Natural Colon Herbal Cleanser - Lead**
- 2. Mason Natural Fat Burner Plus Super Citrimax with Chromium Picolinate, 5-HTP & Thermogenic Herbals - Lead**
- 3. Mason Natural Coral Calcium 1500mg Plus Vitamin D & Magnesium - Lead**
- 4. Mason Natural Garcinia Cambogia 500 mg - Lead**
- 5. Mason Natural Coral Calcium 1000mg - Lead**
- 6. Mason Natural Spirulina Blue-Green Algae 500 MG - Lead**
- 7. Mason Natural Coral Calcium 1500mg Plus Vitamin D & Magnesium- Lead**
- 8. Mason Natural Fat Burner Plus Super Citrimax - Lead**
- 9. Mason Natural Echinacea 500 MG - Lead**

10. Mason Natural Double Strength +D Glucosamine Chondroitin Bone Health Plus Vitamin D³ 2000iu - Lead

11. Mason Natural Glucosamine Sulfate 500 MG - Lead

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.

It should be noted that ERC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

Route of Exposure. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least December 16, 2013, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemical. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons handling and/or using these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violators to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, as well as an expensive and time consuming litigation.

ERC has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention at the law office address and telephone number indicated on the letterhead or at freund1@aol.com.**

Sincerely,



Michael Freund

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Mason Vitamins, Inc. individually and doing business as Mason Natural, ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural, Mason Distributors, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural, and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Mason Vitamins, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural, ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural, and Mason Distributors, Inc., individually and doing business as Mason Natural

I, Michael Freund, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, 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 that 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. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California 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.

Dated: December 16, 2016



Michael Freund

CERTIFICATE 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 within entitled action. My business address is 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

On December 16, 2016, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; 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 to the party listed below and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current CEO or President
Mason Vitamins, Inc., individually and
doing business as Mason Natural
15750 NW 59th Avenue
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Current CEO or President
Mason Distributors, Inc., individually and
doing business as Mason Natural
15750 NW 59th Avenue
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Current CEO or President
ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually
and doing business as Mason Natural
20 Jay Street, Suite 530
Brooklyn, NY 11201

CorpDirect Agents, Inc.
(Mason Distributors, Inc., individually
and doing business as Mason Natural's
Registered Agent for Service of Process)
1200 South Pine Island Road
Plantation, FL 33324

NRAI Services, Inc.
(Mason Vitamins, Inc., individually and
doing business as Mason Natural's
Registered Agent for Service of Process)
1200 South Pine Island Road
Plantation, FL 33324

The Corporation Trust Company
(ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually
and doing business as Mason Natural's Registered
Agent for Service of Process)
Corporation Trust Center
1209 Orange Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

CT Corporation System
(ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually
and doing business as Mason Natural's Registered
Agent for Service of Process)
1200 South Pine Island Road
Plantation, FL 33324

Rona Tison
(ITO EN (North America) Inc., individually
and doing business as Mason Natural's Registered
Agent for Service of Process)
19334 Spring Drive
Sonoma, CA 95476

On December 16, 2016, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1)** were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice> :

Office of the California Attorney General
Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On December 16, 2016, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to each of the parties listed below:

Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

December 16, 2016

Page 5

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

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator
Lassen County
220 S. Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney
Monterey County
1200 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney
Napa County
931 Parkway Mall
Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

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

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

Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney
San Francisco County
732 Brannan Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
gregory.alker@sfgov.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney
San Joaquin County
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202
Stockton, CA 95202
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

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

Yen Dang, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
Santa Clara County
70 W Hedding St
San Jose, CA 95110
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney
Sonoma County
600 Administration Dr
Sonoma, CA 95403
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

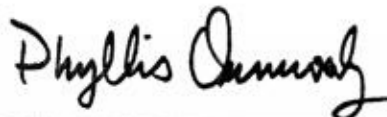
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney
Tulare County
221 S Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 95370
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
Ventura County
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

Jeff W. Reising, District Attorney
Yolo County
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695
cfepd@yolocounty.org

On December 16, 2016, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on December 16, 2016, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



Phyllis Dunwoody

Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

December 16, 2016

Page 6

Service List

District Attorney, Alameda County
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine
County
P.O. Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador
County
708 Court Street, Suite 202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte
County
25 County Center Drive, Suite
245
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Calaveras
County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney, Colusa
County
346 Fifth Street Suite 101
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte
County
450 H Street, Room 171
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado
County
515 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno
County
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn
County
Post Office Box 430
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt
County
825 5th Street 4th Floor
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial
County
940 West Main Street, Ste 102
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Inyo County
230 W. Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514

District Attorney, Kern County
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings
County
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles
County
210 West Temple Street, Suite
18000
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera
County
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Marin
County
3501 Civic Center Drive,
Room 130
San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mariposa
County Post Office Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendocino
County
Post Office Box 1000
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced
County
550 W. Main Street
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc
County
204 S Court Street, Room 202
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono
County
Post Office Box 617
Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Nevada
County
201 Commercial Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney, Orange
County
401 West Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney, Placer
County
10810 Justice Center Drive,
Ste 240
Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney, Plumas
County
520 Main Street, Room 404
Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney, San Benito
County
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney, San
Bernardino County
316 N. Mountain View
Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-
0004

District Attorney, San Diego
County
330 West Broadway, Suite
1300
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney, San Mateo
County
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Santa
Barbara County
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

District Attorney, Santa Cruz
County
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

District Attorney, Shasta
County
1355 West Street
Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra
County
PO Box 457
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou
County
Post Office Box 986
Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano
County
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500
Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus
County
832 12th Street, Ste 300
Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter
County
446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama
County
Post Office Box 519
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity
County
Post Office Box 310
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne
County
423 N. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba
County
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152
Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's
Office
City Hall East
200 N. Main Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Diego City Attorney's
Office
1200 3rd Avenue, Ste 1620
San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco, City Attorney
City Hall, Room 234
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

San Jose City Attorney's
Office
200 East Santa Clara Street,
16th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

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. Please refer to the statute and OEHHA's 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 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 say 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 Periods. 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.

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 private party may not file an action against the alleged violator for these exposures, or recover in a settlement any payment in lieu of penalties any reimbursement for costs and attorney's fees, if the notice was served on or after October 5, 2013, and the alleged violator has done *all* of the following within 14 days of being served notice:

- Corrected the alleged violation;
- Agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5B500 (subject to change as noted below) to the private party within 30 days; and
- Notified the private party serving the notice in writing that the violation has been corrected.

The written notification to the private-party must include a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form completed by the alleged violator as directed in the notice. On April 1, 2019, and every five years thereafter, the dollar amount of the civil penalty will be adjusted by the Judicial Council based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index. The Judicial Council will publish the dollar amount of the adjusted civil penalty at each five-year interval, together with the date of the next scheduled adjustment.

An alleged violator may satisfy these conditions only one time for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility or on the same premises. The satisfaction of these conditions does not prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney of a city of greater than 750,000 population, or any full-time city prosecutor with the consent of the district attorney, from filing an enforcement action against an alleged violator. The amount of any civil penalty for a violation shall be reduced to reflect any payment made by the alleged violator for the same alleged violation to a private-party.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included with this notice and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

The notice is reproduced here:

Date: December 16, 2016

Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party: Environmental Research Center, Inc.

Address: 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108

Phone number: 619-500-3090

SPECIAL COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE

PROOF OF COMPLIANCE

You are receiving this form because the Noticing Party listed above has alleged that you are violating California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 (Prop. 65).

The Noticing Party may not bring any legal proceedings against you for the alleged violation checked below if:

- 1. You have actually taken the corrective steps that you have certified in this form**
- 2. The Noticing Party has received this form at the address shown above, accurately completed by you, postmarked within 14 days of your receiving this notice**
- 3. The Noticing Party receives the required \$500 penalty payment from you at the address shown above postmarked within 30 days of your receiving this notice.**
- 4. This is the first time you have submitted a Proof of Compliance for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility on the same premises.**

PART 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOTICING PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR THE NOTICING PARTY

The alleged violation is for an exposure to: (check one)

Alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent on-site consumption is permitted by law.

A chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises for immediate consumption on or off premises to the extent: (1) the chemical was not intentionally added; and (2) the chemical 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.

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.

Chemicals known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking noncommercial vehicles.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1. You have no potential liability under California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 if your business has nine (9) or fewer employees.**
- 2. Using this form will NOT prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, or a prosecutor in whose jurisdiction the violation is alleged to have occurred from filing an action over the same alleged violations, and that in any such action, the amount of civil penalty shall be reduced to reflect any payment made at this time.**

Date: December 16, 2016

Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party: Environmental Research Center, Inc.
Address: 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108
Phone number: 619-500-3090

PART 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ALLEGED VIOLATOR OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Certification of Compliance

Accurate completion of this form will demonstrate that you are now in compliance with California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 for the alleged violation listed above. You must complete and submit the form below to the Noticing Party at the address shown above, postmarked within 14 days of you receiving this notice.

I hereby agree to pay, within 30 days of completion of this notice, a civil penalty of \$500 to the Noticing Party only and certify that I have complied with Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by (check only one of the following):

- Posting a warning or warnings about the alleged exposure that complies with the law, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises;
- Posting the warning or warnings demanded in writing by the Noticing Party, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately its placement on my premises; OR
- Eliminating the alleged exposure, and attaching a statement accurately describing how the alleged exposure has been eliminated.

Certification

My statements on this form, and on any attachments to it, are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I have carefully read the instructions to complete this form. I understand that if I make a false statement on this form, I may be subject to additional penalties under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

Signature of alleged violator or authorized representative Date

Name and title of signatory

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 2014

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>.

² See Section 25501(a)(4).

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.

HISTORY

1. New Appendix A filed 4-22-97; operative 4-22-97 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(d) (Register 97, No. 17).
2. Amendment filed 1-7-2003; operative 2-6-2003 (Register 2003, No. 2).
3. Change without regulatory effect renumbering title 22, section 12903 and Appendix A to title 27, section 25903 and Appendix A, including amendment of appendix, filed 6-18-2008 pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations (Register 2008, No. 25).
4. Amendment filed 11-19-2012; operative 12-19-2012 (Register 2012, No. 47).
5. Amendment of appendix and Note filed 11-19-2014; operative 1-1-2015 (Register 2014, No. 47).

This database is current through 9/18/15 Register 2015, No. 38

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