

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Lead in Journals and Planners

May 9, 2011

This Notice of Violation 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 of Violation is provided by the Center for Environmental Health ("CEH"), 2201 Broadway, Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health and supporting environmentally sound practices. Charlie Pizarro is the Associate Director of and a responsible individual within CEH.

Description of Violation:

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least May 9, 2008, and are continuing to this day.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice of Violation covers the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The names of the listed chemicals involved in these violations are lead and lead compounds ("Lead"). Exposures to Lead occur from use of the products identified in this Notice.
- Types of Products: The specific types of products causing these violations are journals and planners. Non-exclusive examples of these specific types of products are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to Lead. Use of the products identified in this Notice results in human exposures to Lead. Lead is found in the products in the leather, vinyl or imitation leather materials that are used as covers on the products. The routes of exposure for the violations are direct ingestion when consumers (including children) place the products in their mouths; ingestion via hand to mouth contact after consumers touch or handle the products; and dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers touch or handle the products. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Lead.

Resolution of Noticed Claims:

- Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against each of the alleged violators 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 Lead 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 of the alleged violators 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.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH through its counsel Howard Hirsch (hhirsch at lexlawgroup.com) at Lexington Law Group, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 759-4111.

EXHIBIT 1
May 9, 2011 Notice of Violation
Lead in Journals and Planners
Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products

Names and Addresses of Responsible Parties	Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products	Item or SKU # or Further Description
<p>Barnes & Noble, Inc. 122 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10011</p> <p>Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Inc. 122 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10011</p>	<p>Miquelrius Soft Bound Medium Journal in Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 9-780641-026904 ISBN No. 978-0-641-02690-0</p>
<p>Blue Sky The Color of Imagination, LLC 15991 Red Hill Avenue Suite 101 Tustin, CA 92780</p> <p>Blue Sky Distribution 3450 Roy Orr Blvd. Grand Prairie, TX 75050</p>	<p>Blue Sky Notes Book in Milano Green Kensington Strap</p>	<p>SKU No. 8-47037-11238-8 Item No. 11238 DPCI No. 081-01-1921</p>
<p>Miquel-Rius, USA Ltd. 22 South Commerce Way, #12 Bethlehem, PA 18017</p>	<p>Miquelrius Soft Bound Medium Journal in Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 9-780641-026904 ISBN No. 978-0-641-02690-0</p>
<p>Office Depot, Inc. 6600 North Military Trail Boca Raton, FL 33496</p> <p>Swinton Avenue Trading Ltd., Inc. 6600 North Military Trail Boca Raton, FL 33496</p>	<p>Foray Faux Leather Journal in Red</p>	<p>SKU No. 7-35854-74670-4 Item No. 113-105</p>

<p>Staples, Inc. 500 Staples Drive Framingham, MA 01702</p> <p>Staples the Office Superstore, LLC 500 Staples Drive Framingham, MA 01702</p>	<p>Mini Faux Leather Pad Folio in Green</p>	<p>SKU No. 7-18103-14568-8</p>
<p>Target Corporation 1000 Nicollet Mall, TPS-2672 Minneapolis, MN 55403</p>	<p>Blue Sky Notes Book in Milano Green Kensington Strap</p>	<p>SKU No. 8-47037-11238-8 Item No. 11238 DPCI No. 081-01-1921</p>

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

I, Howard Hirsch, 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.

May 9, 2011



Howard Hirsch
Attorney for CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California; my business address is 1627 Irving Street, San Francisco, California 94122. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause and my electronic notification address is jbanister@lexlawgroup.com.

On May 9, 2011, I served true copies of the following documents:

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

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and

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

On this date, I deposited fully prepaid and sealed envelopes containing the above-mentioned documents with the United States Postal Service, addressed to the following individuals:

Please see attached service list.

Also on this date, I transmitted via electronic mail the documents listed above to the electronic mail addresses set forth below at 2:25 p.m. on May 9, 2011:

Lon Wixson, Deputy District
Attorney
Contra Costa County
900 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553
lwixson@contracostada.org

Karyn Sinunu-Towery,
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Modesto, CA 95354
Prop65@standa.org

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jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

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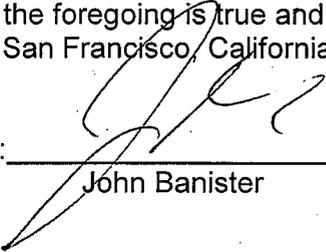
Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney Ventura
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800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

Rod Pacheco, District Attorney
Riverside County
4075 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Prop65@rivcoda.org

The transmission was reported as complete and without error.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on May 9, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

Signed: _____


John Banister

SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alameda County
1225 Fallon Street, Rm. 900
Oakland, CA 94612

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

District Attorney of Amador County
708 Court Street, Ste. 202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County
Administration Building
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney of Calaveras
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891 Mountain Ranch Road
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District Attorney of Colusa County
547 Market Street, Ste. 102
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Del Norte County
450 H Street, Ste. 171
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of El Dorado
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515 Main Street
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District Attorney of Fresno County
2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney of Glenn County
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825 5th Street
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939 Main Street, Ste. 102
El Centro, CA 92243

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Independence, CA 93526

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1215 Truxtun Avenue
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Ukiah, CA 95482

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204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

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District Attorney of Nevada County
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Santa Ana, CA 92701

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10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste.
240
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Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney of Sacramento
County
901 "G" Street
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District Attorney of San Benito
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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1200 Third Avenue, Ste. 1620
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San Francisco City Attorney's
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San Jose City Attorney's Office
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

California Attorney General's Office
Attention: Proposition 65
Coordinator and Robert Thomas
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