# SUPPLEMENTAL 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

**DATE:** October 28, 2011

**TO:** Kwai Kong, Chief Executive Officer – Bell Automotive Products, Inc.
California Attorney General's Office;
District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties; and
City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento and Los Angeles

**FROM:** Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E.

## I. INTRODUCTION

My name is Anthony E. Held. I hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Engineering and I am a registered professional engineer in the State of California. I am a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. I seek to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items. This Notice is provided to the public agencies listed above pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65") and supplements the 60-Day Notice of Violation sent on June 29, 2011. As noted above, notice is also being provided to the alleged violator, Bell Automotive Products, Inc. (the "Violator"). The violations covered by this Notice consist of the product exposures, routes of exposure, and types of harm potentially resulting from exposure to the toxic chemical ("listed chemical") identified below, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Product Exposure: | See Section VII. Exhibit A |
| Listed Chemical: | Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate ("DEHP") |
| Routes of Exposure: | Ingestion, Dermal, Inhalation |
| Types of Harm: | Birth Defects and Other Reproductive Harm |

## II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (PRODUCT EXPOSURE)

The specific types of products that are causing consumer and occupational exposures in violation of Proposition 65, and that are covered by this Notice, are listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A in Section VII below. All products within the types covered by this Notice shall be referred to hereinafter as the "products." The sales of these products in California dating as far back as October 28, 2008 are subject to this Notice. As a result of the sales of these products, exposures to the listed chemical have been occurring without clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposure to the listed chemical, resulting from contact with the products, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the toxic chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the products.

California citizens, through the act of buying, acquiring or utilizing the products, are exposed to the listed chemical. Infants, children and/or women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemical when they, among other activities, place the product, or a portion thereof, into their mouth, or otherwise suck, lick, teethe and/or bite the product thereby allowing the listed chemical to leach out of the substrate directly into their mouths. Infants, children and/or women of childbearing age ingest the listed chemical when they, among other activities, touch the products and transfer the listed chemical from the products to their mouths through hand-to-mouth activities that may continue to occur for a significant period after contact with the products stops. Infants, children and/or women of childbearing age are exposed to the listed chemical through direct dermal contact when they, among other activities, handle, touch or otherwise use the products. Infants, children and/or women of childbearing age inhale the listed chemical when, among other activities, they breathe indoor air with airborne particles that are released from the products containing the listed chemical.

## III. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to me through my counsel's office at the following address:

Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E.
c/o Josh Voorhees
The Chanler Group
Parker Plaza
2560 Ninth Street, Suite 214
Berkeley, CA 94710
Telephone: (510) 848-8880

## IV. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For general information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, please feel free to contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's ("OEHHA") Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900. For the Violator's reference, I have attached a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" which has been prepared by OEHHA.

## V. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, I intend to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the alleged Violator unless such Violator enters into a binding written agreement to: (1) recall products already sold or undertake best efforts to ensure that the requisite health hazard warnings are provided to those who have received such products; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the DEHP exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). If the alleged Violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resorting to time-consuming and expensive litigation, please feel free to contact my counsel identified in Section III above. It should be noted that neither my counsel nor I can: (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 this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with me will resolve my claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

## VI. ADDITIONAL NOTICE INFORMATION

Identified below are specific examples of products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for purchase or use in California that are within the categories or types of offending products covered by this Notice. Based on publicly available information, the retailers, distributors and/or manufacturers of the examples within the categories or types of products are also provided below. I believe and allege that the sale of the offending products also has occurred without the requisite Proposition 65 "clear and reasonable warnings" at one or more locations and/or via other means including, but not limited to, transactions made over-the-counter, business-to-business, through the internet and/or via a catalog by the Violator and other distributors and retailers of the manufacturer.

| *Product** | *Retailer(s)* | *Manufacturer(s)/Distributor(s)* |
|---|---|---|
| Bell Glove Box Envelope, #33207-A (#0 76027 33207 3) | Big Lots<br>Alameda County, Northern California | Bell Automotive Products, Inc. |
| Bell Seat Skin Universal Bucket Seat Cover, #55442-A, #1437 (#0 76027 55442 0) | Amazon.com, Inc.<br>(http://www.amazon.com) | Bell Automotive Products, Inc. |

## VII. EXHIBIT A

| *Product Category/Type* | *Such As** | *Toxins* |
|---|---|---|
| Pouch Organizers containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate | Bell Glove Box Envelope, #33207-A (#0 76027 33207 3) | Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate |
| Automotive Seat Covers containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate | Bell Seat Skin Universal Bucket Seat Cover, #55442-A, #1437 (#0 76027 55442 0) | Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate |

*The specifically identified examples of the types of products that are subject to this Notice are for the recipient's benefit to assist in its investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposure to the listed chemical from other items within the product categories/types listed in Exhibit A. It is important to note that these examples are not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product of the types listed under "Product Category/Type" in Exhibit A. Further, it is this citizen's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to continue to conduct in good faith an investigation into other specific products within the types or categories described above that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the relevant period so as to ensure that the requisite toxic warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase.

# PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is Parker Plaza, 2560 Ninth Street, Suite 214, Berkeley, CA 94710.

On October 28, 2011, I served the following documents:

**SUPPLEMENTAL 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);**

**PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY;**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; AND**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (SERVED ONLY ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL)**

on the alleged Violator listed below via First Class Certified Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the entity listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Kwai Kong, Chief Executive Officer
Bell Automotive Products, Inc.
18940 North Pima Road, Suite 200
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

as well as providing copies of the notice to the public enforcers by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to each party listed below, and served as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Via 2nd Day Air Service by placing such envelope in a Federal Express Drop-Off Box:* | The Attorney General of the State of California; |
| *By placing each envelope in a United States Postal Service mailbox, first class postage prepaid:* | The District Attorney for Each of the 58 counties in California; and<br><br>The City Attorney for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento |

*A list of addresses for each of these recipients is attached.*

Executed on October 28, 2011 at Berkeley, California.

Caroline Liang

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Clifford A. Chanler, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the party identified in the notice has violated Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings;

2. I am the attorney for the noticing party;

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

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged Violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute;

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health and 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: October 28, 2011

Clifford A. Chanler