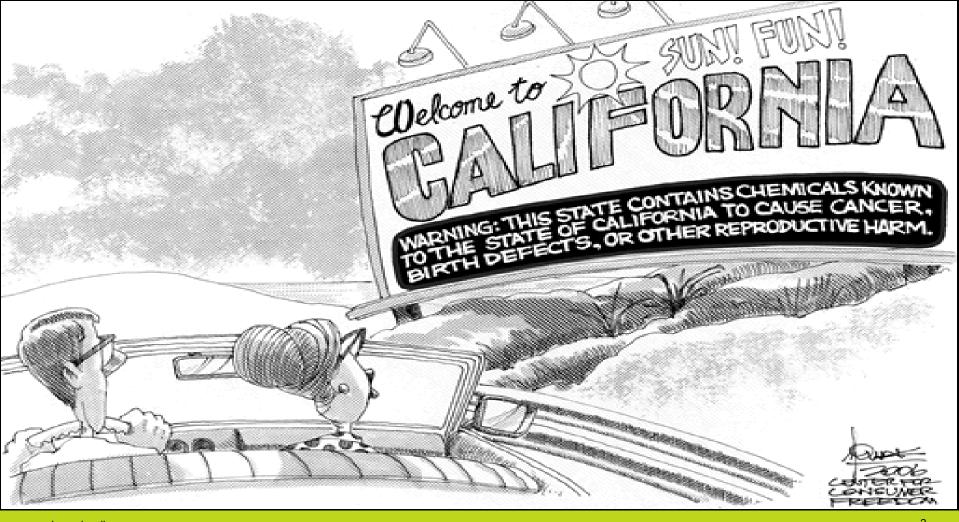


Intro to Proposition 65 What Ice Cream Companies Need to Know

Joseph A. Levitt April 10, 2018



Agenda

- 1. Proposition 65
- 2. Furfuryl alcohol
- 3. IDFA activities
- 4. Questions and answers



California's Proposition 65

- State law adopted in 1986
- Requires the state to revise and republish at least once per year the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity
- Over 900 chemicals listed
- Consumer right-to-know: requires a warning/notice in instances when a product contains a listed chemical (even if health experts conclude there is low likelihood of actual health risk)

California's Proposition 65

- Proposition 65 is a "right to know" law -- not a safety statute
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Proposition 65 involves conditions under which California residents must be warned
 - Retail sales
 - Internet sales



Proposition 65 Warning for Foods



WARNING: Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including acrylamide, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

Enforcement

- State can sue to enforce warning requirements
- Bounty hunter provision allows private parties to bring a law suit (and collect substantial sums of money)
- Violations of Proposition 65 are subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day per violation; 25% of any assessed penalty goes to a successful plaintiff
- Lawsuits usually result in consent decree settlements



Consent Decree Settlements

- Civil penalties and attorneys fees
- Target listed chemical levels
- Specified warning language
- Agreement between plaintiffs or the state and individual companies
- Many contain "opt-in" provisions
- Require annual monitoring to document compliance

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Defense - Naturally Occurring Exemption

- Prop 65 Excludes Naturally Occurring Substances:
 - Must be naturally present in the environment with <u>no intervention by</u> <u>man</u> (including processing)...company bears burden of proof
 - If listed substance can form naturally in the food, the processor shall at all times utilize quality control measures that reduce the substance "to the lowest level currently feasible"
- 27 CCR § 25501



Safe Harbor Exemption

- Warning is not required if within a safe harbor:
 - OEHHA publishes many safe harbors (but not yet for furfuryl alcohol)
 - Company (with help of expert toxicologist) can calculate safe harbor but bears risk OEHHA would disagree
- Safe harbor is reported in micrograms consumed/day



Defense - Safe Harbor Exemption

- Safe harbors can be established by OEHHA or industry
- For carcinogens, the risk level which represents no significant risk is less than a 1 in 100,000 increase in risk of cancer over 70 years, **except** where sound considerations of public health support an alternative level, as, for example:
 - "where chemicals in food are produced by cooking necessary to render the food palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination"
- 27 CCR 25703(b)(1)



Keep Your Eye on Coffee

- Coffee industry being sued for failing to warn of acrylamide
- Industry is arguing that acrylamide forms due to heating steps needed for food safety so 1:100,000 does not apply
- Proposed ruling against the coffee industry
- Stay tuned



2. Furfuryl Alcohol: Current Case Study

- OEHHA listed furfuryl alcohol under Proposition 65 on September 30, 2016, as a chemical known to the state to cause cancer for purposes of Proposition 65
- Sometimes intentionally added to foods as a flavoring
- Formed during heat processing Maillard reaction



Furfuryl Alcohol

- The compliance date for Proposition 65 warning regarding furfuryl alcohol – containing products was <u>September 30,</u> <u>2017</u>
- OEHHA has not established a safe harbor for furfuryl alcohol
- We know of one conservative furfuryl alcohol "safe harbor" (cancer).
- An alternative risk level for furfuryl alcohol in foods (i.e., higher) may also be developed.

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Recent Activity

- Bounty hunters must file 60day notice with state AG before initiating suit
- A total of six 60-day notices have been filed since the compliance date
 - Targeting primarily food retailers and manufacturers of potato based snacks and pretzels
 - Center for Environmental Health (CEH) has filed four of the six



Other Notable Listed Chemicals

- Lead (cocoa)
- Cadmium (cocoa)
- Acrylamide (baked inclusions like cookies and coffee)
- 4-MEI (caramel coloring and baked inclusions like cookies)
- Mercury (60-day notices from early 2000s on chocolate milk and yogurt)
- Propylene Oxide (flavoring)
- Ethylene Oxide (flavoring)

Intake Assessments

- Industry won a major victory when calculating exposures under Prop 65
- Geometric mean for intake
- Adjusted for food frequency
- Use average values for production lots



New California Regulation on Warnings

- In practice, for a food product that may expose consumers to both listed carcinogens and reproductive toxicants, the following warning content is deemed compliant by OEHHA:
- "WARNING: Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including [name of one or more chemicals], which is [are] known to the State of California to cause cancer and [name of one or more chemicals], which is [are] known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to <u>www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food</u>."
- When the warning is provided on the food product label, it must be set off from other surrounding information, enclosed in a box and comply with the content requirements

3. IDFA Activities

- Identified lab capable of conducting validated testing of furfuryl alcohol in dairy products
- Collected a spectrum of dairy product samples for testing
- Confidential results shared with IDFA members
- Provided preliminary assessment on Prop 65 compliance
 - Note the preliminary assessment was based on certain assumptions that may not be true for all member companies
 - Each company should consult their own legal counsel to determine warning obligation

IDFA Activities – Next Steps

- Conduct testing to determine at which manufacturing steps the furfuryl alcohol forms
- Evaluate results and potential mitigation strategies
- Consider developing alternative safe harbor
- Determine engagement and advocacy

What To Do If You Receive a Demand Letter?



- Bounty hunters are required to give companies notice of alleged violation
- Collect the facts
 - Do your products have furfuryl alcohol?
 - What levels?
- Work with legal counsel to develop best possible strategy
 - How do your numbers compare with safe harbor, if one exists?
 - Is it worthwhile to support the development of an alternative risk level?

New Ingredient Specification Sheet with Prop 65 Listed Chemical?



- Naturally-occurring exemption
 defense has a very high bar
- Safe harbor exemption based on the use level?
- Should I test the listed chemical in the finished product that is subjected to further processing (e.g., furfuryl alcohol is volatile and might evaporate during heating)

Conclusions

- Prop 65 is novel law
- Becoming more prevalent in the food industry
- Every company selling product in California needs to be aware
- Furfuryl Alcohol if current example
- IDFA is on the case!



Questions?



Joseph A. Levitt Partner Washington, D.C. joseph.levitt@hoganlovells.com +1 202 637 5759