Frequently Asked Questions

What is Proposition 65?

Proposition 65 is a law known as the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. This law requires businesses to provide a clear and reasonable warning before exposing consumers, employees and the general public to chemicals that are known to the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

Where does the law apply?

The Proposition 65 warning applies to exposures from consumer products, emissions from facilities and workplace exposures in the State of California. Proposition 65 is a “Right to Know” law, not a Safety Law. This means that Proposition 65 does not ban the use of any chemicals, but rather inform the public of its exposure to certain chemicals.

What chemicals are involved?

The entire list of chemicals known by the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm can be found at https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/proposition-65-list.

Am I at risk using a product with a Prop65 warning?

Proposition 65 warning does not mean that the product will actually cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm when used in its intended manner. However, employees and consumers should be made aware of and heed all product handling and usage warnings.

Why am I being warned?

If the possibility exists that a product containing a listed chemical will be purchased or received by a person in California, the business must provide a warning with its product. According to the regulations, the warning may appear:

- on a product or its packaging, or on written materials included with the product
- at the retail location by means of shelf labeling or signs
- prior to purchase on the internet or mail order sales, or the supplier must offer free return shipping.

Additional Resources:

https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/
https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/general-info/proposition-65-plain-language