



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Kristina Thayer, Ph.D., Director

December 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposition 65 – Information Letter
Warnings for items such as receipts and shipping labels which
accompany a consumer purchase

Dear Interested Parties,

OEHHA has received multiple questions about the appropriate Proposition 65 safe harbor warnings for receipts and shipping labels containing Bisphenol S (BPS). This letter explains that consumer product safe harbor warnings apply to items that accompany the purchase of consumer goods, such as receipts, labels, tags, product stickers, shipping materials, packaging, and instructions/manuals, whether the purchase is made in person or online.

A “consumer product” is any article or component “that is produced, distributed, or sold for the personal use, consumption, or enjoyment of a consumer.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25600.1(d).) A “consumer product exposure” can result from the storage, consumption, or foreseeable use of a product, but it can also result from the product’s “acquisition” or “purchase.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25600.1(e).)

In many cases, items that accompany the purchase of goods may be “consumer products” when “produced” or “distributed” for customers’ own use. But regardless of whether such items are *themselves* consumer products, any exposures they cause still result from a person’s “acquisition” or “purchase” of a consumer product and will thus be “consumer product exposures.” Businesses warning for BPS exposures from receipts and shipping labels used during consumer purchases can rely on the safe harbor warning regulations applicable to consumer products.

For all consumer product exposures, a retail seller is responsible for providing a warning under the circumstances specified in Title 27, Section 25600.2(e). Subsection (f) states that retail sellers have five business days to correct violations, when those businesses’ only knowledge of the exposure comes from a Notice of Violation, also called a “60-day Notice.”

A business is free to inform consumers that a particular warning is being given for a receipt or label, rather than an exposure caused by something else. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25601(e).) Indeed, OEHHA encourages this addition to the warning, since it

provides consumers with useful information about the source of the exposure. A safe harbor warning may also include a statement that people can reduce their exposure to BPS by washing their hands after handling the receipt or label. (*Id.*)¹

OEHHA also recommends that businesses consider BPS-free alternatives such as electronic receipts or phenol-free paper and labels.

If paper with BPS is used, it is important to note that a warning must be given *before* an exposure occurs. (Health & Saf. Code, § 25249.6.) This means that a warning for BPS in a receipt cannot be printed on the receipt itself. OEHHA is aware that some businesses have placed warnings on signs at or near the cash registers. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25602(a)(1).) This may be especially useful in situations in which customers can choose to accept an emailed receipt instead of taking a printed one.

OEHHA recommends that businesses concerned about BPS exposures from product receipts and shipping labels consider not only consumer product exposures, but also occupational exposures to any workers handling the receipts or labels.

Sincerely,



Kristina Thayer, Ph.D.
Director

¹ A business using a safe harbor warning can include supplemental content which “identifies the source of the exposure or provides information on how to avoid or reduce exposure to the identified chemical or chemicals,” without losing safe harbor protection. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25601(e).)