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What is California Proposition 65 (also known as “Prop 65”)?

[Proposition 65 \(Prop 65\)](#) requires businesses to provide warnings to Californians about significant exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. These chemicals can be in the products that Californians purchase, in their homes or workplaces, or that are released into the environment. By requiring that this information be provided, Prop 65 enables Californians to make informed decisions about their exposures to these chemicals.

Prop 65 also prohibits California businesses from knowingly discharging significant amounts of listed chemicals into sources of drinking water.

Prop 65 requires California to publish a [list of chemicals](#) known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. This list, which must be updated at least once a year, has grown to include approximately 900 chemicals since it was first published in 1987.

Proposition 65 became law in November 1986, when California voters approved it by a 63-37 percent margin. The official name of Proposition 65 is the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986.

How does HASCO determine which products receive this warning?

HASCO’s management team has reviewed our vast offerings and determined which products receive Prop 65 warnings based on our knowledge about the presence of one or more listed chemicals and the likely method of exposure for the product’s intended and foreseeable use.

Exposure level calculations are complex and due to the variety of products we sell, individual product exposure level calculations are considered prohibitive for our business model. Therefore, a conservative approach was taken without attempting to evaluate the exact levels of exposure in any given product. Out of an abundance of caution, HASCO provides the warning for all products that contain Prop 65 listed chemicals within its surface layer and are likely to be frequently handled. Because of this conservative approach, exposure levels for products with Prop 65 warnings may be well below the Safe Harbor Levels, which in most cases, the exposure level is as low as zero.

Many products do not receive the warnings based on past court rulings, if there are no Prop 65 listed chemicals present, if there are Prop 65 listed chemicals present but just within internal components, or the products are not frequently handled after installation.



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How does the California Prop 65 warnings compare to the European Union's chemical limits stated in RoHS and REACH?

Although there is a great deal of overlap between the California and the EU's chemical listings, Prop 65 warnings are based on exposure levels and do not necessarily correlate with the quantity limits stated in the EU directives. Additionally, there are no restrictions imposed by Prop 65, it only requires warnings to Californians when Safe Harbor exposure levels are exceeded.

Should I be concerned about the safety of these products?

Although you should always be aware and take notice of any product warning, a Prop 65 warning does not mean that a product is unsafe. The State of California's website states, "A Prop 65 warning does not necessarily mean that a product is in violation of any product-safety standards or requirements." As an added precaution, HASCO recommends washing your hands after handling any item that received a Prop 65 warning.

Where can I find out more?

For more information about Prop 65, the chemicals that have been listed, and how these chemicals may impact human health, please visit the State of California's website at <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/background/p65plain.html>.