



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Packaging Violation Settlement Protects Consumers

(Woodland, CA) – **June 18, 2010** –Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that his office, along with the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office, reached a settlement in a consumer protection case filed against Interstate Brands Corporation for product packaging violations in the sale of food and snack items.

The Sacramento County Agricultural Department, Weights and Measures Division, in conjunction with the Offices of the District Attorney in Yolo and Sacramento Counties began an investigation into Interstate Brands for “slack fill” allegations. Slack fill packaging occurs when a package is not filled to capacity with product and the company does not have a legal basis for the empty space. It is misleading to consumers as the package appears to hold significantly more product than it actually contains.

In this case, cardboard boxes contained small cakes that were packaged in plastic wrap. The cakes took up only a small amount of the space inside the package, a fact that consumers would not be able to tell prior to their purchase.

Interstate Brands Corporation both cooperated with prosecutors during the investigation and agreed to take steps to assure the future packaging of its products are in compliance with federal, state and local law.

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Interstate Brands agreed to a pay \$230,000 in civil penalties and to reimburse Sacramento and Yolo Counties for the costs of the investigation. This money will go into a trust fund that may be used only for future consumer fraud investigations.

“Interstate Brands acted quickly to address the packaging violation once it was brought to their attention,” stated District Attorney Jeff Reisig. “Unless there is an exception, a manufacturer can not package a product that misleads the public as to the amount of empty space or the actual size of the product inside a box.”

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