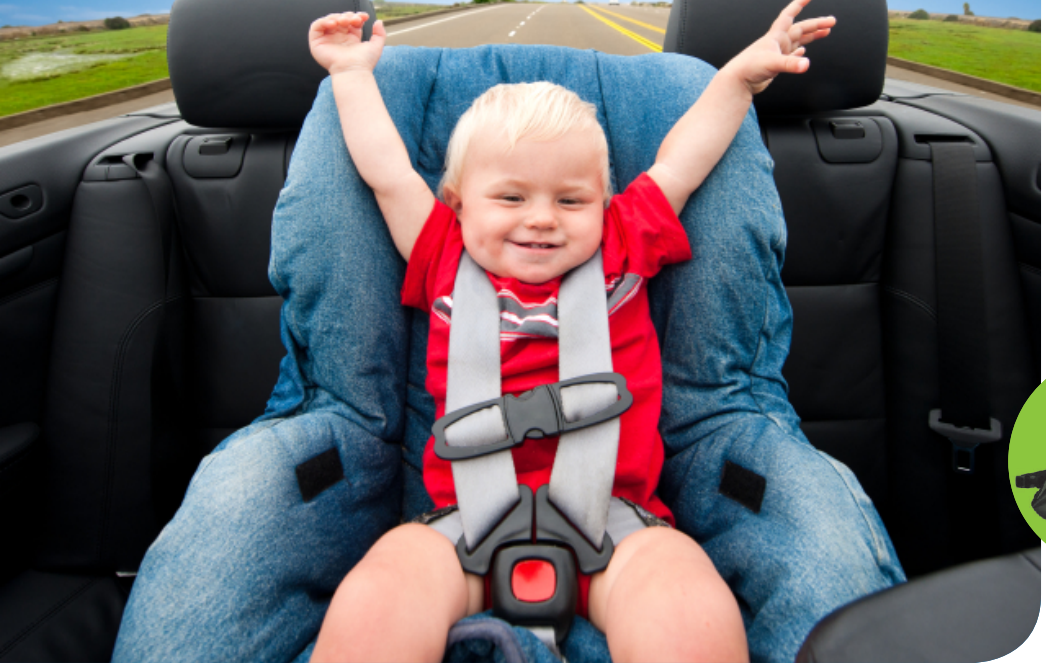

ABOUT BISPHENOL A SAFETY

Bisphenol A (BPA) is used as the basic building block (intermediate) to make plastics and resins which are essential to many consumer and industrial products used in modern living, including many applications important to public health and food safety. BPA is one of the most thoroughly tested chemicals used today and has a safety track record spanning 50 years.

APPROVED FOR SAFE USE IN FOOD CONTACT

BPA is commonly used to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins, both of which have been approved by the European Commission and its scientific expert agency, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and numerous other government agencies worldwide, for use in food-contact applications:

- Polycarbonate plastic: This lightweight, shatter-resistant plastic provides a clear view of food in durable and temperature-resistant storage containers that help keep food fresh.
- Epoxy resins: By protecting food from contamination and spoilage, cans with epoxy resin linings have a shelf life of two years or longer, which is essential for feeding large numbers of people in disaster-relief and military operations. Food banks, economically disadvantaged families, and many others benefit from the extended shelf-life of canned foods made possible by BPA.

UNIQUE BENEFITS FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIAL USES

Polycarbonate plastic provides strength and shatter-resistant qualities which are beneficial for bicycle helmets, cell phones, safety glasses, CDs, and many other products. Its high thermo-stability and clarity also meets the demanding hygiene requirements for use in live-saving medical devices made from polycarbonate. Epoxy resins characteristics make them ideal for a wide range of consumer products including printed circuit boards, paints, windmill blades, and protective coatings in pipes and tanks.

CONSUMER EXPOSURE IS EXTREMELY LOW

A consumer weighing 60kg would have to ingest more than 600 kg of food and beverage each day (that have been in contact with polycarbonate plastic) to reach the BPA “safe exposure level” established by government bodies in Europe and the United States. Consumer exposure to BPA from all sources is minute and well below safety standards set by government regulatory agencies around the world. Extensive data from bio monitoring studies show that typical human exposure to BPA from all sources is approximately 1,000 times below the safe intake level set by EFSA at 0.05 mg/kg body weight/day.

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers
Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A Group

www.bisphenol-a-europe.org

BPA SAFETY IS CONFIRMED BY GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS

The consensus of major government agencies around the world is that BPA is safe for use in food-contact applications. Scientists advising those bodies have stated in their assessments that exposure levels to BPA are many times lower—even 1,000 times lower—than government-set safety levels.

- In December 2011, and previously in September 2010, the European Food Safety Authority EFSA, after reviewing hundreds of the most recent scientific studies incl. other regulatory assessments on BPA concluded that they "could not identify any new evidence which would lead them to revise the current Tolerable Daily Intake."
- In June 2011, the Swiss Health Authority "evaluated the scientific reports of several food agencies and is of the opinion that the ingestion of BPA via food does not present a risk to consumers. This applies also to newborns and small children."
- In August 2010, Health Canada stated that "the current dietary exposure to BPA through food packaging is not expected to pose a health risk to the general population, including newborns and infants."
- In 2010, the German Risk Assessment Authority, based on intake assessments, stated that the levels "are far below the TDI ... and show that there is no danger for health for newborns and small children."
- In a January 2010 update, the FDA made it clear that BPA is "not proven to harm children or adults..." and the principal deputy commissioner stated that "if we thought it was unsafe, we would be taking strong regulatory action..." Since the update, extensive safety research conducted in FDA's own laboratory has provided additional strong support for the safety of BPA.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF BPA

Government regulatory agencies have declared that BPA is safe as used in many applications, including food contact applications. These conclusions are based on numerous scientific studies and supported by other scientific organisations.

- None of the many hundreds of studies on BPA has shown a direct cause-and-effect relationship between BPA and any human health effect.
- Numerous scientific studies show that the very small amount of BPA that may be ingested by a person during normal daily activity is efficiently converted to biologically inactive metabolites, which are eliminated from the human body within 24 hours.
- The German Society of Toxicology, upon evaluation of the scientific data, reached conclusions very similar to the many government agencies that have reviewed the science on BPA, specifically that "the available evidence indicates that BPA exposure represents no noteworthy risk to the health of the human population, including newborns and babies."

More information on BPA is available at the following Web sites:

EFSA:
www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/bisphenol.htm

PlasticsEurope:
www.bisphenol-A-Europe.org

Or by contacting:

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PlasticsEurope
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