

April 29, 2015

*Clarification note on EFSA editorial amendment of Bisphenol A opinion abstract*

## **No change in EFSA conclusion - no health concern from BPA food contact exposure**

In January 2015, the European Food Safety Agency EFSA had published its final scientific opinion on the safety of Bisphenol A (BPA). **EFSA concluded that exposure from all sources is very low and well below the new safe limit for all age groups – this applies to food contact as well as aggregated exposure.**

### **Editorial amendment does not affect the contents or conclusions of the opinion**

Recently EFSA presented an editorial amendment to the abstract of its opinion on the safety of BPA: *“An editorial amendment was made to the abstract to align the wording with that of the summary and body of the opinion. This does not affect the contents or conclusions of the opinion.”* The amendment from end of March differentiates dietary from aggregated exposure already in the abstract: *“By comparing this t-TDI with the exposure estimates, the CEF Panel concluded that there is no health concern for any age group from dietary exposure and low health concern from aggregated exposure.”*

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3978.pdf>

### **No risk, but more data desirable regarding non-dietary exposure**

“Low concern” does not identify a risk. Indeed, in their comprehensive scientific evaluation the EFSA experts examined the estimations of non-dietary exposure as well as the respective uncertainty analysis. EFSA characterized both as highly conservative<sup>1</sup>. The statement of „low concern from aggregated exposure” thus expresses a wider uncertainty interval due to fewer data available for the non-dietary exposure. However, the key message “no consumer health risk from BPA exposure” remains valid.

Therefore, 3<sup>rd</sup> party publications claiming the original wording in EFSA publications “*misrepresented the results*”, the abstract “*excluded key information*”, or in the editorial amendment “*EFSA corrects its risk assessment*” are grossly misleading. They could even be interpreted as an attempt to twist the EFSA message.

All details of EFSA’s conclusions and the underlying data assessment can be found in the full EFSA document, which is publicly available.

Aggregated exposure reflects the combined consumer BPA exposure through all routes: in addition to diet this is via dust, cosmetics and thermal paper. Further clarification on the uncertainty around data on skin contact exposure will be provided by the results of a currently ongoing dermal penetration study running under the REACH substance evaluation process which will be finalized by the end of 2015.

### **Safety confirmation consistent with assessments of government bodies around the world**

Many other government bodies around the world have also evaluated the scientific evidence on BPA and have clearly stated that BPA is safe as used in food contact materials. Similar to EFSA’s conclusion, FDA responded to the question, ‘Is BPA safe?’ with one unambiguous word: ‘Yes.’

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<sup>1</sup> EFSA 2015: “Upper bounds for the uncertainty of high but not average aggregate exposure estimates to BPA exceed the t-TDI but the lower bounds are considerably lower than the t-TDI.”

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