

Media information

April 23, 2008

Draft Risk Assessment Health Canada on Bisphenol-A

On April 18, 2008, Health Canada announced their conclusions on a draft Risk Assessment Report conducted on BPA. Based on this communication several news stories created a lot of confusion and questions about the safety of Bisphenol-A (BPA) and its related products, polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. Suggestions were made that there are new scientific findings regarding BPA safety. This is inaccurate.

The facts are:

- The Report from Health Canada affirms that the general public is exposed to very low levels of BPA through ingestion of food and beverages in contact with polycarbonate plastic or epoxy resin and that at such low levels of exposure, BPA does not pose a health risk.
- The conclusion that BPA is not a risk at the low levels to which humans are exposed is consistent with recent assessments by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the European Food Safety Authority, the European Commission Risk Assessment and Japanese Governmental Agencies.
- The Canadian scientists conclude in their assessment “that BPA exposure to newborns and infants is below levels that may pose a risk”. Health Canada then took a more cautious approach regarding newborns and infants, assessing that the gap should be larger between levels of BPA where potential effects might occur, and actual exposure.
- Health Canada comes to the conclusion that infants and newborns are primarily exposed through the use of polycarbonate baby bottles and from cans of infant formula that are lined with epoxy coatings. In its draft Risk Management proposal, Health Canada plans to further reduce the exposure of newborns and infants under 18 months by proposing to ban polycarbonate baby bottles, develop strict limits on BPA in infant formula cans, and develop alternative food packaging. The proposal is open for a 60 days public commenting period as of April 19, 2008 after which submitted data will be taken into consideration before making any final decision.

- In his announcement, the Canadian Minister of Health made clear that all other uses of polycarbonate such as plastic containers, water bottles, sports bottles, sports equipment, electronics, CDs, DVDs and automobiles are safe for use. Information about Health Canada's draft assessment, including the Minister's remarks and Q&As can be found at:
http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/bisphenol-a_e.html

The Polycarbonate/Bisphenol-A industry will carefully review the draft assessment of the Canadian authorities and provide comments to the responsible government bodies during the consultation period of 60 days.

The PC/BPA group of PlasticsEurope believes that the weight of the scientific evidence supports the safety of polycarbonate plastic and epoxies in their intended uses.

For further information, please contact:

Jasmin Bird
Communications Manager
Polycarbonate/BPA-group PlasticsEurope
Tel: +32 2 676 1738
e-mail: jasmin.bird@plasticseurope.org