

Brussels, July 24, 2008

EFSA reconfirms safety of bisphenol A–based food contact applications for all age groups including foetuses and newborns

In its update assessment published July 23, 2008, the European Food Safety Authority EFSA reconfirms its long-standing position that BPA-based polycarbonate and epoxy food contact products are safe for their intended uses. Consumers can continue to use these products with confidence.

In its assessment the authority focused on the mechanisms of Bisphenol A (BPA) elimination from the human body. EFSA explicitly took into account recent data and reviews by other authorities, such as the US NTP, Health Canada, the EU Commission's Joint Research Centre and the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety, as well as existing and very recent studies on this topic.

The key conclusions of EFSA are:

- After exposure to BPA, the human body rapidly metabolises and eliminates the substance.
- The exposure of the human foetus would be negligible because the mother rapidly metabolises and eliminates BPA from her body.
- Newborns could effectively clear BPA at levels far in excess of the Tolerable Daily Intake TDI (i.e. the amount of BPA which can safely be ingested daily over a lifetime).
- In general, people metabolise and excrete BPA far more quickly than rodents. This further limits the relevance of low-dose effects of BPA reported in some rodent studies.

In summary, the EFSA panel concludes that the permanent TDI of 0,05 mg/kg bodyweight (as set in its 2006/2007 opinion) provides a sufficient margin of safety for the protection of the consumer, including sensitive subgroups such as foetuses and newborns.

Please see the details in the respective EFSA statement:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902017373.htm

Here you find a summary and the full opinion EFSA

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902017492.htm

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