PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A group

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Information about the BfR assessment of recently published studies on Bisphenol A in the peer reviewed journal Toxicological Sciences in 2010*

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) concludes:
The studies by Stump et al. (2010) and Ryan et al. (2010) provide no indications for adverse effects of Bisphenol A on neurological development and behaviour

The BfR evaluated the results of the Stump et al. study as well as results of the study by Ryan et al. (2010), US Environmental Protection Agency, which complements the study by Stump et al. The Stump et al. study, conducted by highly qualified researchers at WIL research laboratory in the US, was the scientific basis on which Denmark banned BPA in materials in contact with food for children aged 0-3 years; the Danish DTU Food Institute risk assessment had expressed the possibility of a low dose effect on learning ability with reference to the Stump et al study.

In its assessment of the two comprehensive studies investigating neurotoxicological, developmental, behavioural and reproductive aspects of BPA the BfR states in its opinion published online 29.7.2010: "*Stump et al. conducted their study on bisphenol A according to the required regulatory standard test design on rats. The results obtained with these testing conditions did not provide any indications of adverse effects on neurological and behavioural development in the off-spring. The study comprised also testing of very low dosages. Dietary administration of bisphenol A did not reveal indications for so-called "low-dose effects".*

The test design of the study of Ryan et al. had a particular focus on the investigation of estrogen-sensitive endpoints, a pivotal issue in the current scientific debate. The results revealed no adverse effects in the low-dose range on behaviour and the development of female rat offspring whose dams were treated with bisphenol A during gestation and lactation. (…)

According to BfR, the results of the two studies do not substantiate the concerns for a specific toxic potential of bisphenol A adverse to neurological and behavioural development." The BfR report also includes a comprehensive overview of the respective studies considered by the different bodies, and lists key scientific parameters and findings. The BfR assessment is available at the link below.
http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/252/bisphenol_a_studien_von_stump_et_al_2010_und_ryan_et_al_2010.pdf

Jasmin Bird of the PC/BPA-group of PlasticsEurope stated: "The BfR assessment of these studies adds to the weight of scientific evidence that consumers need not be concerned when using products made from materials based on Bisphenol A." The European Food Safety Authority EFSA apparently came to a similar conclusion regarding the Stump et al study in its preliminary statement published in July 2010, stating "*The Panel has concluded that the study does not provide evidence of BPA affecting neurobehavioural endpoints included in the study design and would therefore not lead the Panel to consider changing the TDI for BPA."*

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Regulatory agencies from around the world have concluded that the science supports the safety of BPA for people of all ages in its current uses. In Europe, based on a weight-of-evidence approach, the recent assessments of European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority have consistently concluded that human exposure levels to BPA are low and within the safe limits set by government authorities.

Plastics made with BPA contribute to the safety and convenience of everyday life because of their durability, clarity and shatter resistance. Can coatings, produced using BPA as a monomer, are essential components in keeping packaged beverages, food and preserves safe from spoilage and contamination.

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* Stump, D. G., Beck, M. J., Radovsky, A., Garman, R. H., Freshwater, L. L., Sheets, L. P., Marty, M. S., Waechter, J. M., Jr., Dimond, S. S., Van Miller, J. P., Shiotsuka, R. N., Beyer, D., Chappelle, A. H., and Hentges, S. G. (2010). Developmental Neurotoxicity Study of Dietary Bisphenol A in Sprague-Dawley Rats. *Toxicol. Sci.* **115**(1), 167-182

* Ryan, B. C., Hotchkiss, A. K., Crofton, K. M., and Gray, L. E., Jr. (2010). In Utero and Lactational Ex-posure to Bisphenol A, in contrast to Ethinyl Estradiol, Does not Alter Sexually Dimorphic Behavior, Puberty, Fertility and Anatomy of Female LE Rats. *Toxicol. Sci.* **114**(1), 133-148.