

**Information for the Value Chain re Health Canada announcement on Bisphenol A**

Recently, 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. The coverage also mischaracterized recent draft reports – from both the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) issued on April 14 and by Health Canada issued on April 18 – suggesting that there are new scientific findings regarding BPA safety. This is inaccurate.

The facts are:

- Claims that BPA is linked to cancer, birth defects, genetic effects, or infertility are not supported by the scientific research. Human exposure to BPA is extremely low, and when exposed through diet, humans rapidly metabolize and eliminate BPA (within 24 hours).
- Reports from Health Canada and the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) affirm 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, European Food Safety Authority, European Commission Risk Assessment, Japanese Governmental Agencies.
- NTP and Health Canada proceeded more cautiously regarding newborns and infants. Their cautious approach is based on limited evidence in some experimental animal studies, and on NTP and Health Canada's perspective that, while BPA exposure to newborns and infants is below levels that could cause health effects, it is approaching BPA levels where potential effects could occur.
- 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](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 all applications.

For further information, please contact:

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