BISPHENOL A FACT SHEET

What the Experts Say

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an important chemical building block that is used primarily to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. It is also one of the best studied substances, with a large database of toxicological and exposure information available to assess human health concerns.

The scientific evidence supporting the safety of bisphenol A has been repeatedly and comprehensively examined by government and scientific bodies worldwide. In every case, these assessments support the conclusion that bisphenol A is not a risk to human health at the extremely low levels to which people might be exposed. Based on these assessments, bisphenol A has not been banned or restricted anywhere in the world.

Key examples of recent assessments and their conclusions include:

- In January 2007, the European Food Safety Authority released a comprehensive assessment of bisphenol A that was conducted by a panel of 21 independent scientific experts from throughout the European Union. Based on their review of the most recent scientific information, the panel increased by a factor of five the safe intake level for bisphenol A that was established in 2002. The increase was based on the panel’s view that there is now more certainty about the safety of bisphenol A.

- In June 2006, a panel of scientific experts reported the results of their weight-of-the-evidence evaluation of low-dose reproductive and developmental effects of bisphenol A. Considering studies published through February 2006 and the results of a 2004 evaluation (see below), the panel concluded “the weight of evidence does not support the hypothesis that low oral doses of BPA adversely affect human reproductive and developmental health.”

- In January 2006, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR, Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung) released a statement with their views on the safety of polycarbonate baby bottles. They noted “The BfR does not recognize any health risk for babies that are fed from baby bottles made of polycarbonate.”

- A November 2005 statement from the US Food and Drug Administration on the safety of food contact products made from polycarbonate concluded “based on all the evidence available at this time, FDA sees no reason to change its long-held position that current uses with food are safe.”

- In November 2005, a comprehensive risk assessment on bisphenol A conducted by scientists at the Japanese National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and
Technology concluded that “current exposure levels of BPA will not pose any unacceptable risk to human health.”

- In March 2005, the Japanese Ministry of Environment reported the results of their own tests on bisphenol A, including a comprehensive reproductive test in laboratory animals. MOE concluded that there were no clear endocrine disrupting effects at low doses and that no regulatory action is required to manage risks.

- In 2004, a weight-of-the-evidence evaluation of low-dose reproductive and developmental effects of bisphenol A conducted by a panel of scientific experts organized by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis “found no consistent affirmative evidence of low-dose BPA effects for any endpoint.”

- In 2003, a comprehensive European Union risk assessment was published along with a critical review by the Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment that stated “The CSTEE agrees with the conclusion of the RAR [Risk Assessment Report] that there is no convincing evidence that low doses of bisphenol A have effects on developmental parameters in offspring.”

For more information on bisphenol A, please visit http://www.bisphenol-a.org.

We welcome media inquiries about bisphenol A. Please contact:

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