ABOUT BISPHENOL A SAFETY

Bisphenol A (BPA) is used as the basic building block (intermediate) to make plastics and resins which are essential to many consumer and industrial products used in modern living, including many applications important to public health and food safety. BPA is one of the most thoroughly tested chemicals used today and has a safety track record of 50 years.

APPROVED FOR SAFE USE IN FOOD CONTACT

BPA is commonly used to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins, both of which have been approved by the European Commission and its scientific expert agency, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and numerous other government agencies worldwide, for use in food-contact applications:

- Polycarbonate plastic: This lightweight, shatter-resistant plastic provides a clear view of food in durable and temperature-resistant storage containers that help keep food fresh.
- Epoxy resins: By protecting food from contamination and spoilage, cans with epoxy resin linings have a shelf life of two years or longer, which is essential for feeding large numbers of people in disaster-relief and military operations. Food banks, economically disadvantaged families, and many others benefit from the extended shelf-life of canned foods made possible by BPA.

UNIQUE BENEFITS FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIAL USES

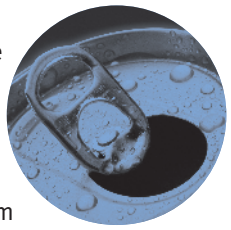
Polycarbonate plastic provides strength and shatter-resistant qualities which are beneficial for bicycle helmets, cell phones, safety glasses, CDs, and many other products. Its high thermostability and clarity also meets the demanding hygiene requirements for use in live-saving medical devices made from polycarbonate. Epoxy resins characteristics make them ideal for a wide range of consumer products including printed circuit boards, paints, windmill blades, and protective coatings in pipes and tanks.

CONSUMER EXPOSURE IS EXTREMELY LOW

A consumer weighing 60kg would have to ingest more than 300 l of water from a polycarbonate water dispenser, every day of his/her entire life, only to reach the level established as safe by EFSA. Consumer exposure to BPA from all sources is minute and well below safety standards set by government regulatory agencies around the world. Extensive data from bio monitoring studies show that typical human exposure to BPA from all sources is clearly below the safe intake level set by EFSA at 4 microgram/kg body weight/day.

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers
Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A Group

www.bisphenol-a-europe.org



BPA SAFETY IS CONFIRMED BY GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS

The consensus of major government agencies around the world is that BPA is safe for use in food-contact applications. Scientists advising those bodies have stated in their assessments that exposure levels to BPA are many times lower than government-set safety levels.

- In January 2015, following a comprehensive re-evaluation of BPA exposure and toxicity, EFSA's scientific experts concluded that „BPA poses no health risk to consumers of any age group [including unborn children, infants and adolescents] at current exposure levels. Going beyond previous assessments, EFSA evaluated exposure to BPA not only from food, but also from a range of other potential sources. EFSA found that exposure to BPA from all sources is very low and well below the new safe limit of 4 microgram/kg body weight per day.
- In February 2015, the BfR supported the EFSA assessment of BPA and states „no health risk for consumers from BPA esposure".
- In November 2014, the US FDA updated its assessment of BPA. The FDA's current perspective, based on its most recent safety assessment, is that BPA is safe at the current levels occurring in food. In another recent update, the FDA answered the question „Is BPA safe?" with a clear answer: „Yes."
- In April 2013, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) reaffirmed the safety of BPA and stated: „The weight of the scientific evidence indicates that exposure to BPA in food does not present a significant human health and safety issue at current exposure levels."

COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF BPA

Government regulatory agencies have declared that BPA is safe as used in many applications, including food contact applications. These conclusions are based on numerous scientific studies and are supported by other scientific organisations. None of the many hundreds of studies on BPA has shown a direct cause-and-effect relationship between BPA and any human health effect. Numerous scientific studies show that the very small amount of BPA that may be ingested by a person during normal daily activity is efficiently converted to biologically inactive metabolites, which are eliminated from the human body within 24 hours. The German Society of Toxicology, upon evaluation of the scientific data, reached conclusions very similar to the many government agencies that have reviewed the science on BPA, specifically that "the available evidence indicates that BPA exposure represents no noteworthy risk to the health of the human population, including newborns and babies."

More information on BPA is available at the following Web sites:

EFSA:

https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/3978

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2015.3978/full

www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/bisphenol.htm

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/150121

BfR:

http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/kein-gesundheitsrisiko-fuer-verbraucher-durch-bisphenol-a-exposition-bfr-unterstuetzt-die-einschaetzung-der-efsa-neubewertung.pdf

FSANZ:

http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/surveillance/pages/fsanzsurveyandactivi4978.aspx

FDA:

http://www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/FoodAdditivesIngredients/ucm355155.htm

PlasticsEurope:
www.bisphenol-A-Europe.org

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