

25.7.2013

Today, EFSA opened the online consultation platform on the authority's exposure assessment of Bisphenol A (BPA) for public comment. The PC/BPA groups of PlasticsEurope comments on this first stage¹ in the process are as follows:

The members of the PC/BPA-group support EFSA's comprehensive and transparent science-based evaluation of BPA and encourage all stakeholders interested in a science-based assessment process to participate, as the final opinion will benefit from this public consultation process.

Industry also notes that today's draft conclusion on exposure to BPA confirms the authority's earlier findings that diet is the main source of BPA exposure. Such exposure is extremely low and in fact even lower than previously estimated by EFSA:

*„Diet was found to be the main source of exposure to BPA in all population groups, but **modelled estimates were much lower than the estimates reported by EFSA in 2006**. In the previous assessment, high exposure was up to 5 300 ng/kg bw/day in toddlers and up to 11 000 ng/kg bw/day in infants aged 3 months, compared with the current estimates of up to 857 ng/kg bw/day for toddlers and up to 495 ng/kg bw/day for infants of 1-5 days. Thermal paper was the second source of exposure in all population groups above 3 years of age. The uncertainty around the estimate of exposure to BPA from thermal paper was considerably higher than that around dietary exposure. Biomonitoring estimates based on urinary BPA concentrations are in good agreement with modelled BPA exposures from all sources, **suggesting that no major exposure sources have been missed for the modelled exposure assessment**.“ (taken from EFSA abstract, highlights added).*

PlasticsEurope's Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A industry group will carefully examine the draft EFSA exposure assessment on BPA and will actively contribute as relevant by providing scientific expert input during the consultation phase, which ends on 15 September 2013.

Jasmin Bird of the PlasticsEurope Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A industry group stated: *“It is in the interest of industry, critical stakeholders and consumers alike that EFSA's process for reaching a decision considers public comment and that the final EFSA opinion on BPA is solidly grounded on a fact-based assessment of the weight of scientific evidence. An approach grounded in up-to-date and sound science, rather than politics, is the only one that can provide consumers with the reassurance that purchased products are safe and, at the same time, provide consumers with products that they need and that bring the highest value to their day-to-day lives. We therefore encourage all stakeholders interested in science-based, objective and reliable opinion forming to participate in the consultation and provide their comments to EFSA via the given online format.”*

Over 50 years of research and extensive use provides evidence that products made from materials based on BPA, like polycarbonate and epoxy resin, are safe for their intended uses. Consumers and businesses alike should therefore continue to use these products with the utmost confidence.

¹ On 28.6., the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) announced a two-stage process for its assessment of BPA, with EFSA's exposure assessment to be issued in July for public comment, and a second stage in early 2014, during which EFSA will publicly consult on the human health aspects of its risk assessment prior to finalizing its scientific opinion.

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Link to EFSA online consultation on BPA exposure assessment
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/130725.htm>