

*On 15 September 2013, the public consultation on the draft EFSA exposure assessment of Bisphenol A (BPA) closed. The PC/BPA-group commented as per the summary below.*

## **Industry comments**

EFSA's draft BPA exposure assessment report provides a comprehensive and most complete picture on total BPA exposure based on extensive and most recent data. Whenever available, data from Europe were considered for the quantitative assessment, while non-European data related to BPA were used for comparison purposes. The report is clearly presented and the approach is well-documented.

EFSA applied robust quality criteria on the studies before including them into its assessment. Applying a thorough quality check on all data regarding BPA occurrence in food and non-food sources as well as on all biomonitoring data is crucial for the quality of the result of the conclusion. EFSA based their assessment on the most reliable and most meaningful data.

With respect to individual age groups, the EFSA documentation appears to be the most comprehensive and refined assessment that is currently existing. The focus on specific groups of the population related to age, vulnerability or special consumption patterns helps to provide a most complete picture and to prevent neglecting any exposures that might be deviating from that of the general population.

EFSA explicitly details for each individual exposure scenario, the assumptions made, the reasoning for doing so, the values taken for calculation and the specific age-/use-related handling conditions. This approach is very helpful as it allows all stakeholders to follow the EFSA thinking with their respective own criteria, experience and knowledge in mind. It provides a most transparent way to enable stakeholders to understand the scientific way EFSA chose to tackle this topic.

EFSA also puts the European exposure assessment into context with other major exposure assessments and comprehensive international data, and it proves to be consistent with these other expert assessments.

EFSA concludes that with the availability of this comprehensive assessment, and given the consistent comparative results of the modeling approach and the biomonitoring estimates, the existence of any unrecognised sources of exposure to BPA is highly unlikely. This conclusion is based on a solid foundation.

## **Background**

In July, EFSA published its comprehensive draft report on evaluation of consumer exposure to BPA based on an extensive review of existing literature as well as data provided by authorities and stakeholders. The report was open for commenting during the past 7 weeks.

In terms of methodology, EFSA used exposure modelling calculations and biomonitoring data, taking into account different age groups, food products and exposure factor.

The scope of the EFSA assessment covered:

- Human BPA-exposure assessment with a focus on vulnerable groups of the population

- Assessment of average and high chronic exposure through combined different sources and routes: dietary (food) and non-dietary (skin contact, inhalation)
- Dietary sources, in addition to food and drinks, include polycarbonate water reservoirs, water filters, water dispensers, electric kettles, tableware, epoxy coated water pipes
- Non-dietary sources assessed include dust, articles to be mouthed, dental materials, transfer from hands to food after touching thermal paper, rattles, pacifiers, body lotion

The key findings of the draft EFSA report are:

- Diet is the main source of BPA exposure - which however is extremely low and in fact even lower than previously estimated by EFSA
- Thermal paper is the second source of total BPA exposure
- Dental sealants / exposure via saliva is negligible
- Biomonitoring studies confirm low exposure levels
- Existence of unrecognised sources of exposure is unlikely
- Specific scenarios and potential uncertainty are taken into account in the overall EFSA evaluation

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*Links:*

EFSA exposure assessment report: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/130725.htm>

EFSA Q&A:

[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/faqs/faqbisphenol.htm?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=feature&utm\\_campaign=20130731](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/faqs/faqbisphenol.htm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=feature&utm_campaign=20130731)

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