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Risk Assessment Update of Bisphenol A (BPA):

No risk for consumers or the environment from the use of BPA-based materials such as polycarbonate plastic or epoxy resins.

In its updated risk assessment report of Bisphenol A (BPA) published today the European Commission concluded that products made from BPA, such as polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins, are safe for consumers and the environment when used as intended. This conclusion reconfirms the findings of the 2003 European risk assessment of BPA, and is consistent with conclusions of the scientific assessments of other regulatory bodies including the US FDA, the Japanese authorities and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

BPA is an intermediate in the manufacture of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. It is one of the few chemicals in Europe that has undergone the full official scientific risk assessment process. The 2008 assessment is based on a previous assessment of 2003. It reflects the latest available science on BPA as well as the use pattern of products made from BPA including food contact materials.

The assessment of the European Commission and the Member State experts covered both small exploratory studies that do not follow established protocols as well as large-scale comprehensive, statistically robust studies following accepted international protocols and standards such as the Good Laboratory Practice Directive. It also covered all potentially affected age groups of consumers including babies and small children.

In its conclusions the updated report reconfirms that there is no concern for the consumer from the use of products made from materials based on BPA such as polycarbonate and epoxy resins.

Studies pointing to so-called "low dose" or neuro-developmental effects were considered by the experts but were regarded as insufficiently reliable and robust. No convincing evidence of such effects has been identified. It was concluded that BPA is not proven to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, and the substance is neither persistent nor bioaccumulative (not "PBT" or "vPvB"). In addition, potential consumer exposure to BPA via food or the environment was found to be very low.

The conclusions of the 2008 risk assessment report of BPA are consistent with the views of governmental bodies worldwide including the US FDA, the Japanese authorities and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which published the results of its re-evaluation regarding food contact materials and BPA in January 2007. EFSA concluded that products made from materials based on BPA, such as polycarbonate plastic or epoxy resins, can be used safely in food contact after assessing the latest science and considering the many food contact applications of BPA-based materials. EFSA confirmed that the very low levels of exposure from food contact applications like baby bottles, water bottles, utensils or epoxy coated cans do not pose any health concern when used as intended.

The BPA-based products polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins are valuable materials found in a wide range of consumer and industrial products. The shatter resistance, safety, clarity and durability of polycarbonate plastic make it a material of choice for products as diverse as baby bottles, CDs, safety and other glasses, electrical and electronic equipment, drinking bottles and even aircraft cockpit windows. Epoxy resins are used in a variety of applications in the electrical, electronics, transport, construction and aerospace industries. Food cans lined with epoxy based coatings contribute to the hygienic and safe conservation of food.

Consumers can continue to use polycarbonate and epoxy products with confidence.

For the details of the report please refer to the ECB website: http://ecb.jrc.it/documents/Existing-Chemicals/RISK_ASSESSMENT/ADDENDUM/bisphenola_add_325.pdf

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