

**STATEMENT BY AGRICULTURE UNDER SECRETARY NANCY  
MONTANEZ JOHNER ON BISPHENOL A AND INFANT FORMULA**

WASHINGTON, October 31, 2008. The Science Board of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) met today to review a report by the Bisphenol A (BPA) Subcommittee of the Science Board. The subcommittee report, "Draft Safety Assessment of the Use of BPA in Food Contact Applications," was released October 29, 2008. BPA is an ingredient used to make epoxy resins used as protective food safety linings of metal-based food cans, including liquid concentrate infant formula, and polycarbonate (hard plastic) used to make some baby bottles.

FDA has not determined any immediate health risk to the general population, including infants and babies, from current dietary exposure to BPA through food packaging uses. However, due to uncertainties raised related to the potential effects of BPA, FDA has concluded that additional research would be valuable.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, commonly known as the WIC Program, is administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and makes available infant formula to low income WIC participants who do not breastfeed. Approximately 50 percent of babies born in the United States each year participate in the WIC Program. Of the 2 million infants served monthly through WIC, approximately 15 percent receive liquid concentrate formula products.

At the present time, USDA is not recommending that WIC agencies take any action that affects the infant formula issued to WIC participants. Parents should know that based on all available evidence, current levels of exposure to BPA through food packaging, including liquid concentrate infant formula, have not been determined by FDA to pose an immediate health or safety risk to infants and babies. Parents who have questions concerning infant feeding should contact their pediatrician.

The FDA is the regulatory authority for determining the safety of BPA. USDA will continue to maintain close contact with our FDA colleagues on this subject and rely on FDA for safety information concerning BPA. FNS is committed to ensuring that babies receive safe and nutritious food.

More information on BPA can be found on the FDA website, at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). Information about the WIC program is available on the Food and Nutrition Service website, at [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).