



# BPA: The Science, Evaluation and Safety

Since the splitting of the atom to now global warming, society has come to realize that, regarding science and technology, with progress comes peril! This is true for many of the products that FDA regulates and press reports can often cause great alarm. For example, you are now hearing that bisphenol A—or BPA—in plastic products might affect hormones in development and you may be seeing in stores plastic water bottles that are labeled “BPA Free.”

My Take on this is that science creates these products and science must inform us of their risks. With regard to BPA thus far, the science FDA has reviewed does not justify recommending that anyone discontinue using these products. But we continue to investigate new research regarding the safety of BPA. We are asking outside experts to review our work and are seeking as much technical input as possible. In September, we are holding a public meeting of

such experts—as a subcommittee of our Science Board—to discuss FDA’s draft assessment of the safety of BPA in items that touch food.

By taking steps to get input from outside the agency including from you, the FDA continues to improve the process by which we evaluate the science. This also provides a way to get the most current information to you so that you can make informed decisions about using the wide variety of food packaging and food con-

tainers that use material like plastic.

Many of the FDA-regulated products—like the water and infant bottles containing BPA—have become an integral part of the busy lives that we all lead. The FDA of the 21st century continues to modernize to keep pace with advancements in science and technology and the availability of such new products—and as the science involved continues to be more complex, we continue to improve our process of making science-based regulatory decisions.

I hope that you will stop by here next week to get the take from Dr. Randall Lutter—FDA’s Deputy Commissioner for Policy. [FDA](#)

*Andy*

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## About Andy’s Take

Through this communications column on the FDA Web site, Commissioner of Food and Drugs Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D., will discuss weekly FDA issues of interest to the American consumer and occasionally preview upcoming FDA issues and events.



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