

From: Mia Davis <miadavis@cleanwater.org>
Date: Fri, 23 May 2008 17:04:04 -0400
To: "Shane, Barbara (NIH/NIEHS) [E]" <shane@niehs.nih.gov>
Conversation: Public comment on NTP BPA draft
Subject: Public comment on NTP BPA draft

Please Post

Dr Shane,

I respectfully request that the panel take into account recent findings published in the report Baby's Toxic Bottle (February 2008, www.babystoxicbottle.org <<http://www.babystoxicbottle.org>>). Popular brands Avent, Disney/First Years, Dr. Brown's, and Evenflo market baby bottles that leach bisphenol A when heated. Baby bottles are commonly heated in hot water, in the microwave, and in the dishwasher. Recent research shows that bisphenol A can be harmful at doses below the levels found in the study. This is not a case of high dose experiments being used to predict low dose effects in people. Bisphenol A is a synthetic sex hormone that disrupts human hormones; recent scientific studies on laboratory animals show it may have adverse health effects: breast and prostate cancer, thyroid disease, early puberty in girls, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, and obesity. Bisphenol A does not belong in food or beverage applications. It is my hope that the United States will not be left behind as other countries ban this toxic chemical and markets demand precaution from suppliers. Health Canada, several US states and major manufactures and retailers have taken steps to reduce the public's exposure to BPA where the federal government has yet to protect consumers. Some of the highlights of the past two months include:

- On Friday April 18th 2008, the Canadian Government declared BPA "toxic" under Canadian Law, triggering a ban on BPA baby bottles in Canada in the months to come. Canada is the first country in the world to consider designating bisphenol A as hazardous to human health and the environment;
- On Friday April 18th 2008, Playtex Infant Care announced it will stop selling products made with BPA by the end of the year and will give one million free samples of new BPA free products to potential customers;
- U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) has introduced federal U.S. legislation banning BPA; several US states have introduced BPA legislation that would limit or ban BPA from children's articles;
- The dangers of BPA and scientific conflicts of interest are being investigated by U.S. Congressman Dingell; the impetus of the investigation was the discovery that only studies from the chemical industry were recognized in the FDA's BPA evaluation despite over 100 independent scientific studies linking the chemical to an array of illnesses, including breast and prostate cancer, obesity, diabetes, thyroid disease, early puberty in girls, and others;
- In response to these major governmental reports, major retailers across the U.S. and Canada, including Wal-Mart, Toys"R"Us, Babies"R"Us, CVS, Sears Canada, and others are recalling polycarbonate baby bottles and/or water bottles;
- Wal-Mart's Canadian stores said that they would immediately stop selling baby bottles, pacifiers, sippy cups, food containers and water bottles that contain the chemical. The company is also establishing a do-not-sell order to restrict all Wal-Mart Canada cash registers from sales transactions of these products;
- Nalge Nunc, a subsidiary of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., announced it will phase out production of its Nalgene Outdoor line of containers that include BPA over the next several months and offer BPA free alternatives;

- Last fall, 38 leading scientists conducted a review funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of hundreds of peer-reviewed research studies on BPA. The panel expressed unanimous concern that recent trends in human disease could be related to exposure to BPA even at very low levels.

Please take action to protect consumers and encourage innovation in the marketplace. Safer alternatives to BPA exist and more can be made. It is only a matter of time- I hope that we can be leaders, not laggards.

Sincerely,
Mia Davis
Co-author, Baby's Toxic Bottle

--

Mia Davis
Clean Water Fund
262 Washington Street #301
Boston, MA 02108

office: 617.338.8131 ext 201
fax: 617.338.6449

www.safecosmetics.org <<http://www.safecosmetics.org>>