

## Bisphenol A Update

A 2008 draft report by the US National Toxicology Program which concluded that bisphenol A could cause behavioral changes in infants and children and trigger early onset of puberty in females has increased concern that long-term, low-dose exposure to bisphenol A may induce chronic toxicity in humans. The National Toxicology Program will take public comments on its initial report through May, and a final version will be issued during the summer. Bisphenol A (BPA) is an organic compound that is a building block to several polymers and polymer additives. The chemical is used to make a transparent, shatterproof plastic called polycarbonate as well as epoxy resins. Polycarbonate plastic is used to make a variety of consumer products, including baby and water bottles, sports equipment, CDs, household electronics and medical devices, while epoxy resins are used as coatings on the inside of some food and drink cans.

Growing concern about BPA has triggered investigations by regulatory bodies worldwide. Canada's health agency has examined the health risks of BPA and, in April 2008, the Canadian government proposed classifying BPA as "toxic to human health and the environment" under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and has further proposed a ban of plastic baby bottles containing BPA. These proposals are now subject to a 60-day public consultation period. The plastics industry has two months to present new information about the safety of BPA. If it fails to do so, the chemical will officially be declared a toxin, and a Canadian ban of plastic baby bottles with BPA will be in place within 12 months. Lawmakers in at least eleven US states have introduced legislation that would restrict BPA in consumer products, including children's products, food and beverage containers and packaging.

The draft US report and the Canadian proposals have pushed many consumers to use glass alternatives and many retailers to distance themselves from BPA by stocking products made without the chemical. Wal-Mart, for example, announced that it was immediately ceasing sales in all its Canadian stores of food containers, water and baby bottles, sippy cups, and pacifiers containing BPA and that it would phase out baby bottles made with it in U.S. stores by early next year. Target has begun testing glass baby bottles in its stores and is offering them online. Toys R Us has also stated that it will cease selling baby bottles made from the chemical.

*STR is a fully approved and qualified lab to test products for chemical content, including bisphenol A. We have comprehensive safety testing services and the expertise to assist companies with their regulatory compliance needs. Contact us at [inquiry@strus.com](mailto:inquiry@strus.com).*