



Health
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Santé
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Health Products
and Food Branch

Direction générale des produits
de santé et des aliments

Bureau of Chemical Safety
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October 31, 2008

John M. Rost, Ph.D.
Chairman
North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc.
1203 19th Street, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-2401
USA

Dear Dr. Rost:

Thank you for your message of October 22, 2008 in which you requested to clarify the current status of Health Canada's position on the safety of Bisphenol-A (BPA)-based epoxy materials used in conjunction with metal to package food and beverage for the general public.

On October 17, the Government of Canada released the final risk assessment for BPA. This assessment confirmed earlier results, which indicated that the general public need not be concerned by the potential exposure to BPA resulting from its use in food packaging applications including can lining. Based on all information available to date, it has been concluded that the potential exposure to BPA from food packaging applications is extremely low and does not represent a health risk to consumers.

However, the Government wants to be prudent and further reduce exposures of newborns and infants under 18 months. Although the exposure levels are below those that could cause health effects, due to the uncertainty raised in some studies relating to the potential effects of low levels of bisphenol A, the Government of Canada is taking action to enhance the protection of infants and young children by working with industry to reduce as low as reasonable achievable the levels of BPA in canned food intended for infants and young children.

I trust these comments will be of assistance.

Yours truly,

John Salminen, Chief
Chemical Health Hazard Assessment Division

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