

North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc.

Statement in Response to 2013 ACOG Opinion on Chemicals in the Environment

The following statement can be attributed to Dr. John M. Rost, Chairman, North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA), responding to the October 2013 Committee Opinion, “Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents,” from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and the University of California, San Francisco Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment:

“Despite the confusing message coming from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and its allied organizations, the science on bisphenol A (BPA) has become clearer over the last few years, providing reassurance to consumers, pregnant or otherwise, that BPA does not pose a health risk.

“In recent years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have invested significant resources to help confirm BPA’s safety in consumer products, including canned foods, and their message is clear -- the available information continues to support the safety of BPA for the currently approved use in food containers and packaging. As recently as this July, in an editorial published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and National Toxicology Program (NTP) Director Linda Birnbaum and FDA Chief Scientist Jessie Goodman acknowledge that new research has added significantly to the understanding of how BPA is metabolized, and has ‘greatly reduced key uncertainties concerning potential levels of internal exposure in humans.’

“Dr. Birnbaum, Dr. Goodman, and their co-authors state clearly that several recent studies involving nonhuman primates have shown that newborn and young primates metabolize BPA at or near the level of adult metabolism. The authors note that the studies demonstrate that potential fetal BPA exposure is reduced significantly due to the mother's ability to metabolize BPA quickly, and that ‘...the fetus can effectively metabolize BPA.’

“These latest studies, coupled with the extensive body of research or data/information on BPA that has been thoroughly reviewed by FDA, and multiple international regulatory bodies, continue to reaffirm that the trace amounts of BPA found in metal food and beverage packaging poses no health risk to humans at any age or stage of development. Taken together, this information should provide reassurance to all consumers, including pregnant women, that a diet including canned foods is nutritious, healthy, and safe.”



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About NAMPA

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. For further information, visit www.metal-pack.org.

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