



CHEMTrust

Protecting humans and wildlife
from harmful chemicals

Dr Bernard Url
Executive Director
European Food Safety Authority
Via Carlo Magno 1A
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Meeting request concerning the assessment of chemicals in food contact materials, and the specific issue of grouping of bisphenols

Dear Dr Url,

Today CHEM Trust, an expert chemicals policy and science NGO, publishes a new report, "*From BPA to BPZ: a toxic soup? How companies switch from a known hazardous chemical to one with similar properties, and how regulators could stop them*" (see www.chemtrust.org/toxicsoup). This report examines the properties and regulation of the bisphenols group of chemicals.

The report starts with a summary of the well-known bisphenol, bisphenol A (BPA), but then summarises the research on the large number of other bisphenol chemicals in use that appear to have similar hazards to BPA.

Does EFSA have a full picture of all the bisphenols that are in use in food contact materials in the EU, whether they are all authorised, and whether there is sufficient safety data to assess them?

EFSA is currently re-examining the toxicity of BPA, but as far as we are aware this review does not examine BPS. This seems surprising given that the European Chemical Agency's Risk Assessment Committee has stated that BPS "*is suspected to have many of the same adverse health effects as BPA*". What is the scientific basis for EFSA not considering other bisphenols with similar hazards in this review?

In our view EFSA should assess groups of related chemicals, rather than taking a substance by substance approach. In the absence of good data to the contrary, chemicals with similar structure should be assumed to have the toxicological properties as harmful as those of the most toxic known substance in the group.

We would appreciate a meeting in person to discuss these issues and their potential solutions with you,

Yours sincerely,

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