



18 September 2008

## Media Statement

### Bottled Water Products in Polycarbonate Plastic Containers are Safe for Consumer Use

Recent media stories and a statement issued by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) have raised questions about the safety of polycarbonate plastic bottles due to the presence of a substance known as bisphenol A (BPA).

Polycarbonate plastic is used in a wide variety of consumer products, including food and drink containers. Many 9 and 15 litres bottled water containers are made of polycarbonate plastic and consumers can remain confident about the safety of these products.

- Bottled water is comprehensively regulated as a food product by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). Plastic food and beverage containers, including polycarbonate plastic used by Australasian food and beverage producers must meet Standards Australia requirements.
- Polycarbonate plastic has been the material of choice for food and beverage product containers for nearly 50 years because it is lightweight, highly shatter-resistant, and transparent. During that time, many studies have been conducted to assess the potential for trace levels of BPA to migrate from polycarbonate bottles into foods or beverages. The conclusions from those studies and comprehensive safety evaluations by government bodies worldwide, also endorsed by FSANZ, are that polycarbonate bottles are safe for consumer use.
- The April 14, 2008 NTP Draft Brief on BPA confirms that there are no serious or high level concerns for adverse effects of BPA on human reproduction and development. Steven G. Hentges, Ph.D., of the American Chemistry Council's Polycarbonate/BPA Global Group, states that the "findings in NTP's draft report provide reassurance that consumers can continue to use products made from bisphenol A. Importantly, this conclusion has been affirmed by scientific and government bodies worldwide."
- The NTP Draft Brief confirms that human exposure to BPA is extremely low and noted no direct evidence in humans that exposure to BPA adversely affects reproduction or development. The limited evidence for effects in laboratory animals at low doses primarily highlights opportunities for additional research to better understand whether these findings are of any significance to human health.
- On April 18, 2008, the Canadian Minister of Health confirmed the safety of most consumer products made from polycarbonate plastic, including reusable water bottles. The Minister announced that Health Canada (similar to FSANZ in Australia and New Zealand) completed an extensive safety review of BPA and concluded that most products made from polycarbonate plastic are safe. However, Health Canada issued concerns about the potential risk of baby bottles made from polycarbonate plastic. As a result, they have proposed a ban on baby bottles made from this substance. ABWI welcomes the scientific rigor of Health Canada's safety review, which confirms the safety of reusable polycarbonate water bottles.

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For more information on this issue, visit the American Chemistry Council's website at <http://www.factsonplastic.com/> or <http://www.bisphenol-a.org/>



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