

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

NOV 25 2010

Thank you for your correspondence of September 7, 2010, concerning bisphenol A (BPA). I regret the delay in responding.

In October 2008, under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan, the Government of Canada published its assessment results on BPA. The focus of Health Canada's assessment of BPA was on the most highly exposed group: newborns and infants up to 18 months of age. Departmental scientists looked at the available scientific evidence and concluded that BPA exposure levels for newborns and infants were below those that could cause harmful health effects. However, due to the uncertainty raised in some studies relating to the potential effects of low levels of BPA, the Government wanted to be prudent and reduce exposures further.

For this reason, the Government took action to reduce newborn and infant exposures to BPA. The prohibition of polycarbonate baby bottles that contain BPA came into force in Canada on March 11, 2010. The Government is also carefully reviewing pre-market submissions of food packaging for infant formula, as well as facilitating the review of industry alternatives to BPA in infant formula can linings. There is continued government support to the food packaging industry in developing a code of practice to reduce levels of BPA in infant formula can linings, so that levels are kept at the lowest levels reasonably achievable.

On October 13, 2010, the Government of Canada took further action to protect Canadians by adding BPA to the List of Toxic Substances in Schedule 1 to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999). This regulatory action will allow measures to limit any BPA exposure and environmental release in Canada that is deemed to pose a risk.

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The recent addition of BPA to Schedule 1 to the CEPA 1999 does not mean that the substance will be banned from all products. The Government's assessment of BPA concluded that, at current levels of exposure, there are no concerns regarding the potential health effects of BPA for the general population. Consumers can continue to use polycarbonate water bottles and consume canned foods and beverages, as the level of exposure from these products is very low.

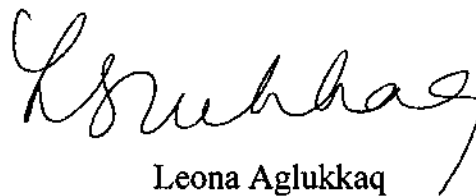
Health Canada is continuing to assess the implications of new research results on BPA, produced by our own scientists, as well as other scientists in Canada and around the world, and will take further action on BPA to protect the health of Canadians if warranted.

Between November 1 and 5, 2010, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization held expert meetings in Ottawa to assess the safety of BPA. The conclusions reached at this meeting are consistent with the Government of Canada's position on BPA. Please be assured that Canada continues to be a world leader in addressing potential risks associated with BPA exposure.

Further information on BPA is available at <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/batch-lot-2/bisphenol-a/index-eng.php>.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Leona Aglukkaq