

BISPHENOL A FACT SHEET

Environmental Safety

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an important chemical building block used primarily to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. The vast majority of bisphenol A produced, greater than 99.9%, is consumed at manufacturing sites to make these and other products, and only very low levels of bisphenol A are released to the environment. Measurements of bisphenol A in the environment have confirmed that bisphenol A, when detected at all, is present only at very low levels, typically less than a part per billion in surface water. Numerous validated studies have been conducted to determine what happens to bisphenol A in the environment and the possible environmental impacts. Comprehensive reviews of these studies conclude that bisphenol A is not a risk to the environment.

- **Bisphenol A Readily Biodegrades and is Not Persistent in the Environment**

Laboratory studies, using internationally accepted guidelines from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), show that bisphenol A is readily and inherently biodegradable in water, meaning that it breaks down rapidly and does not persist in the environment. Other studies confirm that bisphenol A degrades rapidly in actual surface waters and sediments from a wide variety of regions.

- **Bisphenol A Does Not Bioaccumulate**

Studies have been conducted to monitor the presence of bisphenol A in surface waters in the US, Europe and Japan. No bisphenol A was detected in many of the samples analyzed from each area. When bisphenol A has been detected in streams and rivers, typical concentrations are less than 1 microgram per liter (parts per billion). To visualize this concentration, 1 part per billion is equal to 1 drop of bisphenol A in 40,000 gallons or 150,000 liters of water.

Laboratory studies have shown that the potential for bisphenol A to bioaccumulate is well below established thresholds of concern. Based on these studies, bisphenol A is considered by government agencies to have a low potential for bioaccumulation, meaning that it does not accumulate to any appreciable extent in organisms that come into contact with BPA.

- **Bisphenol A is Not a Risk to the Environment**

The toxicity of bisphenol A has been measured in a wide variety of aquatic organisms. Based on these studies, no adverse effects on aquatic organisms are expected at concentrations of bisphenol A in water below 10 micrograms per liter. Comparison of this “no-effect” level with typically measured values in surface waters of 0.001 to 1.0 microgram per liter indicates that aquatic ecosystems are not at risk from bisphenol A in the environment.

For more information on bisphenol A, please visit <http://www.bisphenol-a.org>.

We welcome media inquiries about bisphenol A. Please contact:

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