



## NTP Issues Draft “Brief” on Bisphenol A

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 17, 2008)

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) released on April 15, 2008, its draft “Brief” on Bisphenol A (BPA). Media reports purporting to summarize the draft Brief have distorted the results of the draft Brief by neglecting to provide an adequate explanation of what NTP preliminarily has concluded, and why it has so concluded.

NTP describes five levels of concern when assessing reproductive risk: “serious concern,” “concern,” “some concern,” “minimal concern,” and “negligible concern.”

In the draft Brief, NTP concluded, as did the CERHR expert panel, that it has “some” concern for certain developmental effects largely because the data are inadequate to conclude there is negligible concern. Research is ongoing and should be available later this year to address this concern.

NTP expressed in the draft Brief “some” concern with certain health endpoints based on exposure to BPA, a slightly higher level of concern than the “minimal concern” expressed by the CERHR expert panel. The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) is in the process of reviewing the scientific basis for this change, and will comment upon it during the public comment period on the draft Brief.

Issuance of the NTP Brief is the next step in the process the CERHR follows in assessing the reproductive and developmental potency of substances being reviewed. The CERHR convened a scientific independent expert panel last year, which issued its draft report last August. After a lengthy and rigorous review, the expert panel found that human exposure to BPA is extremely low and posed no serious risk to human reproduction and development. The expert panel suggested that additional research in targeted areas would be useful in supporting its conclusions.

The NTP Brief includes the comments submitted by the public and others on the expert panel report, and is intended to provide the preliminary conclusions of NTP on its review of the expert panel report and related information. Public comment will be accepted on the draft Brief until May 23, 2008, and the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors will meet and peer review the draft Brief on June 11-12, 2008.

NAMPA continues strongly to support its uses of BPA epoxy coatings and believes them to be safe and essential to food safety. BPA has been the subject of many recent independent expert reviews, which have consistently concluded that the use of BPA-derived epoxy can coatings do not put the public at risk. One of the most comprehensive reviews was performed last year by the European Food Safety Authority. This review concluded that the use of BPA epoxy-based protective coatings in metal packaging is acceptable for foods for consumers of all ages.

NAMPA and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. NAMPA will comment on the draft Brief to ensure that its member companies’ interests in this review are fully reflected in NTP’s ongoing deliberations. NAMPA is vitally interested in ensuring that the essential and irreplaceable food safety protections against microbiological



contamination offered by epoxy resins used to coat food and beverage containers are well understood by the expert reviewers.

As more details about the information become available, NAMPA will continue to update its membership and the customer base of metal packaging.

For more information, please review our website at <http://www.metal-pack.org>.