

# The North American Metal Packaging Alliance



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## About NAMPA

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) is committed to promoting sound science in risk-based decision-making pertinent to the light metal packaging industry, advocating on behalf of the light metal packaging industry on issues pertinent to packaging technologies, and providing customers with needed information regarding light metal packaging technologies and the regulatory frameworks in which these technologies are assessed.

**John M. Rost, Ph.D.**  
**Chairman**

## Want to join NAMPA?

If you would like to support our efforts and play an active role in NAMPA, please consider joining as a full member. Please contact NAMPA at 866-522-0950 or [info@metal-pack.org](mailto:info@metal-pack.org) for details.

## NAMPA News

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### Welcome to the New NAMPA Website: User-Friendly Design Unveiled

With each new media story that surfaces about bisphenol A (BPA), it is clear that important facts are routinely overlooked. This has left consumers confused and concerned, without the full details on perceived risks from this critically important food packaging material. As a responsible industry, the members of the North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) have spent countless hours working to make information about the benefits of metal packaging as well as the scientific research on BPA available and accessible to regulators, reporters, and consumers alike.

We do so with the goal of ensuring that the full perspective on metal cans and BPA is considered, including the significant food safety benefits that result from metal packaging. NAMPA members strive to educate to allow people to make an informed decision about the canned food and beverage products they purchase. It is with that goal in mind that I am pleased officially to unveil, with this publication of *NAMPA News*, our association's newly designed [website](#).

Over the past few months, we have worked diligently to redesign both the look and the structure of the site to make it easier to navigate. As you will see, we have added clearly identified categories to allow visitors to find easily valuable information about the vital role of metal packaging in providing safe and nutritious food in an economical manner. The redesigned site also offers a comprehensive new section detailing the safety of metal packaging, featuring an overview of the use of epoxy resins made with BPA; a look at NAMPA's commitment to sound scientific research; a summary of the international scientific reviews of BPA; details regarding BPA and food safety; and much more.

Our intent was to make the NAMPA site more dynamic with bold design

elements, an enhanced Search function, and increased use of photography and video imagery. Our NAMPA's Twitter feed also is more prominent.

We hope you will find the new NAMPA website a valuable resource for information about our industry and issues. We encourage our members, our members' customers, and others to visit the site often to get the latest developments from the world of metal packaging; to use the information provided as part of your education activities; and to share the link with other interested parties.

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## **NAMPA NEWS BRIEFS**

### ***German Society of Toxicology Study Supports Global Scientific Consensus on BPA***

In late April, an independent analysis was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Critical Reviews in Toxicology*, which reaffirmed the global consensus that BPA does not pose a risk to human health. The study was conducted by members of the German Society of Toxicology (SOT) and included a thorough review of all available scientific research on controversial issues associated with BPA.

In the study, the German toxicologists examined the scientific research on the most controversial issues with BPA, notably the "low dose theory" of endocrine disruption, the discrepancies between academic and industry funded research as well as susceptibility of certain populations. The nine authors found little scientific support for the low dose theory, and they explained the different aims and protocols for industry and academic science and how those different goals impact the findings. The analysis also concluded that research suggesting that infants were at risk failed to account for various metabolic functions to process BPA efficiently.

More specifically, this independent group of scientific experts determined that repeated failure to reproduce low-dose, positive health effects studies indicated that BPA may not cause *any* adverse health effects. In fact, the study went on to say, "The negative outcome of these large and well-designed studies prompted the question as to whether it is time to end concerns over the estrogenic effects of BPA." Additionally, the authors found criticisms regarding those same regulatory studies unsubstantiated by scientific research.

While the German SOT findings confirm the global regulatory consensus that current levels of exposure to BPA in food packaging are safe, the analysis contributes more to the international discussion of chemical regulation. The authors stated clearly that actions taken to ban BPA may be politically motivated, as the science does not provide

a compelling reason to do so. This conclusion is an important reminder to the scientific community of the need to present, explain, and defend their findings to policymakers, lest the science be overwhelmed by fear and emotion.

### ***Update on Initiatives Impacting BPA***

Since the beginning of this year, there has been no respite from efforts at both the state and international levels to seek some limits on the use of BPA. Numerous proposals are under consideration in several U.S. states as well as countries where BPA critics are pursuing measures to restrict BPA in both plastic and metal packaging.

On the state level, Maryland and Maine have adopted new laws banning BPA. On April 13, 2011, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law a measure prohibiting the use of BPA in the manufacture, sale, or distribution of containers of infant formula. Maine's ban on BPA, which prohibits the use of BPA in children's products, including baby bottles and sippy cups, was passed into law without its Governor's signature.

Still awaiting further action are legislative measures in Oregon, Iowa, and California. The Oregon State Senate passed a bill that would prohibit BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups and force the Oregon Health Authority to provide only BPA-free infant formula cans to low-income families, but the bill remained blocked in a House committee. In late May, a Portland Democrat filed a discharge petition to bring the bill out of committee and directly to a full House floor vote. The discharge effort failed and while that bill is dead, one of its key supporters has indicated his intent to introduce an identical measure with a new bill number prior to the end of the session.

Iowa's State Senate approved an amendment to a House-passed state appropriations bill that not only would make it illegal to manufacture, sell, or distribute sippy cups, baby bottles, baby bottle liners, teething rings, and pacifiers containing BPA, but would also require labeling provisions. The full appropriations bill is awaiting action in the Senate, which is expected to support the BPA amendment.

The California State Assembly passed a bill in late May to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of baby bottles, sippy cups, and infant formula and baby food containers designed for children 3 and younger. The measure included a 0.1 ppb threshold for BPA in baby food and infant formula, and is now awaiting action by the California Senate.

On the international front, regulatory and legislative efforts continue to move forward in a number of countries aimed at restricting and/or monitoring the use of BPA. In China, the Ministry of Health announced a public health directive prohibiting the manufacture, import, or sale of

infant feeding bottles containing BPA. The directive coincides with a recent ruling by the Supreme People's Court of China allowing for capital punishment in cases of food safety violations resulting in human death. Malaysia has also signed into law a ban on the use of BPA in infant formula containers. Regulatory reviews and proposals phasing out, limiting the use of, or requiring the reporting of BPA in packaging are currently under review in Brazil, Sweden, Austria, France, Belgium, and South Africa.

### ***NAMPA Expands Education Efforts in Summer 2011***

As part of an ongoing effort to educate broader audiences about metal packaging and the use of epoxy resin can coatings, NAMPA representatives will be participating in two key conferences this summer.

Later this month, NAMPA Chairman Dr. John Rost, and Executive Director Kathleen Roberts will participate in the 2011 International Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Expo (IFT11) in New Orleans, LA. They will join fellow presenters Kristi Jacobs of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Trevor Butterworth from George Mason University as part of an expert panel on BPA. Through a series of presentations and a moderated discussion, the panel will address BPA regulatory status, BPA alternatives, the potential low-dose risks of these compounds as well as differences in performance, and the impact on packaging and manufacturing. The BPA session at IFT11 is scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2011.

NAMPA will kick off August with a presentation by Dr. Rost at a symposium of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). Entitled "Safety and Performance of Can Coating Technologies - BPA Epoxy Resin and Alternatives," Dr. Rost's presentation will take place as part of the IAFP's symposium on BPA scheduled for August 3, 2011, in Milwaukee, WI.

For more information on these events, visit <http://www.am-fe.ift.org/cms/> or <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/iafp-annual-meeting/>.

### ***BPA and NAMPA in the News***

Just in time for Fathers' Day 2011, the June issue of *Redbook* magazine now on newsstands features a lengthy article on the potential risks to consumers from exposure to BPA. The article, entitled "The New Boys' Health Scare," addressed endocrine disruption as the result of exposure to BPA with particular emphasis on its impact on infant boys. The author quoted experts on both sides of the controversy, including NAMPA Chairman Dr. John Rost. The only industry representative included in the article, Dr. Rost addressed the

beneficial role of BPA epoxy resins in protecting food safety and informed readers that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had recently found BPA safe for use in cans.

*Glamour* magazine also took up the BPA issue in its May edition. The article -- "The New Toxic Threats to Womens' Health" -- talked about chemicals found in foods, cosmetics, hair products, and common household goods. Information came primarily from noted critics of BPA, while reviews by major international regulatory bodies were overlooked. NAMPA sent a letter to the editor to inform the magazine's readers of the food safety benefits of epoxy resins, and also that the WHO, EFSA, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), FDA, and the German Institute for Risk Assessment are among the distinguished organizations that have found BPA safe in food contact applications.

### ***Consumers Willing to Pay More for Food Safety***

When it comes to food safety, a new survey by Pew Charitable Trusts recently found that nearly seven in ten respondents said they would be willing to pay more for food in order to support the increase in funding needed to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act. Sixty-six percent of respondents supported extra funding for the FDA to implement new food safety responsibilities, while nearly 75 percent said they would pay up to 3 percent more for food. The survey was conducted in late April by Pew in response to questions about the fate of the federal funding required to implement the new law.

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### **NAMPA WEBSITE**

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