Bisphenol-A (BPA) Updates in US

Federal:

The US Congress has proposed a bill in March this year to ban the use of BPA in “reusable food container” and “other food containers”. According to the proposal, a food (or beverage) container that is composed of (in whole or in part) BPA, or that can release BPA into food shall be prohibited. The prohibition will become effective 180 days after the date of enactment, however, waiver may be granted by the authority.

Notes:

“Reusable food container” means a container that does not contain a food item when it is introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce.

“Other food container” means a container that is packed with food and introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce.

Suffolk County, New York State:

Suffolk Executive, Mr. Steve Levy, announced on April 2, 2009 the signing of the Resolution of ban on baby bottles and cups intended to be used by children under three years of age that contain BPA. According to the law, no person shall sell or offer for sale children's beverage containers that contain BPA within the County of Suffolk.

The law will take effect 90 days after it is officially filed and applies to any and all actions occurring on or after the effective date.

Illinois:

The state of Illinois has proposed a bill (Child-Safe Chemicals Act) to outlaw all children's food containers and sports water bottles made with BPA. According to the bill, beginning July 1, 2010, no person shall sell, offer to sell, distribute, or offer to distribute sports water bottle; or children's food container for consumption by children 3 years of age or younger no matter that container is filled with or without any food or beverage, that contains BPA.

However, this requirement does not apply to metal cans. Metal can means a single-walled container manufactured from a metal substrate that is equal to or thinner than 0.0149 inches, and designed to hold or pack any food or beverage.
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Maryland:

The state of Maryland has proposed to ban the use of BPA in child care articles. The Maryland House of Delegates has voted 134-1 to approve the bill and is now under further consideration by the Senate. The proposal requires child care articles to be free from BPA or any other carcinogens or reproductive toxicants. It also requires manufacturers to label products as Bisphenol-A free.

A person violating these requirements will be subject to a fine not exceeding USD $10,000 for each violation.

Uses of BPA:

Bisphenol-A is used primarily to make plastics, and products containing BPA-based plastics have been in commerce for more than 50 years. It is a key monomer in production of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. Polycarbonate plastic is nearly shatter-proof, and is used to make a variety of common products including baby and water bottles. Epoxy resins containing BPA are used as coatings on the inside of almost all food and beverage cans.

Health Effects:

Bisphenol A has low acute toxicity, but it is an endocrine disruptor. Low doses of BPA can mimic the body's own hormones, possibly causing negative health effects. There is thus concern that long term low dose exposure to BPA may induce chronic toxicity in humans.

The Solution:

Intertek's commitment is to deliver innovative solutions to facilitate our customers' success in the global marketplace. By leveraging our local services and global network, we enable our customers to dedicate their primary energies to their core business activities. We offer comprehensive programs and services which draw on our industry specific knowledge and technical expertise.

Intertek has also developed precise analytical methods in verifying the concentration of Bisphenol-A in plastic products.

Should you have any query on the above news, please contact Yandy Pak at Tel: (852) 2173-8644 / Fax to (852) 2785-8570 / Email: intertek.tfh.info@intertek.com