



April 17, 2008

The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Room 14-7
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Commissioner von Eschenbach:

As you know, shatter-resistant and clear polycarbonate plastic is used in a wide array of products ranging from plastic bottles and eyeglasses to sports safety equipment, as well as components of life saving medical devices such as incubators and kidney dialysis machines. Durable epoxy resins are used as the coating in most food and beverage cans, helping to protect the safety and integrity of our food supply.

The safety of these products has been supported by numerous science-based safety evaluations of bisphenol A conducted by independent government and scientific bodies worldwide. For example, recent evaluations by the European Food Safety Authority and NSF International both provide strong support for the safety of polycarbonate bottles. The NTP's draft brief issued on April 14 on bisphenol likewise supports the continued safe use of these products.

Despite prior, extensive study of this compound, however, the issuance of this draft brief by NTP, along with a number of recent press stories, has confused and raised concerns about its safety with the public. Many of these concerns appear to be related to products that are used in food contact applications. I am therefore writing on behalf of the American Chemistry Council to request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) update its review of the safety of bisphenol A in these applications, taking into consideration the draft NTP brief and other relevant new reviews or data. ACC encourages FDA to make a complete review of the scientific data from around the world in its review, including the recent work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and other regulatory bodies. It is also important that FDA move as quickly as possible to undertake this review, since the results of this review, regardless of its outcome, will better help inform the public and policymakers with respect to this important compound.

ACC looks forward to hearing FDA's timeline for this important review. Given the climate of public concern, we believe the public should have reassurance from FDA that it has taken a recent and careful look at the scientific data regarding bisphenol A in food contact applications. We look forward to learning FDA's decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Gibson
Senior Vice President, Advocacy
American Chemistry Council

