

BISPHENOL A FACT SHEET

What Is Bisphenol A and How Is It Used?

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an important chemical building block that is used primarily to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins, both of which are used in a wide variety of applications that make our lives better and safer.

Polycarbonate is a lightweight, high-performance plastic that possesses a unique balance of shatter-resistance and optical clarity as well as high heat and electrical resistance. A wide variety of polycarbonate products are made possible by these attributes. Common examples of polycarbonate products include eyeglass lenses, digital media (e.g., CDs, DVDs), electronic and electrical equipment housings (e.g., personal computers, appliances, power tools), automobile headlight lenses, sports safety equipment (e.g., helmets, goggles), components of medical devices (e.g., blood oxygenators, dialyzers, incubators) and reusable food and drink containers.

Epoxy resins are most commonly used as protective coatings due to their exceptional combination of toughness, adhesion, formability and chemical resistance. These characteristics also make them suitable for numerous other applications such as printed circuit board laminates, high-strength composites, paints and adhesives. When used as a coating on the interior of metal cans, epoxy resins protect the integrity and safety of our food supply by preventing corrosion and contamination of canned foods and beverages with metals and bacteria.

Commercial production of bisphenol A began in the 1950's when large-scale uses for polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins were developed. The global consumption of bisphenol A in 2003 was estimated to be approximately 3 million metric tons (Source: Chemical Economics Handbook, SRI Consulting, August 2004).

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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