

BPA NEWS

BPA REGULATORY NEWS

The DGCCRF¹ provides clarification concerning the ban on BPA in food containers.

Law No 2012-1442 of 24 December 2012 halts “the manufacture, import, export and marketing, free of charge or for a fee, of all packaging, containers or utensils containing Bisphenol A and intended to come into direct contact with any foodstuffs.”

In order better to interpret this law, in a notice dated 08 December 2014, the DGCCRF¹ has provided some definitions of terms such as: “packaging,” “containers” and “utensils,” “direct contact,” etc. This notice defines the scope of the law, as well as the products envisaged, as follows: the ban does not apply to materials and industrial equipment used in the production, processing, storage or transportation of foodstuffs (such as fixed or movable vessels, tanks and tankers, silos, hoses and pipes, industrial systems with built-in piping bags, etc.). By contrast, this ban applies to utensils and containers (e.g. molds, containers and piping bags, etc.) intended for sale to consumers or intended for sale in mixed consumer/professional sectors (such as pastry cooks, restaurant owners, etc.).

DGCCRF¹ : Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and the Prevention of Fraud.

Source and details : <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/mise-en-oeuvre-loi-bisphenol-a-bpa> (in French)

BPA SUBSTITUTION NEWS

New avenues for BPA-free epoxy resins

The Green Epoxy Project

The aim of the Green Epoxy Project (2014-2016) is to suggest alternatives to epoxy resins by replacing Bisphenol A with polyphenol derivatives made from forestry biomass (biosourced products will be developed from pine bark). Protéus®, a biotech subsidiary of PCAS (Produits Chimiques et Auxiliaires de Synthèse [Synthetic Chemical and Auxiliary Products]) is conducting this project at a site where 6 companies and 3 research laboratories are based. Green Epoxy also has the stamp of approval of the IAR¹, Trimatec² and Axelera³ clusters.

The organization plans to market these new types of resins post-2016, once the research period is over.

Under this project, the LEFRANT RUBCO Company is developing under contract the biosourced products being used.

Dans le cadre de ce projet, la société LEFRANT RUBCO élabore à façon les produits biosourcés employés.

IAR¹: Industry and Agro-Resources Competitiveness Cluster - promotes industrial innovation in agro-resources through collaborative projects, bringing the industry sectors together

Trimatec²: Ecotechnologies cluster

Axelera³: International Competitiveness Cluster Lyon & Rhône-Alps Chemicals/Environment

Sources: <http://www.iar-pole.com/infos-adherents/resultats-du18eme-appel-a-projets-fui> (in French) and

http://www.proteus.fr/en/8-projet_green_epoxy-22.html

Storage tanks and equipment used for the production of wine

To date, BPA is recognized as being present in certain epoxy resins used chiefly in the wine production sectors. Alternative solutions are being researched but are not yet available on the market. Since 2012, several organizations, including the IFV (French Institute for Vine and Wine), have been seeking to identify the origins of BPA along the entire grape-wine production chain. At this stage of the research, the authors consider all equipment coated with epoxy resins to be at-risk equipment (storage tanks, press screws, taps, etc.).

Sources : <http://www.vignevin.com/recherche/vin-et-marche/qualite-sanitaire/interet-pour-la-filiere/interet-pour-la-filiere.html> and <http://www.institut-rhodanien.com/vin/fr/actes-des-colloques-rencontres-rhodaniennes> (in French)

Conveyor belts for food contact

As a replacement for PVC belts that may contain BPS, ESBELT, a conveyor belt manufacturer, has developed “food contact” approved conveyor belts made of flexible PVC guaranteed to be Bisphenol-free. This initiative, dating from 2011, was not prompted by any regulatory obligation.

According to Mr. Grégoire CATOIRE, Sales Manager, other items from the range will very soon to follow suit.

Source : <http://www.esbelt.com/products/Bandaslnici.php?IDM=EN>

BPA-free products in the health sector

Some manufacturers are **voluntarily** becoming involved in the manufacture of BPA-free products intended for human health. This trend is not prompted by any regulatory obligation but nevertheless reflects the recent ban on this substance for food containers.

• Injection equipment: IV bag tap and non-return valve

Infuser and extension tube with a 3-way tap fitted with Tritan™ copolyester-based non-return valves (replacing polycarbonate). This alternative is already used in the food packaging sector (see the article on the SNA-BPA website “A range of Bisphenol A-free transparent containers for contract catering is now available on the market”). Main areas of application: hemodialysis lines; anesthetics and drainage; IV devices; surgery; urology; gastroenterology.

Source: <http://www.didactic.fr/modules/AMS/article.php?storyid=17&lang=en>

• Respiratory support equipment

Microbubble humidifier to support respiratory failure gas therapy and pressure compensated flowmeters for oxygen and medical air. For these items, according to the manufacturer, using a copolyester confers the same properties upon the products as the polycarbonates previously used. The development of this range of BPA-free products is aimed at differentiating these manufacturers from the other market players. Over the coming years, MULLER MEDICAL will continue to enhance its range with other Bisphenol A-free products.

Source: <http://www.muller-medical.com/produits.html> (in French)

• Dialysis equipment

Since 2010, NIPRO-Europe has offered its Elisio™ or SureFlux® range of hemodialyzers, guaranteed to be BPA-free in order to avoid allergic reactions connected with the use of this substance. The polycarbonate conventionally used for these items has been replaced by polypropylene for the casings and filters.

Polypropylene being lighter than polycarbonate brings advantages as regards packaging (thinner) and delivery costs.

Source: www.nipro-europe.com

AGENDA

PACKAGING INNOVATION 2016 from 24 to 25 February 2016 in Birmingham (United Kingdom).

The appointment "Packaging Innovations" will be held in conjunction with the “Empack” and “Label & Print” salons in Birmingham. On the occasion of this salon, international manufacturers present their latest trends and innovations in printing material, sustainable packaging, materials, design, machinery, equipment...

Internet link: http://www.easyfairs.com/events_216/packaging-innovations-birmingham-2016_71765/packaging-innovations-2016_72486/

CFIA from 8 to 10 March 2016 in Rennes (France).

In the framework of the CFIA (Carrefour of Food Industry Suppliers) the food manufacturers will have the opportunity to meet suppliers involved in every step of the transformation process: intermediate food products & ingredients, equipments and processes, packaging.

Internet link: <http://www.cfiaexpo.com/en>