

Packaging Federation response to the French action to suspend use of BPA

BPA must be the most researched chemical compound ever and scientific evidence doesn't support a ban.

Food companies rely on the European single market and proportionate legislation based on science to make decisions about their products and businesses. The current situation with bisphenol A (BPA) in France is disheartening as it builds unnecessary uncertainty and inconsistency into the European regulatory system, undermining the role of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The Packaging Federation strongly believes that EFSA's final opinion on BPA, due to be published at the end of this year, should inform policy decisions across Europe and anticipates confirmation of previous studies and opinions of the material's continued safe use at current levels (see note below.)

The overall financial impact of the French action is difficult to quantify. Without public health justification or a demonstrable consumer benefit, industry is having to divert resources to this issue that could have otherwise been employed in other areas, for example driving greater resource efficiency or healthy innovation.

Each company in the French supply chain is responding to the circumstances, the overarching consideration being to comply with the law while maintaining consumer safety.

There is no universal alternative that could replace the variety of materials that include BPA, which represents a significant challenge. Each of the various potential replacements must therefore be trialled and tested rigorously, product by product, recipe by recipe, in order to ensure consumer safety, food quality and technical performance.

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Notes

EFSA's Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of bisphenol A (BPA) in foodstuffs.

Full paper <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultationsclosed/call/140117.pdf>

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