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Canadian Government Confirms Negligible Risk to Canadians from BPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 18, 2008)

Today's announcement by Health Canada regarding its draft human health screening assessment for bisphenol A (BPA) should provide needed reassurance to Canadians. In the announcement, Health Canada officials clearly stated that the very low levels of BPA exposure experienced by most people presents negligible risk. The preliminary decision by Health Canada to take action on BPA represents nothing more than the progression of a procedural process required under controlling law, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), that is intended to determine if BPA is "toxic" as defined under CEPA. The ongoing CEPA process regarding BPA now moves forward with a 60-day public comment period.

It is important to understand that today's action by Health Canada focused primarily on potential health effects from exposure to BPA in polycarbonate baby bottles and to a lesser extent, in canned infant formula. The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) is reviewing the report carefully, and is mindful of Health Canada's expression of interest in working with manufacturers of canned infant formula to develop a code of practice that ensures the highest standards of protection for this use. NAMPA will participate fully in the process as it is consistent with its members' commitment to the highest standards of product health and safety.

NAMPA encourages Health Canada's continued assessment of the safety of its products as we are confident that the full Canadian safety review of BPA will come to the same conclusion as the United States Food and Drug Administration and the European Food Safety Authority that BPA-based epoxy coatings are safe to use in contact with food. Health Canada is well aware of the critical importance of epoxy coatings in protecting the food supply in Canada from microbiological contamination.

NAMPA and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. The safety of BPA has been evaluated by numerous independent expert panels from around the globe and these independent reviews have consistently concluded that the use of BPA-derived can coatings does not put the public at risk. These reviews clearly state that the use of BPA epoxy-based protective coatings in metal packaging is acceptable for foods for consumers of all ages.

As more details about the information become available, NAMPA will continue to update its membership and the customer base of metal packaging.

For more information, please review our website at <http://www.metal-pack.org>.

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. is an organization whose objectives are to support risk-based regulations in North America, influence regulation in other geographies, provide customers with needed information regarding well-founded technologies, and advocate risk-based decision-making in technology decisions.