



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF BOTTLES AND TEATS

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European Commission's announced measure to ban polycarbonate baby bottles in Europe

Since the recent announcement from the European Commission regarding a ban of PC feeding bottles in the EU market during the next few months, the WBT would like to reassure all parents who are either currently using or have used PC feeding bottles in the past to feed their babies.

The measure will prohibit the manufacture of polycarbonate infant feeding bottles with BPA as from 1 March 2011 and the placing on the market and import as from 1 June 2011 for the European market. It is expected that the measure will be adopted by the Commission in January 2011.

Plastics made with BPA contribute to the safety and convenience of everyday life because of their durability, clarity and shatter resistance.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is the starting monomer (intermediate) for polycarbonate. Polycarbonate plastic provides unique performance characteristics, through its virtual unbreakability, ease of sterilisation, heat resistance and transparency.

Regulatory authorities such as EFSA (September 2010) and the WHO (November 2010) has very recently concluded, based on an assessment of the latest scientific evidence, that there is no reason to change anything in the present use of the substance in food contact, or to take any public health measures.

For this reason PC feeding bottles are still on the market and can be used without any health or safety concerns.

Many feeding bottle manufacturers have started to introduce new alternative materials during the last few years, constantly looking to regulatory authorities for guidance in using food contact approved materials.

WBT is currently working with EU authorities in order to provide complete information to consumers.

To explain that the phase out of PC is a voluntary measure taken by industry independently from regulatory authorities, and that any rule set by EU authorities should clearly explain that there is no health concern for consumers who are either currently using or have used PC feeding bottles in the past to feed their babies.

For further information, please visit www.thewbt.org