

Amy's Kitchen, Inc.
www.amyskitchen.com

Their Statement to us 2008:

Amy's is a family-owned company. Everything we offer is made from start to finish by our own people. We do everything possible to make our products as natural, safe and high in quality as possible.

We are concerned when we hear questions about epoxy coatings in our cans that may contain extremely low levels of BPA. Traditionally, the coatings have been used to prevent the food from contacting the metal container. The presence of BPA is limited to our canned products only.

While we have been assured about the safety of the coatings, we are actively searching for alternatives. We are also doing storage testing to determine if we could safely replace the coating with other coatings, or whether we could eliminate it completely on some products. These storage studies take a number of months to get results. We are actively evaluating any coating or container that might give our customers a greater degree of comfort.

Food Safety Studies:

There have been 100's or thousands of scientific articles and studies on the safety of Bisphenol A (BPA), as used in epoxy can linings throughout the world. The studies are often contradictory, as often happens with scientific studies.

Recently, the European Food Safety Authority has completed an important review of all the 200 new BPA studies since 2002 and concluded:

“Is it legally permitted for use in food contact materials in the EU?”

Yes. BPA is permitted for use in food contact materials in the European Union [1]. It is also permitted for food contact use in other countries such as the USA and Japan.”

“What has the Panel concluded?”

The Panel has concluded that the setting of a full rather than a temporary Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) is now appropriate, following an extensive review of all available data. People's dietary exposure to BPA, including that of infants and children, is well below the new TDI.”

The European Food Safety Authority answers questions on the subject at:

FAQ

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_BisphenolAFAQs.htm

An Explanation of the European Food Safety Authority's independent role in studying and issuing food safety opinions is at:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_AboutEfsa.htm

Canadian Concerns

In an April 19, 2008 Vancouver Sun article, the Canadian Health Minister outlined the Canadian position on banning BPA based products in baby bottles:

"The government announced Friday that Canada will be the first country to ban plastic baby bottles with bisphenol A after concluding the chemical is toxic.

Health Minister Tony Clement unveiled the "precautionary and prudent" move while trying to calm fears with a limited ban of the widely used chemical, also found in hard plastic sports bottles and tin cans of food and infant formula. Most Canadians "need not be concerned" about the health effects of bisphenol A, but Clement said "this is not the case for newborns and infants."

"We have concluded that early development is sensitive to the effects of bisphenol A," Clement, joined by Environment Minister John Baird, told an audience that included new mothers and their babies.

"Although our science tells us that exposure levels to newborns and infants are below the levels that cause effects, we believe that the current safety margin needs to be higher. We have concluded that it is better to be safe than sorry."

The main source of exposure for babies is through migration of bisphenol A from boiling water poured into polycarbonate baby bottles and from can linings into liquid infant formula.)

So the Canadian Health Minister has focused their concern on baby bottles, and said that most Canadians need not be concerned the health affects of BPA.

But, Amy's still is guided by the interests of our customers, and we are intensifying our efforts to find new can coatings.

Best regards,

Carol Tamagni
Consumer Relations

2008.10.22 Update:

Hi, In August of 2008, several can manufacturers provided us with BPA free cans. In turn, we canned various varieties of our soups/chilis and have them stored in our warehouse. Now we are waiting to see how our soups TASTE after being canned. We need to make sure that the lining of the cans do not affect the taste of our soups after a month, two months, six months etc. As soon as we complete these studies...and they meet our strict taste tests...you can be sure that we will be switching cans!

Carol T.

2009.11.05 Update:

We are actually down to [testing] about three cans [as alternatives to BPA-lined cans]. Please note that we had about 7 or 9 to start with! I am hoping to have more information in the next month or so.

Carol Tamagni
Consumer Relations
Amy's Kitchen, Inc.

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2010.12.12 Update:

We have spent 2 years looking for an alternative and we are happy to report that after much testing, we have found a BPA free lining that will work with our products. The transition to non BPA coatings will begin January 2011 and be complete by the end of the year.

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