



BISPHENOL-A



## BPA is Proven to Be Safe: So why are customers still confused?

Due to the misinformation often published about bisphenol-A (BPA), a chemical compound used in polycarbonate plastic bottles, it's no wonder that consumers have questions. Some home and office delivery (HOD) bottled water businesses elect to use PET beverage containers (which do not contain BPA); still others opt to use 3- and 5-gallon polycarbonate plastic bottles as their container-of-choice to hold up against the wear-and-tear expected from a business that centers around returnable, reusable containers.

For bottled water bottlers, when communicating with customers about the polycarbonate plastic bottles in your float, here are a few facts you'll want to make sure to share:

**The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the use of polycarbonate plastic containers for food contact.** Because the FDA comprehensively regulates bottled water as a food product, the agency approves all food-contact plastics for their intended use based on migration and safety data. Plastic food and beverage containers, including polycarbonate plastic bottles made with BPA, must meet or exceed all FDA requirements.

**Polycarbonate plastic has been the material of choice for many food and beverage product containers for more than 50 years.** Bottled water bottlers like it because it is lightweight, highly shatter-resistant, and transparent.

**As recently as March 2013, FDA reconfirmed its opinion that BPA is safe for food contact.** Issuing what it calls a BPA consumer update, the agency stated, "FDA's current

assessment is that BPA is safe at the very low levels that occur in some foods. This assessment is based on review by FDA scientists of hundreds of studies including the latest findings from new studies initiated by the agency." For more, visit <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm064437.htm>.

**In 2012, FDA rejected a citizen petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) seeking to ban BPA from all food and drink packaging, including plastic bottles and canned food.** FDA stated that its "assessment is that the scientific evidence at this time does not suggest that the very low levels of human exposure to BPA through the diet are unsafe."

**FDA isn't the only regulatory agency confirming the safety of BPA.** Others include Health Canada; the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); Japan's Research Institute of Science for Safety and Sustainability (RISS), a division of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST); the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR); and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

**BPA does not pose a risk to pregnant mothers or fetuses.** In April 2013, FDA and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) studying the metabolic pathways of BPA published a study that found BPA does not cause harm to pregnant mothers or their unborn fetuses. For more, visit [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23261975](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23261975).

**For more information about BPA, visit IBWA's website ([www.bottledwater.org](http://www.bottledwater.org)) and the American Chemistry Council's website (<http://factsaboutbpa.org>).**