

Bisphenol A (BPA) Being Removed by Major Companies, Report Shows

By Joanne Ranada, Oct 21 2010



Many large corporations are removing BPA from cans and other packaging products, according to a new report, Seeking Safer Packaging 2010 from Green Century Capital Management. Investors of these companies believe the transition prevents the companies from incurring financial risks.

Over the past months there have been reports about the health hazards of the endocrine disrupting chemical bisphenol A which is mostly found in baby bottles, food can linings and other packaging products.

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health impacts such as heart disease, impotence, cancer as well as developmental problems in babies and young children. The use of the chemical has already been restricted in France and Denmark while Canada has classified it into a "toxic chemical." Germany, on the other hand, warned consumers to avoid it.

BPA has been the recent focus of public attention because recent studies showed the link between the chemical and its harmful

The companies involved in this consumer market shift include H.J. Heinz, Hain Celestial, ConAgra and General Mills. The first three companies were given "A" grades but other corporations like Coca-Cola, Kraft, del Monte, and Wal-Mart received scores of "F".

As a response to the shareholders concerns last year, BPA manufacturer Sunoco reportedly disclosed that it refused to sell BPA to customer-companies whose products involved potential exposure to infants and small children.

According to Larissa Ruoff, Director of Shareholder Advocacy for Green Century, an environmentally-responsible investment firm, "It is critical for investors to understand the potential liabilities for companies that use BPA in their products or product packaging. With growing consumer and regulatory concern about the health effects of BPA, companies should phase out the chemical to avoid reputational, competitive, litigation and regulatory troubles."