

Which companies use BPA-free cans to package food?

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Major food and beverage brands, including Hain Celestial, H.J. Heinz and ConAgra, are starting to use cans free of the estrogen-like chemical bisphenol A, says a report released Thursday.

A report released Thursday, *Seeking Safer Packaging 2010*, grades 26 companies for their efforts to eliminate the estrogen-like chemical BPA from their packaging.

"Companies are actually moving faster than regulators in phasing out BPA from food and beverage packaging," says Emily Stone of Green Century Capital Management, an investment advisory firm that co-authored the report with **As You Sow**, an environmental advocacy group.

This year, the report finds, 32% of companies surveyed had established internal timelines for phasing out BPA in packaging — up from 7% with timelines in 2009. For "*Seeking Safer Packaging 2010*," researchers surveyed 26 companies in the food, beverage and retail sectors.

Despite this momentum, the report gives failing grades to a dozen corporations, including Coca-Cola, Del Monte, Kraft, Unilever, Kroger, Safeway, Supervalu and Wal-Mart. BPA is widely used in the linings of many canned foods and beverages as well as in many hard plastic containers and thermal receipt paper.

"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," says Larisa Ruoff, Green Century's director of shareholder advocacy.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expressed "some concern" about BPA's potential effects on the brain, behavior and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and young children but has not banned it, reports USA TODAY colleague Liz Szabo. The Grocery Manufacturers Association, an industry group, says BPA is safe.

Seven U.S. states have banned BPA in some products, the report says. Denmark and France have restricted it, Canada designates it a "toxic chemical," and Germany warns consumers to avoid it.

SUMMARY SCORECARD OF CORPORATE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE BPA	
	GRADE
Hain Celestial	A
ConAgra	A
H.J. Heinz	A
General Mills	B+
Nestlé	B
Sara Lee	C
McCormick	C
Campbell Soup	C
Kellogg	D+
Whole Foods	D+
Dean Foods	D+
Costco	D
Pepsico	D-
JM Smucker	D-
Coca Cola	F
Del Monte	F
Kraft	F
Supervalu	F
Unilever	F
Kroger	F
Safeway	F
Wal-Mart	F
Hormel	F
Sysco	F
Delhaize Group	F
Hershey	F

Courtesy of Seeking Safer Packaging 2010