

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY SUPPORTS HEALTH CANADA'S ASSESSMENT OF BPA

Toronto, April 18, 2008 – Food & Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) welcomed Health Canada's announcement today on the results of its assessment of bisphenol A (BPA).

Today's announcement reassures consumers and retailers about the safety of BPA for the general population in light of recent media reports questioning its safety. Health Canada is sending a clear message that food and beverage products are safe for the general public to continue to consume as they've been doing for many years and that there is no need to change purchasing or eating patterns for adults and infants. The study clearly showed that there are no safety or health concerns from trace exposure to bisphenol A.

"Health Canada's findings are consistent with the international scientific community and we appreciate the extensive work undertaken to review the safety of BPA," said Gemma Zecchini, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, at FCPC adding that, "Based on the body of scientific evidence reviewed by Health Canada, which included scrutiny of over 150 studies, consumers can continue to safely enjoy foods and beverages in the many forms of packaging provided."

Polycarbonate baby bottles will be the subject of further scrutiny over the next 60 days. Manufacturers of baby bottles in Canada will review the results of the risk assessment carefully and look forward to engaging in discussions with Health Canada on future risk management measures.

Industry will continue to provide government with the most recent and comprehensive data at its disposal to facilitate the adoption of risk management measures that are consistent with best practices relating to safety. The makers of infant formula will work with the government to adopt risk management best practices to minimize exposure in their products.

"As always, the safety of Canadians and the products manufactured in Canada remains industry's utmost priority," said Zecchini. "We believe today's announcement is a positive step to ensure that Canadians have accurate information about the safety of the products they consume."

For further details about Health Canada's findings, Canadians can visit <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/en/>. Those with specific product questions are encouraged to contact the manufacturers directly, either through their websites or customer service lines.

*Food & Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) is the largest industry association representing Canadian-operated food and consumer product companies that make and market national and retailer brands sold through retail and foodservice outlets. The industry employs approximately 300,000 Canadians across the country, making it the largest employer in the Canadian manufacturing sector, generating \$24 billion annually in GDP (13% of the Manufacturing Gross Domestic Product). On an annual basis, the industry donates an estimated \$100 million in cash donations to charitable causes and over 5 million bags of groceries to food banks in Canada. The industry has a record of*

*embracing world-class regulatory standards and is governed by 442 federal and provincial pieces of legislation, as well as thousands of regulations and self-imposed standards.*

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