Media Concerns Regarding Polycarbonate Containers

As you may know, Health Canada announced it would complete a risk assessment of bisphenol A (BPA) in consultation with industry and other stakeholders as well as initiate a 60 day public comment period on whether to allow the sale of polycarbonate baby bottles which contain bisphenol A. This announcement triggered several news reports on the topic of BPA and polycarbonate containers in general. As a result of the concerns expressed in the media and the questions asked by you, we would like to provide information on the topic of polycarbonate and BPA and how the topic applies to Tupperware.

Certain Tupperware products are made from polycarbonate including serving products, Rock 'N Serve® containers and Heat 'N Serve™ containers. However, polycarbonate is not currently used in any of our Tupperware children's products and we do not currently sell baby bottles in the U.S. or in Canada.

As far as our view on the safety of bisphenol-A in these products is concerned, we believe the numerous governmental regulatory agencies around the world, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the European Food Safety Agency, the United Kingdom Food Standards Agency and the Japanese Ministry for Health, Labor and Welfare, who have all approved the material and have not changed their current positions that current uses with food are safe. Over the last ten years, other scientists have raised questions regarding the migration of bisphenol A out of the product over time. The above-mentioned agencies have repeatedly reconfirmed the safety of the material. We also have conducted migration studies of bisphenol-A in our products using independent laboratories and found the migration levels to be not only within acceptable levels as specified by the Governmental agencies but well below these levels.

Therefore, we believe polycarbonate material to be safe; however, as is our practice with all materials from which we make our products, we will continue to research a variety of alternative options to further evolve our product selection and material makeup.

We've included here a question and answer section as well as a listing of our products made from polycarbonate. This is to help you feel confident in answering questions you may be asked by consumers.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Regarding Polycarbonate and Bisphenol-A

Q: Does Tupperware use polycarbonate in any of its products?

A: Yes, Tupperware's Research and Development group has found that polycarbonate creates the highest quality and most durable products for our consumers. Consumers have consistently asked for durable, microwave-safe products, and we believe that polycarbonate is a good choice for meeting this need.

Polycarbonate is used in a small percentage of our products, primarily those intended for high heat resistance, as well as some serving lines (see listing of Tupperware products which contain polycarbonate.)

Currently in the United States and Canada we do NOT use polycarbonate in any children's products.

Q: What is Bisphenol-A?

A: Bisphenol A (BPA) http://www.bisphenol-a.org/human/consafety.html is a key industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate, a raw material found in hundreds of plastic household goods and other products. Recent media reports have raised questions about its safety, though bisphenol-A has been deemed safe for consumer use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies around the world.

Q: Does Tupperware consider polycarbonate to be safe for use in its consumer products?

A: Based on the repeated governmental scrutiny that polycarbonate has had by various regulatory agencies, Tupperware continues to believe the material is safe. As we have the highest regard and concern for the safety of our consumers, however, we will continue to closely monitor this scientific debate and conduct our own research into the best materials for use in Tupperware products.

Q: Is it safe to microwave food in Tupperware® products?

A: Yes, Tupperware® products that are intended for use in the microwave, including products made from polycarbonate, are safe for such use.

Q: Is it safe to dishwash and re-use Tupperware® products?

A: Yes, it is safe to reuse Tupperware® products and to dishwash Tupperware® products that are approved for use in the dishwasher.

Q: Why does Tupperware not place recycling codes on the bottom of their products?

A: The raw material identification (recycling) code was created to facilitate plastic recycling. This code is a triangle symbol that features a number from 1 to 7 to assist consumers in separating plastics for recycling purposes based on the type of plastic material used.

Because Tupperware products contain a lifetime guarantee and were not originally intended for recycling, they were not labeled with recycle codes. Now that the code system and recycling practices have become more widely adopted internationally, Tupperware will begin to systematically place raw material codes (recycling codes) on all products. Raw material identification codes for all our main product ranges are currently available at www.tupperware.com.

Q: Are any of Tupperware's current children's products made from polycarbonate?

A: Currently in the United States and Canada we do NOT sell baby bottles, nor use polycarbonate in any children's products.

Material abbreviations :
LDPE : Polyethylene, mainly of the Linear Low Density Polyethylene LDPE
PP: Polypropylene; can be either Homopolymer, Random Copolymer or Impact Copolymer
PP-TLDPE: PP Thermoplastic Elastomer
PC: Polycarbonate
Bisphenol A (BPA) is a key industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate plastic, epoxy resins and other products.
PA: Polyamide

Raw Material Symbols:

LDPETE: Polyethylene terephthalate ethylene, used for soft drink, juice, water, detergent, cleaner and peanut butter containers.

HDLDPE: High-density polyethylene, used in opaque plastic milk and water jugs, bleach, detergent and shampoo bottles and some plastic bags.

PVC or V: Polyvinyl chloride, used for cling wrap, some plastic squeeze bottles, cooking oil and peanut butter jars, detergent and window cleaner bottles.

LDLDPE: Low density polyethylene, used in grocery store bags, most plastic wraps and some bottles.

PP: Polypropylene, used in most Rubbermaid, deli soup, syrup and yogurt containers, straws and other clouded plastic containers, including baby bottles.

PS: Polystyrene, used in Styrofoam food trays, egg cartons, disposable cups and bowls, carryout containers and opaque plastic cutlery.

Other: Usually polycarbonate, used in most plastic baby bottles, 5-gallon water bottles, "sport" water bottles, metal food can liners, clear plastic "sippy" cups and some clear plastic cutlery. New bio-based plastics may also be labeled #7.

PRODUCT RANGE	***MATERIALS USED***	***(RAW MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION) RECYCLE CODE***
Access Mates	Seal: LDPE	4 LDPE
	Container: PP	5 PP
Cake Takers	PP	5 PP
Chef Series Cookware	Stainless Steel	
Chip 'N Dip	Seal: LDPE	4 LDPE
	Container: PP	5 PP

Crystalwave	Seal: PP	
	Container: PP	
Flat Out	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Forget Me Not	PP	
Fresh N Cool Set	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Fridge Smart	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Fridge Stackables	PP	
Heat N Serve/Rock N Serve	Seal: PP	
	Container: PC	
Ice Prisms: Bowls, Pitcher & Tumbler Set	PC	
Impressions	PP	
Kids - Backyardigans Lunch Set	PP - LDPE	
Kids - Disney Mickey Meal Set	PP - LDPE	
Kids - Disney/Pixar's Cars Canister	PP - LDPE	
Kids - Divided Dish Set	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Kids – Ice Tups	PP/LDPE & HDPE	
Kids - Kung Fu Panda Lunch Set	PP - LDPE	

Kids – Printed containers, tumblers and cups	Seals: LDPE	
	Containers, Tumblers, Cups: PP	
	Lunchbox: PP	
	Container: PP	
Kids – Shape O Toy	PP	
Kids - Tote-em Pails Toy	PP - LDPE	 
Kitchen Duos	PA	
Lunch ‘n Things Container	PP	
Measuring Spoons	PP	
Microsteamer	Base: PC	
	All other components: PP	
Microwave Cereal Bowls	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Microwave Cooker - Oval	Base & Rack –PET/PEI	
	Cover: PC	
Microwave Luncheon Plate	PC	
Microsteamer	Base: PC	
	All other components: PP	
Modular Mates	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	

One Touch Canisters	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Prep Essentials	Bowls, Colanders, Containers: PP	
	Seals: LDPE	
	Utensils (Measuring Scoops): PP	
Quick Chef Base	PC	
Salt and Pepper Shakers	PP	
Sandwich Keeper Set	PP	
Season-Serve Container	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Serving items (Chip N Dip, Serving Center, Cereal Bowls)	Seals: LDPE	
	Containers: PP	
Sheerly Elegant Line	PC	
Snack Cup Set	PP	
Spice Set	Seal: LDPE	
	Bowl: PP	
Spin 'N Save Salad Spinner	Dry Gear: HDPG	
	Container: PP	
ThatsA Bowl	Seal: LDPE	
	Container: PP	
Tumbler Bouquet & Pitcher Set	Tumbler: PP	

	Seal - Bottom: LDPE	
	Seal – Top & Plunger: PP	
	Pitcher: PC	
Wonderlier Bowl Set	Seal: LDPE	
	Bowl: PP