



CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CASE tests canned food products sold in Singapore for BPA

The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) commissioned a test of 30 different canned food products sold in Singapore to determine if their migration levels of bisphenol-A (BPA) are within the safety limit adopted by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA). The results of the test showed that the migration levels of BPA for all 30 canned food products were within the safety limit, with the majority having no detectable amounts of BPA at all.

Background

BPA is a chemical that can leach into foods from the lacquer lining of canned food. It is used to prevent metal corrosion and breakages.

In 2010, CHOICE, the leading consumer advocacy group in Australia, conducted a test for BPA in canned food products. More than half the products they tested contained BPA at levels believed to be hazardous to human health. A recent study by Environmental Research, an academic journal on Environmental Sciences, Ecology, and Public Health revealed that people who consumed one canned food item in the past day had about 24% higher concentrations of BPA in their urine compared to those who did not consume any.

Following our previous test last year on the migration levels of BPA in reusable water bottles, we commissioned a similar test on canned food products sold in Singapore. As canned food products are commonly purchased and consumed in Singapore by typical households for the convenience factor, it is important that those sold here are safe for consumption.

AVA is the regulator of food-contact articles and they adopt the European Union's migration limit of 0.6mg¹ of BPA per kilogram of food. This refers to the tolerable amount of BPA that may transfer to food products in a can.

Scope and methodology

CASE mystery shoppers purchased 30 types of common canned food products with liquid contents from different countries of origins. They were purchased from supermarkets and heartland provision stores.

¹ One ppm is equivalent to 1 milligram of substance per kilogram (mg/kg).

The samples were sent to our designated laboratory and tested using high-performance liquid chromatography.

Outcome of the test

According to the test results, the migration levels of BPA for all 30 canned food products were within the safety limit adopted by AVA (see Annex A). The majority of the samples tested had no detectable amounts of BPA.

The results of the test bring assurance to consumers that there is minimal risk of BPA from the lining of the cans leaching into the food contents of canned food products sold in Singapore. It may also be inferred that the manufacturers and/or importers of canned food products here are generally mindful of safety and health regulations in their manufacturing and/or sale of such products. We applaud those companies which have already taken the lead to publicly declare that they are either phasing out BPA in their manufacturing processes or are BPA-free altogether.

Recommendations

Finally, we urge consumers to purchase and consume canned food products in moderation. Where possible, they should keep an eye out for the production date of the canned food products. They should bear in mind that if a particular canned food product has been on the shelves for an extended period of time after its production date, the migration level of the BPA may be higher. Consumers can reduce their exposure to BPA by going for fresh and non-processed food as far as possible.

CASE is committed to protecting the health, safety and interests of consumers, and will continue to highlight issues of concern regarding consumer products and services.

Lim Biow Chuan
President
Consumers Association of Singapore

Annex A – Test results for BPA migration level in 30 types of canned food

S/No	Name of Sample	Imported By	Manufactured By	Results (ppm)
S01	Amocan Premium Curry Chicken 300G	-	Amoy Canning Corp (Singapore) Ltd 23 Chin Bee Ave Singapore 619943	0.44
S02	Ayam Brand Tuna Hot Mayonnaise 160G	Clouet Trading Pte Ltd 21 Tagore Lane Singapore 787479	Product of Thailand	0.55
S03	Baxters Favourites Cream of Tomato 400G	Cold Storage Singapore (1983) Pte Ltd 21 Tampines North Drive 2 #03-01 Singapore 528765	Baxters Food Group Fochabers, Scotland, IV32 7LD	Not Detected
S04	Campbell's Cream Style Corn with Chicken 310G	DKSH Singapore Pte Ltd 24 Penjuru Road #03-02 Singapore 609128	Campbell Cheong Chan (M) Sdn Bhd 36 Jln Penjuru 46050 Petaling Jaya Selangor, Malaysia	Not Detected
S05	Captain's Catch Chillli Tuna 185G	Cold Storage Singapore (1983) Pte Ltd 21 Tampines North Drive 2 #03-01 Singapore 528765	Pt Blambangan Foodpackers Indonesia Desa Kedungrejo, Muncar, Banyuwangi 68472 Jawa Timur, Indonesia	Not Detected
S06	Captain's Catch Sardines in Tomato Sauce 155G	Cold Storage Singapore (1983) Pte Ltd 21 Tampines North Drive 2 #03-01 Singapore 528765	CV. Pasific Harvest Jalan Tratas No. 61 Muncar - Banyuwangi - Jawa Timur 68472 Indonesia	Not Detected
S07	Cirio Peeled Plum Tomatoes 400G	Dawood Export Pte Ltd 8 Pandan Crescent #02-03 UE Tech Park Singapore 128464	Conserve Italia Soc. Coop. agricola Via P. Poggi, 11 - 40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (BO) - Italia	Not Detected
S08	Companion Lo-Han-Chai 285G	Soon Teck Hup Kee Pte Ltd 19 Chin Bee Crescent Singapore 619899	Companion Foods Corp 48 Sing Jhong Road Nei Hu, Taipei Taiwan	Not Detected

S09	Dole Pineapple Chunks in Syrup 567G	Radha Exports Pte Ltd 40 Pandan Road Singapore 609282	Diproduksi Oleh Dole Philippines, Inc Polomolok, Sutho Cotabato, Philippines	Not Detected
S10	Fruit King Pineapple Slices in Heavy Syrup 565G	CMM Marketing Management Pte Ltd 6 Mandai Link Singapore 728652	Product of Thailand	Not Detected
S11	Gulong Pork Leg with Mushrooms 397G	Goh Joo Hin Pte Ltd 2 Link Road Singapore 619024	Xiamen Gulong Food Co., Ltd No. 1666 Tong Ji Road Central Xiamen Fujian China	Not Detected
S12	Happy Family Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce 425G	CMM Marketing Management Pte Ltd 6 Mandai Link Singapore 728652	Product of Malaysia	Not Detected
S13	Heinz Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce Vegetarian 420G	DKSH Singapore Pte Ltd 24 Penjuru Road #03-02 Singapore 609128	Heinz Wattie's Limited 513 King St Nth Hastings 4122 New Zealand	Not Detected
S14	Hokkaido Brand Mackerel 200G	Orient Pearl Goods & Services Pte Ltd No. 1 Bukit Batok Crescent #07-58/59 WCEGA Plaza Singapore 658064	Hiap Hong Trading Co., Inc Manila, Philippines	Not Detected
S15	Hosen Pineapple Slices in Syrup 565G	Hock Seng Food Pte Ltd 267 Pandan Loop Singapore 128439	Product of Indonesia	Not Detected
S16	Hunt's Tomatoes Stewed 411G	Naspac Marketing Pte Ltd 13 Senoko South Road Singapore 758074	ConAgra Foods P.O. Box 3768, Dept. Hunts Omaha, NE 68103-0768 U.S.A.	Not Detected
S17	Ligo Sardines in Tomato Sauce Chili Added 425G	Radha Exports Pte Ltd 40 Pandan Road Singapore 609282	A. Tung Chingco Manufacturing Corporation Caloocan City Metro Manila	Not Detected
S18	Mili Braised Peanuts 170G	Goh Joo Hin Pte Ltd 2 Link Road Singapore 619024	Goh Joo Hin (KL) Sdn Bhd 118 Jalan Kenanga 29/6 Bandar Indahpura 81000 Kulai Johor Malaysia	Not Detected

S19	Mili Pineapple Slices in Heavy Syrup 565G	Goh Joo Hin Pte Ltd 2 Link Road Singapore 619024	Goh Joo Hin (KL) Sdn Bhd 118 Jalan Kenanga 29/6 Bandar Indahpura 81000 Kulai Johor Malaysia	Not Detected
S20	MoonStar Brand Sardines in Tomato Sauce 155G	Chia Khim Lee Food Industries Pte Ltd NO. 119 Defu Lane 10 Singapore 539230	Product of Thailand	Not Detected
S21	Mutti Polpa Finely Chopped Tomatoes 400G	Dawood Export Pte Ltd 8 Pandan Crescent #02-03 UE Tech Park Singapore 128464	Mutti S.p.A. Via Traversetolo, 28 - 43022 Montechiarugolo Parma Italia	Not Detected
S22	Narcissus Brand Lettuce Pickled 182G	Yit Hong Pte Ltd 40 Penjuru Lane Office Tower 2 Level 4 Singapore 609216	China Processed Food I/E Co., Ltd COFCO Limited COFCO Fortune Plaza No. 8 Chao Yang Men South St Beijing	Not Detected
S23	Narcissus Brand Mushrooms (Large Size) 425G	Yit Hong Pte Ltd 40 Penjuru Lane Office Tower 2 Level 4 Singapore 609216	China Processed Food I/E Co., Ltd COFCO Limited COFCO Fortune Plaza No. 8 Chao Yang Men South St Beijing	Not Detected
S24	New Moon Abalone Premium Grade 425G	Goh Joo Hin Pte Ltd 2 Link Road Singapore 619024	Prepared Foods Limited Palmerston North, New Zealand	Not Detected
S25	Rabbit Brand Refined Shark's Fin Soup 425G	-	Yeow Seng (Shark's Fin) Pte Ltd 35 South Bridge Road Singapore 058669	Not Detected
S26	Rex Premium Quality Seasoned Cuttlefish with Soya Bean Sauce 170G	Yee Lee Oils & Foodstuffs (S) Pte Ltd 22 Senoko Drive Singapore 758209	Rex Trading Sdn Bhd Plot 125 Jalan Perindustrian Bukit Minyak 5 14100 Simpang Ampat, S.P.T. Penang, Malaysia	Not Detected

S27	Starfresh Half Peaches in Syrup 820G	Radha Exports Pte Ltd 40 Pandan Road Singapore 609282	Product of China	Not Detected
S28	Statue Brand Young Corn Cut 425G	Kwang Hap Siang (S) Pte Ltd 203 Henderson Road #01-07 Singapore 159546	Product of China	Not Detected
S29	Waitrose Duchy Organic Chopped Tomatoes in Rich Natural Juice 400G	Cold Storage Singapore (1983) Pte Ltd 21 Tampines North Drive 2 #03-01 Singapore 528765	Waitrose Limited Bracknell Berkshire RG12 8YA UK	Not Detected
S30	Yeo's Premium Chicken Curry 280G	YHS (Singapore) Pte Ltd 3 Senoko Way Singapore 758057	Yeo Hiap Seng (M) Sdn Bhd MY73	0.4

Remarks: The detection limit for BPA is 0.1 ppm