

ETPA – EUROPEAN THERMAL PAPER ASSOCIATION

Since the direct thermo-printing technology found its way into Europe some 20 years ago, the ingredients of thermal paper have repeatedly been the subject of intensive scrutiny.

The European thermal paper producers started to react to these allegations at an early stage. The European Thermal Paper Association (ETPA) was established for that purpose and a working committee - namely the Product Safety Group (PSG) - was set up to deal with all respective matters.

As early as 1996, the members of ETPA entered into an agreement with the German BMU (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety) to commit themselves not to use substances of concern in their formulations; this self-commitment is based on a very strict toxicological profile.

Despite all the efforts made, BPA has nevertheless repeatedly been the focus of external criticism.

However, barely any other chemical substance has been studied as often and as intensely as BPA in the previous years, given its importance as one of the most produced substances.

All the scientific results so far - on an international, European as well as national level - nevertheless allow for one final conclusion only: BPA has to be classified as harmless with respect to human health as well as the environment.

We would like to make special reference to the risk assessment carried out by the European Commission on BPA which was completed in June of the current year. This study has set new global standards in terms of its elaborateness and participation in the study included all the competent authorities of the European member states as well as producers and users of BPA.

This also applies to Germany and – in particular - to the German BfR in Berlin (Federal Institute for Risk Assessment), which continues to express its positive judgement on the harmlessness of BPA in view of the new studies and the accusations related therewith.