Model Bale Specifications: PP Small Rigid Plastics

This model specification provides industry-developed guidelines for recycling market acceptance of this baled commodity. It is not intended to replace the specifications of individual buyers that may allow or prohibit different contents or bale sizes. It provides a benchmark for sellers for producing quality recycled plastic baled commodities.

Any polypropylene (PP) containers, packaging or products with the ASTM D7611 "#5, PP" resin identification code generated through a positive sort from curbside, drop-off or other public or private recycling collection program. Bottles, tubs, cups and other containers and packaging as well as non-container/packaging or products are accepted.

CHECK WITH YOUR BUYER

Check with your buyer(s) as to their allowances for:

- Bulky PP items greater than 3 gallons equivalent size (e.g., buckets, crates, waste bins, laundry baskets, large toys, and large storage bins). These items are accepted in the Mixed Rigid Bulky Bale.

Total contamination should not exceed 15% by weight. Contamination exceeding 15% may reduce bale value. The lower the % of contamination, the higher the value of the bale; higher levels of contamination is potential for downgrade or rejection.

Items listed as accepted above that are not designed for recycling also contribute to contamination and/or yield loss to the reclaimer. These items are often indistinguishable and difficult for the MRF to identify and remove. Items that are incompatible in composition may adversely affect the quality of the post-consumer resin. Items will become yield loss at the reclaimer if they separate out of the recycled stream during processing (e.g., a PP container that sinks out due to a high percentage of filler).

ALLOWABLE CONTAMINANTS AT LOW LEVELS

These contaminants are tolerable at low levels. The following individual contaminants should not exceed 2% by weight, unless noted otherwise. Excessive levels may reduce bale value.

- High density polyethylene (#2) or low density polyethylene (#4) rigid plastic (10%)
- PET (#1), PS (#6) rigid plastic (3% maximum of all combined)

- Any other non-PP rigid plastic, including Other (#7) and compostable plastic, e.g., PLA and PHA (1%)
- Liquid or other residues
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Aluminum cans

CONTAMINANTS NOT ALLOWED

If present, these contaminants may result in rejection.

- PVC (#3) in any form
- Any item with degradable additives
- Containers that held hazardous materials, such as flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicides
- Any plastic bags or film
- Non-PP plastic foam
- Other metal, wood, glass
- Batteries
- Electronics scrap, including items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Bio-medical waste/items (e.g., syringes, sharps, gloves, masks)
- Rocks, stones, mud, oils, grease

IMPORTANT: Any plastic container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including needles, should be strictly avoided. Many purchasers will reject an entire load if any of the above materials are found and will return them at the seller's expense.

Bale Size / Minimum Shipping Weight / Tare Weight: Bales should be a minimum of 30"x42"x 48". Bale sizes should allow a minimum of 35,000 pounds to be shipped on 48-foot trailer. Individual companies may apply price deductions for shipments that do not meet their minimum weight requirements. A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale may be taken from the gross weight for baling wire.

Bale Density: 15-20 lbs. / ft^3

Bale Integrity: Bale integrity must be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.

Bale Wire: Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire and with all bale wires wrapped in one direction (crisscrossing or double strapping

should be preapproved by the buyer before shipping). A minimum number of bale wires should be used to maintain bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size and density.

Other Bale Wrap or Binding: Plastic wrap, cardboard headers, or other additional binding beyond bale wire should not be used.

Storage: Bales should be stored with the bottom bale on a pallet, indoors or covered outdoors. Material must not be stored outdoors uncovered for a period exceeding four (4) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination.

DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

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