

“Rigid Plastic Packaging Container (RPPC) Examples” Video Transcript

What is a Rigid Plastic Packaging Container or RPPC?

There are five factors that define an RPPC. An RPPC is:

- made entirely of plastic (except for incidental portions of the packaging),
- has a relatively inflexible shape or form,
- has a minimum capacity or volume of eight ounces up to a maximum capacity or volume of five gallons,
- is capable of at least one closure (including closure during the manufacturing process),
- and holds a product that is sold or offered for sale in California—including retail sales and remote sales through distributors, wholesalers, and the Internet.

Examples of regulated RPPCs include buckets, tubs, pails, tubes, rounds, jugs, bottles (wide mouth and/or narrow neck), clamshells (heat-sealed and/or reclosable), plastic folding cartons.

For the purpose of this presentation, we will assume that all of the example RPPC's shown here are sold in California and meet the capacity requirements of 8 ounces up to 5 gallons in volume.

Here are some examples of regulated containers:

- A 5-Gallon Bucket with a metal handle and lid,
- a jug with a handle,
- a thermoform tray,
- one tube that opens and closes,
- and one tube that is sealed during the manufacturing process.

These containers meet the criteria of being regulated by the RPPC program because:

- they are all made entirely of plastic (except for incidental portions of the packaging, such as metal handles),
- are relatively inflexible,
- have a minimum capacity or volume of eight ounces up to a maximum capacity or volume of five gallons,
- and are capable of at least one closure.

Under previous RPPC definitions, incidental non-plastic parts were not subject to the law. Under the new definitions, these containers are regulated.

Additionally, containers that were sealed during the manufacturing process and not capable of multiple closures were previously not regulated. Under the new definitions, these containers are subject to the law.

Although this plastic carton can be unfolded and lay flat for transportation, once a product is placed inside, it is considered an RPPC.

These types of containers are not regulated by the RPPC program:

- This fiber-backed container is not an RPPC because it is not made entirely of plastic.
- This bucket, though made entirely of plastic, is not regulated by the RPPC program. In this case, the container fails because it does not have a lid, so therefore it is not capable of at least one closure.

We hope that this presentation has been helpful for better understanding the RPPC program's definitions of a regulated container. For further information on the RPPC program, please visit our website at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Plastics/RPPC/>