

Overview of California Labeling Laws

Labeling & Media Committee Meeting
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Agenda

- Resin Identification Code (RIC)
- Rigid Plastic Packaging Containers (RPPC) Program
- Degradable Plastic Products
- Reusable Bags
- Environmental Marketing Claims

Resin Identification Code (RIC)

- History: Developed by Society of Plastics Industry in 1988 and adopted into CA statute that year
 - ASTM has administered the RIC since 2008
- Can assist separation of different polymer types for recycling
 - Most resins are recyclable from a technical standpoint, but not economically
 - MRFs sorting equipment and practices vary
- CalRecycle staff participate in ASTM D7611 Committee

Resin Identification Code Symbols

Resin Identification Number	Resin	Resin Identification Code –Option A	Resin Identification Code –Option B
1	Poly(ethylene terephthalate)	 PETE	 PET
2	High density polyethylene	 HDPE	 PE-HD
3	Poly(vinyl chloride)	 V	 PVC
4	Low density polyethylene	 LDPE	 PE-LD
5	Polypropylene	 PP	 PP
6	Polystyrene	 PS	 PS
7	Other resins	 OTHER	 O

California's Rigid Plastic Packaging Container Program

Rigid plastic containers sold in California must be labeled with a resin identification code

- History: PRC Sections 18000-18016 adopted in 1991
- Defines 7 categories of plastic materials to reduce the amount of plastic waste disposed in California landfills
 - PET #1 further clarified in CA statute
 - Chasing arrows replaced with solid triangles
- CalRecycle reviews a percentage of registered manufacturers to verify compliance

Degradable Plastic Products

- History: PRC 42358.5-42359.9 adopted in 2004
- Limits_use of “biodegradable”, “decomposable” or similar terms for plastic products
 - “Compostable” – product must meet ASTM D6400 or D6868
 - “Marine degradable” – product must meet ASTM D7081
 - “Home compostable” – product must meet Vincotte OK Compost HOME Certification
- Enforced by CA District Attorneys and State Attorney General’s Office

Reusable Grocery Bags

Single-Use Carryout Bag Ban

- History: PRC 42280 – 42288 adopted in 2016
- Reusable bag labeling must include:
 - Name and country of manufacturer
 - Statement that the bag is reusable and designed for at least 125 uses
 - The term “recyclable,” consistent with the Federal Trade Commission guidelines
 - A statement that the bag is made partly or wholly from postconsumer recycled material, with the percentage
- CalRecycle manages the reusable Grocery Bag Reporting System (RGBRS)

Environmental Marketing Claims

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) created *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* (“Green Guides”)
- Revised in 2012:
 - Define terms such as “degradable”, “compostable”, “recyclable”
 - Added sections on renewable energy and materials claims

