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Plastic Bottle Coding

Sec. 22a-255b-1. Definitions

As used in sections 22a-255b-1 to 22a-255b-3, inclusive:

“High density polyethylene” means a rigid plastic material of polyethylenes with a density of 0.94 grams per cubic centimeter or greater.

“Low density polyethylene” means polyethylenes with a density of less than 0.94 grams per cubic centimeter.

“Other” means a plastic bottle consisting of a single resin other than polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, or polystyrene; or a plastic bottle consisting of a mixture of plastic resins; or a plastic bottle consisting of multiple layers of plastic resins with adhesives or barriers of a material other than the single plastic resin material in the layers; or a plastic bottle with an affixed structure other than the closure and label which consists of a different material than the plastic bottle itself.

“Plastic bottle” means a container, exclusive of closure, with a capacity of sixteen ounces or more composed primarily of one or more plastics.

“Polyethylene terephthalate” means a saturated, thermoplastic polyester resin.

“Polypropylene” means a thermoplastic resin made by polymerizing propylene with catalysts.

“Polystyrene” means polymers of styrene.

“Polyvinyl chloride” means a vinyl plastic.

(Effective November 30, 1989)

Sec. 22a-255b-2. Design

(a) Code numbers and acronyms shall be designed to facilitate reading at a glance, to withstand container handling, and to be compatible with processing systems. The code number and acronym shall be located on the base of the plastic bottle. Each code number and acronym letter shall be at least one quarter of an inch in height and at a scale of seven letters per inch in width.

(b) The code numbers and acronyms shall be as follows:

(1) For polyethylene terephthalate: the acronym “PETE” and the number “1.”

(2) For high density polyethylene: the acronym “HDPE” and the number “2.”

(3) For polyvinyl chloride: the acronym “V” and the number “3.”

(4) For low density polyethylene: the acronym “LDPE” and the number “4.”

(5) For polypropylene: the acronym “PP” and the number “5.”

(6) For polystyrene: the acronym “PS” and the number “6.”

(7) For other: the acronym “OTHER” and the number “7.”

(c) The code number may be placed within a triangular configuration of arrows on a plastic bottle.

(Effective November 30, 1989)

Sec. 22a-255b-3. Application

(a) Effective upon the date mandated by Section 22a-255b of the Connecticut General Statutes, any plastic bottle sold or offered for sale in Connecticut shall have imprinted or molded on its base a code number and acronym as identified in Section 22a-255b-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The code number and acronym applied to any plastic bottle shall be subject to verification upon written request of the Commissioner and shall correctly identify the container material composition consistent with the definitions in Section 22a-255b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies with the following exceptions:

(1) Polyethylene terephthalate carbonated soft drink bottles with affixed high density polyethylene base cups shall utilize the acronym and code number in Subdivision 22a-255b-2 (b) (1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and

(2) Any plastic bottle where the affixed materials and additives other than the single plastic resin bottle structure exceed ten percent by weight of the total mass, shall be coded with the code number and acronym specified in Subdivision 22a-255b-2 (b) (7) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(b) Municipalities shall publicize the codes and acronyms in the context of their recycling program public education efforts.

(Effective November 30, 1989)