

# Product Flash

## RPPC and the RPET PCR Grade Series

### CalRecycle Rigid Plastic Packaging Container Law Summary

The California Rigid Plastic Packaging Container (RPPC) Regulation was revised on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The revised rules focus on waste reduction, lessening the use of new plastics and increasing the use of post-consumer recycled content in Rigid Packaging Plastic Containers (RPPC) holding products sold and distributed in California.

**Who must comply?** Product manufacturers are primarily responsible, however container and packaging manufacturers also have certain obligations to aid in compliance. Product manufacturers must register with CalRecycle.

**What Packaging is considered a RPPC regulated under this law?** Any rigid packaging that meets ALL of the following is considered an RPPC:<sup>[1]</sup>

- Is made entirely of plastic – except for incidental portions of the packaging and
- Remains inflexible with or without content and
- Is capable of *at least one closure - including closure during the manufacturing process* and
- Is made to hold products sold or distributed in California whether through direct, retail and remote sales
- And has the volume or the equivalent parameters as shown.



System of Measure	English	Metric
<b>Minimum</b>	8 Fluid Ounces	236.588236 milliliters
<b>Maximum</b>	5 Gallons	18.92705892 liters

There are no restrictions as to the type of plastic as long as it's rigid, or shape as long as it meets the parameters noted. A few examples of RPPCs are bottles (wide mouth and/or narrow neck), Buckets, Clamshells (heat-sealed and/or re-closable), Plastic Folding Cartons, Tubes, etc.

**So what's considered a compliant RPPC?** Rigid Plastic Packaging Containers sold or distributed in California would need to meet *one of any* of the following criteria to be considered compliant:

- Be made using a minimum of 25% Post-Consumer (not Post-Industrial) Recycled Content;
- Have a container weight that's been reduced by at least 10 % in comparison to an original container without changing the original resin used;
- The container must be reusable and routinely reused at least 5 times, or refillable by the manufacturer at least 5 times;
- Be recycled at a 45% Recycling Rate, where a Product Manufacturer's recycling rate methodology must be approved by CalRecycle.

#### What's exempt?

- RPPCs holding products destined for sale outside of California.
- RPPCs used to contain drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, food, medical food, or infant formulas as defined in the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).
- RPPCs used to contain toxic and hazardous products regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.
- RPPCs used in the shipment of hazardous materials, prohibited from being made with used material.

**The RPET BT7xx 30% PCR Content Film Grade Series.** With 30% Post-Consumer Recycled Content, our RPET BT7xx PCR Grades exceed the newly revised rules' minimum PCR content requirement of 25%. Produced by one of the global leaders in vertically integrated PET manufacturing, the RPET BT7xx series is made with both virgin and PCR bottle grade resins safe for food contact and compliant to US Toxics in Packaging Requirements, the EU Packaging Directive and RoHS.

The RPET BT7xx PCR series has an in-plant greenhouse gas emission (GHG) rate of 2.75 Kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per Kg of film, an approximately 15% reduction in product carbon foot print as compared to our virgin APET BT8xx series' GHG rate of 3.24 Kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per Kg of film.<sup>[2]</sup>

We currently stock RPET BT739 with 30% PCR, a box and print-preferred grade with high dyne for great printability and the same strength and performance properties as our virgin grade series. We also have additional PCR grades available for specific applications such as Anti-static, ESD and quick release thermoform packaging.

For more in depth information on this RPET PCR grade and how can assist you in making or using compliant RPPCs, please reference the RPET BT7xx PCR grade series product summary and ask your representative for more information.



[1] Title 14, Chapter 4, Article 3 Sections 17943-17949

[2] The GHG rates shown are in plant only, does not include transport and is not for the entire product's life cycle.

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