Guide to Performance Packaging Codes

PACKING GROUP (PG)

Packing group means a grouping according to the degree of danger presented by hazardous materials. Class 2, Class 7, Division 6.2 (other than regulated medical wastes), and ORM-D materials do not have packing groups.

Packing Group I - Great Danger Packing Group II - Medium Danger Packing Group III - Minor Danger References for all Hazardous Materials
Performance Packaging Standards and Tests
can be found in the Code of Federal
Regulations, Title 49, Part 178.

Conversion Factors §171.10

For compatibility with international transportation standards, most units of measure used in Subchapter C of the 49 CFR are expressed using international System of Units (SI).

Where SI units appear (L, kg, kPa) they are the regulatory standard. U.S. standard or customary units, (gal, lbs, psi) appearing in parentheses following SI units are for information only and not intended to be the regulatory standard.

10 kPa = 1.45 psi

75 kPa = 10.9 psi

95 kPA = 13.8 psi

100 kPA = 14.5 psi

150 kPA = 21.8 psi

250 kPA = 36.3 psi

1 kg = 2.2 lb

25 kg = 55 lb

50 kg = 110 lb

100 kg = 220 lb

150 kg = 330 lb

200 kg = 440 lb

250 kg = 551 lb

0.47 L = 1 pint (US)

0.95 L = 1 quart (US)

1 L = .264 gal (US)

3.8 L = 1 gal (US)

4 L = 1.06 gal (US)

5 L = 1.32 gal (US)

10 L = 2.6 gal (US)

Interpreting Markings §§178.502 and 178.503

United Nations Symbol: For embossing metal receptacles, the letters UN may be applied in place of the symbol.

Packaging Code: Designates the type of packaging and material of construction. A letter "W" designates associate administrator approval. A letter "V" designates special "variation" packaging.

Performance Level: Identifies the performance standard for successful testing of the packaging.

X = For packagings meeting Packing Group I, II and III tests.

Y = For packagings meeting Packing Group II and III tests.

Z = For packagings meeting Packing Group III tests.

Specific Gravity: Specific gravity for which the packaging design type has been tested. If the specific gravity does not exceed 1.2, the designation may be omitted.

Gross Mass: Packaging type tested for maximum gross mass in kilograms.

S: Designates that the packaging is intended to contain solids or inner packagings.

Hydrostatic Test Pressure: Internal Hydrostatic Test Pressure in Kilopascals.

This test is not required for inner packaging of combination packaging.

Year of Manufacture: Last two digits of year of manufacture. Plastic drums and jerricans (1H and 3H) must be marked with the month of manufacture. The month marking may be located elsewhere on the package.

Country of Authorization: Country designation code indicates where the package is manufactured and marked.

Manufacturer Identification: Name and address or authorized symbol of packaging manufacturer or certifying agency.

Minimum Thickness: For metal or plastic drums, jerricans or the outer packaging of composite packaging intended for reuse or reconditioning.

R: Reconditioned packaging.

L: Reconditioned packaging having successfully passed a leakproofness test. This test is not required for inner packaging of combination packaging.

Note: Additional marking requirements for Reconditioned packaging are found in §178.503.

Additional Requirements for Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC)

Month and Year: For IBCs, the month and year of manufacture.

Stacking Test Load: For IBCs, the stacked test load in kilograms.

A number "0" shows that the IBC is not designed for stacking.

Note: Standards and codes for IBCs are found in §178.702 - 178.710

Required Tests for Non-Bulk Packaging

Drop Test: (§178.603) All packaging design types.

Leakproofness Test: (§178.604) All packaging design types intended for liquids.

Hydrostatic Test: (§178.605) All metal, plastic, and composite design types intended to contain liquids.

Stacking Test: (§178.606) All packaging design types other than bags.

Cooperage Test: (§178.607) All bung-type wooden barrels.

Vibration Test: (§178.608) All packaging design types.

Infectious Substances: See §178.609 for test requirements for packagings for infectious substances.

Pressure Differential: (§173.27) Packagings intended for air transport.

Note: This information is for general guidance only and must not be used to determine compliance with 49 CFR, Parts 100-185.

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Non-Bulk Packaging Codes §§ 178.504 - 178.521

1A1	Steel drum, non-removable head
1/2	Steel drum, removable head

1B1 Aluminum drum, non-removable head

1B2 Aluminum drum, removable head

1D Plywood drum

1G Fiber drum

1H1 Plastic drum, non-removable head

1H2 Plastic drum, removable head

1N1 Metal drum, non-removable head

1N2 Metal drum, removable head

2C1 Wooden barrel, bung type

2C2 Wooden barrel, slack type, removable head

3A1 Steel jerrican, non-removable head

3A2 Steel jerrican, removable head

3B1 aluminum jerrican, non-removable head

3B2 aluminum jerrican, removable head

3H1 Plastic jerrican, non-removable head3H2 Plastic jerrican, removable head

4A Steel box

4B Aluminum box

4C1 Wood box, ordinary

4C2 Wood box, sift-proof walls

4D Plywood box

4F Reconstituted wood box

4G Fiberboard box

4H1 Plastic box, expanded

4H2 Plastic box, solid

5H1 Woven plastic bag, unlined or non-coated

5H2 Woven plastic bag, sift-proof

5H3 Woven plastic bag, water-resistant

5H4 Plastic film bag

5L1 Textile bag, unlined or non-coated

5L2 Textile bag, sift-proof

5L3 Textile bag, water-resistant

5M1 Paper bag, multi-wall

5M2 Paper bag, multi-wall, water-resistant

Non-Bulk Packaging Codes §§ 178.522 and 178.523

6HA1 Plastic receptacle within a protective steel drum

6HA2 Plastic receptacle within a protective steel crate or box

6HB1 Plastic receptacle within a protective aluminum drum

6HB2 Plastic receptacle within a protective aluminum crate or box

6HC Plastic receptacle within a protective wooden box

6HD1 Plastic receptacle within a protective plywood drum

6HD2 Plastic receptacle within a protective plywood box

6HG1 Plastic receptacle within a protective fiber drum

6HG2 Plastic receptacle within a protective fiberboard box

6HH1 Plastic receptacle within a protective plastic drum

6HH2 Plastic receptacle within a protective plastic box

6PA1 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective steel drum

6PA2 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective steel crate or box

6PB1 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective aluminum drum

6PB2 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective aluminum crate or box

6PC Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective wooden box

6PD1 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective plywood drum

6PD2 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective wickerwork hamper

6PG1 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective fiber drum

6PG2 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective fiberboard box

6PH1 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective expanded plastic packaging

6PH2 Glass, porcelain or stoneware receptacles within a protective solid plastic packaging







