



## **PRCC MODEL PET BALE SPECIFICATIONS**

Version R-9

(Effective Date 03/28/19)

The Plastic Recycling Corporation of California (PRCC) model bale specifications for PET are intended to provide standardized guidelines for assessing and improving PET bale quality. The following specifications are for bales sold by State Certified California Processors or Recyclers to PRCC. PRCC reserves the right to amend these specifications from time to time in its sole discretion, and will issue such amendment in writing to the California State Certified Processors and Recyclers from whom PRCC purchases PET Containers.

All claims and adjustments will be handled on a case by case basis.

### Definitions.

- a. PET = Polyethylene Terephthalate.
- b. CRV PET Beverage Bottles = whole post-consumer, PET empty beverage containers (i) with a screw-neck top, (ii) no built in handle, (iii) containing the American Society of Testing and Materials' (ASTM) "#1", "PET" or "PETE" resin identification code, and (iv) with a California redemption value.
- c. Non-CRV PET Containers = whole clear, green or other translucent or opaque PET containers from California which are not CRV Beverage Bottles: (i) other post-consumer PET containers with no handle and with a screw-neck accepting a screw-cap type closure
- d. Plant Scrap = PRCC will accept some whole screw-neck pre-consumer PET container plant scrap; PRCC must be informed prior to shipping if the load contains plant scrap.
- e. PET Containers = collective term for CRV Beverage Bottles and Non-CRV PET Containers.

GRADE A

Minimum of 40,000 pounds in a 40' HC

1. Requirements. CRV PET Beverage Bottles only. CRV PET Beverage Bottles sold to Buyer shall (a) be clean bottles free of contents or free-flowing liquids, and (b) be 100% free of each of the contamination materials specified in Section 2 below. In addition, the bales of PET Containers shall not contain contamination of the types specified in Section 3 below in excess of the applicable maximum percentage by weight as specified in Section 3 below.
2. Prohibited Contaminants. CRV PET Beverage Bottles and the bales of CRV PET Beverage Bottles sold to Buyer shall be 100% free of each of the following contaminants:
  - a. EPS (ASTM #6) plastic foam
  - b. Plastic bags and Plastic film
  - c. Wood
  - d. Glass
  - e. Motor oils and grease
  - f. Rocks, Stones, Mud, Dirt
  - g. Degradable, Biodegradable or Compostable plastic
  - h. Medical and Hazardous Waste  
In addition, any PET Container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including but not limited to agricultural products, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids, medical products (drugs, IV solutions, syringes/hypodermic needles), flammable, corrosive or reactive liquids, grease and solvents are expressly prohibited. This rule applies even if the aforementioned material was not the original contents of the PET Container.
  - i. Trays, dishes, bakery trays, covers, deli containers, drink cups, and "clamshells" of any type
3. Maximum Level of Contamination. Each of the bales of PET Containers sold to Buyer shall comply with the following:
  - a. Maximum level of total contamination of any kind per bale shall be 4% by weight.
  - b. Maximum level of contamination of any kind per bale shall be 1% by weight for any of the following individual contaminants:
    - (i) HDPE Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #2)
    - (ii) LDPE Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #4)

- (iii) PP Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #5)
  - (iv) PS Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #6)
  - (v) Metal Food Cans or Beverage Containers
  - (vi) Paper/Cardboard
  - (vii) Opaque (non-translucent) PET Containers
  - (viii) Colored PET Containers other than green
  - (ix) Non-CRV PET
- c. Maximum level of contamination per bale shall be .5% by weight for any kind of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (ASTM #3), including but not limited to containers, tamper proof seals, cap liners, and labels.
4. Bales. Each of the bales of PET Containers sold to Buyer shall conform to the following:
- a. Bale size (preferred): 30"x 60"x 48"
  - b. Bale size (maximum): 48"x 72"x 36"
  - d. Bale Wire: Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, non-corrosive galvanized metal wire, with all bale wires wrapped in one direction. A minimum number of bale wires should be used that maintains bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size. Metal bands or strapping in lieu of wire is acceptable on a case-by-case basis.
  - e. Bale Integrity: Bale integrity should be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.

## GRADE B

Minimum 38,000 pounds in a 40' HC and 40,000 pounds in a 45'HC.

1. Requirements. All PET containers sold to Buyer shall (a) be 100% free of contents or free-flowing liquids, and (b) be 100% free of each of the contamination materials specified in Section 2 below. In addition, the bales of PET Containers shall not contain contamination of the types specified in Section 3 below in excess of the applicable maximum percentage by weight as specified in Section 3 below.
2. Prohibited Contaminants. All PET Containers and the bales of PET Containers sold to Buyer shall be 100% free of each of the following contaminants:
  - a. EPS (ASTM #6) plastic foam
  - b. Plastic bags and Plastic film
  - c. Wood

- d. Glass
- e. Motor oils and grease
- f. Rocks, Stones, Mud, Dirt
- g. Degradable, Biodegradable or Compostable plastic
- h. Medical and Hazardous Waste  
In addition, any PET Container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including but not limited to agricultural products, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids, medical products (drugs, IV solutions, syringes/hypodermic needles), flammable, corrosive or reactive liquids, grease and solvents are expressly prohibited. This rule applies even if the aforementioned material was not the original contents of the PET Container.

3. Maximum Level of Contamination. Each of the bales of PET Containers sold to Buyer shall comply with the following:
- a. Maximum level of total contamination of any kind per bale shall be 6% by weight.
  - b. Maximum level of contamination of any kind per bale shall be 2% by weight for any of the following individual contaminants:
    - (i) HDPE Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #2)
    - (ii) LDPE Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #4)
    - (iii) PP Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #5)
    - (iv) PS Rigid Plastic Containers (ASTM #6)
    - (v) Aluminum
    - (vi) Metal Food Cans or Beverage Containers
    - (vii) Paper/Cardboard
    - (viii) Opaque (non-translucent) PET Containers
    - (ix) Colored PET Containers other than green
    - (x) PET (ASTM #1) trays, dishes, bakery trays, covers, deli containers, drink cups, and "clamshells"
  - c. Maximum level of contamination per bale shall be 1% by weight for any kind of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (ASTM #3), including but not limited to containers, tamper proof seals, cap liners, and labels.
4. Bales. Each of the bales of PET Containers sold to Buyer shall conform to the following:
- a. Bale size (preferred): 30"x 60"x 48"
  - b. Bale size (maximum): 48"x 72"x 36"

- d. Bale Wire: Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, non-corrosive galvanized metal wire, with all bale wires wrapped in one direction. A minimum number of bale wires should be used that maintains bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size. Metal bands or strapping in lieu of wire is acceptable on a case-by-case basis.
- e. Bale Integrity: Bale integrity should be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.