Voluntary Design Guidelines for Designated PET Bottles

Revised on
March 1, 2011

The Council for PET Bottle Recycling (JAPAN)
### History of Revision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October, 1992</td>
<td>Voluntary design guidelines for PET Bottles for soft drinks, for alcoholic beverages and for soy sauce were issued by respective relevant organizations, in response to requests from the Ministries of International Trade and Industry, of Agriculture and Forestry, and of Finance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 1993</td>
<td>The Council for PET Bottle Recycling was established.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April, 1995</td>
<td>The Council for PET Bottle Recycling integrated the above guidelines to “Voluntary Design Guidelines for Type II Designated PET Bottles”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April, 1997</td>
<td>The “Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging” (the “Container and Package Recycling Law”) came into effect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February, 1998</td>
<td>The “Guidelines” were revised in line with the “Law” came into effect. The “Guidelines” consisted of “Basic Standards” and “Exception”, and recommended the use of plastic closures with a specific gravity less than 1.0 instead of using those made of aluminum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April, 2001</td>
<td>The “Guidelines” were revised and retitled “Voluntary Design Guidelines for Designated PET Bottles”. “Material Evaluation Criteria” and “Evaluation Criteria for Labels, Printing and other Components” were introduced as appendixes to make it possible to evaluate and judge the recyclability of the bottles and the attachments. Colored bottles were abandoned. Direct printing on the bottles were requested to be replaced to other means such as pressure sensitive labels that can be detached easily leaving no residual adhesives on the bottle surface.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March, 2011</td>
<td>Mainly the terms related to labels of the “Guidelines” and of the appendixes were revised.</td>
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Appendixes

Appendix 1: Material Evaluation Criteria for Bottles (including Handles)
Appendix 2: Evaluation Criteria for Labels (including Printing, Adhesives and other Components)

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1. Introduction--- Objectives

These “Voluntary Design Guidelines for Designated PET Bottles” (these “Guidelines”), issued by The Council for PET Bottle Recycling (the Council), prescribe the requirements for bottle bodies, labels, label printing, adhesives, closures and other components comprising designated PET bottles for soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and specified seasonings sold in Japan, so as to ensure the containers being hygienic safe and having no negative impact on the current recycling stream after consumer use.

The Council has revised these “Guidelines” repeatedly according to the progress and change in recycling technologies, and also with change in social circumstances, to promote development of the packaging design for greater recyclability.

2. Composition, Scope of Application, and Operation

These “Guidelines” consist of this main part and two appendixes: “Material Evaluation Criteria for Bottles (including Handles)” and “Evaluation Criteria for Labels (including Printing, Adhesives and other Components)”.

The List of Basic Standards of these “Guidelines” is also available at


Not only the members (organizations and companies) of the Council, but non-members are also requested to follow these “Guidelines”, when they produce, import or sell soft drinks, alcoholic beverages or specified seasonings packaged in PET bottles or when they produce or import PET bottles for these applications that are sold and/or consumed in Japan.

When the bottle is judged to comply with these “Guidelines” and put on the market, the grounds of the compliance have to be ready to be disclosed upon request of the Council.

If it is not certain whether the bottle, the label or other components of concern complies with these “Guidelines” or not, conduct the evaluation in accordance with the “Criteria” attached to this document as appendixes. Those judged to be recyclable on the basis of the “Criteria” can be used in the market. The evaluation results are requested to be informed to the Council prior to putting the bottles on the market.

The submission of the evaluation results is requested in such cases that the designated PET bottles are multi-layered, blended, or coated with materials other than PET including PET copolymers, other resins, additives etc., that the label (including inks and adhesives) contains new materials and that the label is glued with adhesives.

The Council also requests distributors and retailers to understand the purpose of these “Guidelines” in dealing with designated PET bottles.

3. About the Revision (the fifth revision)

Mainly the terms related to labels are revised in this version, as roll labels glued on bottles have been increasingly used in the market recently.

Perforation on shrink sleeve labels is recommended. It is prescribed that in case a glass ball and a gasket are used, instructions for detaching them from the bottle should be described on the label.
4. Results of these “Guidelines” Achieved up to Now

The Council has been conducting voluntary control for greater recyclability of PET bottle such as:

(1) Bottles --- Should not be colored, should not to be directly printed, should not use base cups, should not use handles other than made of colorless PET.

The multi-layer bottles and the bottles with special surface treatment used mainly for hot-vending had been confirmed to comply with the “Material Evaluation Criteria”, prior to being put on the market.

(2) Labels --- Should not contain PVC (polyvinyl chloride), should not be laminated with aluminum foil, should prevent the inks from migrating to the bottle surface.

(3) Closures --- Should not be made of aluminum, should be made of PE or PP, with a specific gravity less than 1.0.

Although it has been taking time to spread the voluntary control among non-members, the Council is continuously taking action such as asking importers and dealers of mineral water, makgoli liquor, wine, etc. to discontinue the use of colored bottles and convert to colorless ones.