



## **Model Bale Specifications: Bulky Rigids**

**This model, as approved by APR, is not meant to replace the specifications of individual buyers, many of whom may have different ‘allowables’ in terms of contents and bale sizes. Rather, this model is meant to provide a benchmark to suppliers, indicating that Bulky Polyolefin Rigids bales produced to this model will be accepted by APR members.**

### **POST-CONSUMER BULKY RIGIDS BALE MODEL SPECIFICATION**

Any large rigid plastic bulky item removed in an initial positive sort from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling collection programs. Typical bulky rigid items are carts, crates, buckets, baskets, toys, lawn furniture, etc. These items are typically manufactured from HDPE, PP or LDPE, which are #2, #5 and #4 respectively in the Society of the Plastics Industry's (or ASTM D 7611) resin codes.

Metal as typically found in toys or bucket handles should be removed when possible. Plastic items from construction or demolition should not be included in bulky rigid bales. Electronic scrap (computer housings, printer housing, etc.) should also not be included. All items should be free of contents or free flowing liquids and organic residues. Post-consumer is defined as “used for its intended purpose and otherwise directed to disposal”.

### **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS:**

The following list of contaminants should not exceed a total of 10% by weight:

- Any plastic items or packaging, including PET (#1), PVC (#3), PS (#6), Other (#7) (4% maximum allowed),
- Metal (2% maximum allowed),
- Paper/cardboard (2% maximum allowed),
- Liquid or other residues (2% maximum allowed).

### **THE TOTAL MAXIMUM LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10% BY WEIGHT**

*THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:*

- Any plastic bags, sheets, or film made from HDPE (#2), LDPE (#4), or any other plastic resin
- Wood
- Plastic siding/ Construction & Demolition waste
- Glass
- Electronics scrap
- Paint
- Toys and other items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Oils and Grease



## The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

- Rocks, stones, mud, dirt
- Medical and hazardous waste
- Products with degradable additives

In addition, any plastic that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including but not limited to chemical agricultural products, pesticides, herbicides, medical products (drugs, IV solutions, syringes/hypodermic needles, and sharps), 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 container. (Suppliers must certify that the bales they supply do not contain the above prohibited materials).

Many purchasers will reject an entire load if any of the above materials are found and will return them at the supplier's expense.

<b>Bale Size</b>	Approximately, 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60", i.e. Bale Sizes should allow a minimum of 35,000 pounds to be shipped on 48 foot trailer, which is an industry standard. Individual companies may apply price deductions for shipments that do not meet minimum weight requirements.
<b>Bale Density</b>	15-20 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup>
<b>Bale Wire</b>	Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire (or other non-corrosive strapping), with all bale wires wrapped in one direction (no crisscrossing or double-strapping). A minimum number of bale wires should be used to maintain bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size and density.
<b>Bale Tare Weight</b>	A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale will be taken from the gross weight.
<b>Bale Integrity</b>	Bale integrity must be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.
<b>Minimum Shipping Weight</b>	35,000 lbs.
<b>Storage</b>	Bales should be stored indoors or covered outdoors. Material must not be stored outdoors uncovered for a period exceeding four (4) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination