



UL 3420

STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Plastic Packaging and Packaging Components

Standard for Sustainability for Plastic Packaging and Packaging Components, UL 3420

First Edition, Dated June 3, 2022

Summary of Topics

This is the First Edition of UL 3420, Standard for Sustainability for Plastic Packaging and Packaging Components, dated June 3, 2022 which covers the sustainability of plastic articles, and fiber materials that are used with plastic packaging, that are used to contain, handle, protect, and/or transport a solid or liquid product from the point of packaging to the consumer.

The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated August 13, 2021 and April 1, 2022.

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Components**

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Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to UL at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in UL's On-Line Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at <https://csds.ul.com>.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 This standard covers the sustainability of plastic articles, and fiber materials that are used with plastic packaging, that are used to contain, handle, protect, and/or transport a solid or liquid product from the point of packaging to the consumer. This includes but is not limited to rigid and flexible bottles, bags, pouches, certain films, carded packaging, or any other plastic-based primary packaging or packaging components and systems intended for use with consumer package goods. A certification to this standard may be applied to other packaging articles that use the same materials and design by the manufacturer that holds the certification.

1.2 Secondary packaging which meets the material and performance characteristics of primary packaging is also covered.

1.3 Industrial packaging is not included within the scope of the standard.

1.4 Sustainability factors for plastic packaging addressed in this standard include:

- a) Limitations on regulated contaminants;
- b) Promotion of the reuse and recyclability of materials;
- c) The use of cellulose fibers as an ingredient in the packaging materials or a component of a packaging system;
- d) Energy use and material efficiency;
- e) Extension of useful life and end of life management;
- f) Sustainability of packaging for transport to consumer;
- g) Corporate practices;
- h) Manufacturing and operations; and
- i) Innovation.

2 Reference Publications

Documents Published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

ASTM D6400, *Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities*

ASTM D6868, *Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities*

ASTM D7611, *Standard Practice for Coding Plastic Manufactured Articles for Resin Identification*

ASTM D883 REV B, *Standard Terminology Relating to Plastics*

ASTM D996, *Standard Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments*