



## Model Bale Specifications: “All Rigid Plastic” (Formerly known as #1-7 with Bulky)

This model 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,

*Rigid plastic generated in a **positive sort** from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling program that does not separately sort any plastic bottles. Bales consist of all plastic bottles—no bottles should be removed from the mix prior to baling—and household containers (including thermoform packaging, cups, trays, clamshells, food tubs and pots, and bulky rigid plastic (e.g., drums, crates, buckets, baskets, toys, totes and lawn furniture).*

### **VARIATION – “All Rigid Plastic - No Bulky”** (Also known as “Bottles and Containers” (B&C)

- Bulky rigid plastic, greater than 5 gallons, should be avoided (e.g., drums, crates, buckets, baskets, toys, totes and lawn furniture)
- Bales should consist of 65% bottles

### **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS:** Total contaminants should not exceed 5% by weight:

- Metal (1% max. acceptable)
- Paper/cardboard (2% max. acceptable)
- Plastic bags, sheets, film (1% max. acceptable)
- Liquid or other residues (1% max. acceptable)

### **THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ANY LEVEL:**

- Wood, glass, electronics scrap
- Medical and hazardous waste
- Oils, grease, rocks, mud, dirt
- Products with degradable additives
- Items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Containers which held flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicides.

**IMPORTANT:** Any plastic container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material should be strictly avoided. Many purchases will reject an entire load if any of the avoided materials are found and will return them at the supplier’s expense.

**Bale Size:** Approximately 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60", For example, 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 their weight requirements.

**Bale Density:** 15-20 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>

**Bale Wire:** Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire, with all bale wires wrapped in one direction (crisscrossing or double strapping should be preapproved by the buyer before shipping). A minimum number of bale wires should be used to maintain bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size and density.

**Bale Tare Weight:** A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale may be taken from the gross weight.

**Bale Integrity:** Bale integrity must be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.

**Storage:** Bales should be stored, with the bottom bale on a pallet, 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