



Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling for Five-Gallon Open-Head Plastic Containers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1615; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers nationally recognized requirements for the cautionary information to be placed on the label of 4 to 6-gal (15 to 23-L) plastic open-head containers (buckets). It is not the intent of this specification to include any other labeling requirements, such as those set forth in Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) or other applicable regulations and standards.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ANSI Standard:*

[ANSI Z535.41991 Product Safety Signs and Labels](#)²

2.2 *UL Standard:*

[UL Standard 969 Marking and Labeling Systems](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *five-gallon open-head container, n*—a straight-sided vessel having a capacity of 4 gal (15 L) or more to 6.0 gal (23 L) or less, and having an opening at the top, height greater than 10 in. (255 mm) but not over 20 in. (510 mm), and designed to be carried by hand and to be used to transport liquids or solids.

3.1.2 *label, n*—the term label is used not only to refer to stick-on-type labels, but any other method of providing the warning message, for example, melt imprinting, embossing, direct printing, etc.

3.1.3 *straight-sided vessel, n*—a container having straight sides that may or may not taper inward or outward from the true vertical position.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.31 on Plastic Open Head Pails.

Current edition approved Dec. 15, 2009. Published April 2010. Originally approved in 1995. Last previous edition approved in 2004 as F1615 – 95 (2004). DOI: 10.1520/F1615-95R09.

² Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

³ Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Corporate Progress, 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062.

4. Requirements

4.1 *General:*

4.1.1 The required label shall be on the bucket at the time it is sold or delivered to the end user of the bucket's contents or, in the case of a bucket intended to be sold to the public in an empty state, at the time it is shipped to a retailer for sale to the public.

4.1.2 The label shall be placed on a side of the container below the handle.

4.1.3 All letters, words, and figures on the label shall be printed in colors that contrast from the background of the label.

4.1.4 The label shall be difficult to remove, only then by the use of tools or solvents.⁴

4.1.5 The label, when placed on the container, shall not thereafter be covered, obstructed, or removed by distributors or retailers.

4.2 *Label:*

4.2.1 The label shall be a minimum of 5 in. (127 mm) high by a minimum of 2¾ in. (70 mm) wide (see Fig. 1 for example).

4.2.2 The label shall be in a vertical or noticeable layout containing the following three components: (1) a signal word panel, (2) a pictorial, and (3) a message.

4.2.3 The label shall have a border or another form of contrast that delineates it from any other information on the container.

4.2.4 The signal word panel shall contain the word "WARNING" in uppercase letters, preceded by a safety alert symbol consisting of an exclamation mark inside a solid equilateral triangle background with the point of the triangle oriented upward. The word "WARNING" and the safety alert symbol shall be centered on one line and shall be in letters at least 5/16 in. (8 mm) high.

4.2.5 The pictorial panel shall be positioned between the signal word panel and the message. The pictorial shall be on a contrasting background and shall clearly depict a child falling into a bucket. A prohibition symbol (slash, oriented from the upper left to the lower right, through a circle) shall totally

⁴ UL Standard 969 provides guidance as to determination of permanency of labels.



FIG. 1 Example

encircle the pictorial. The pictorial panel shall have an overall height of 2 ½-in. (63-mm) minimum (see Fig. 1).

4.2.6 The label shall have the words “Children Can Fall into Bucket and Drown” followed by the words “Keep Children Away from Bucket with Even a Small Amount of Liquid”. The lettering of the message shall be left justified and shall be on a contrasting background and shall be in sans serif letters in combinations of uppercase and lowercase letters. The uppercase letters shall be ⅛-in. (3.3-mm) high minimum (see Fig. 1).

NOTE 1—ANSI Z535.1-1991 (Safety Color Codes) suggests that an orange color be utilized for the background for the word “WARNING,” the exclamation point, and the encircled slash, and should have the following values: 5.0 YR Hue + 6.0/15 chroma—per Munsell system;

equivalent CIE data—30.05 (Y %), 0.5510 (x), 0.4214 (y). Approximate PMS color: 13 parts yellow, 3 parts warm red, ¼ part black.

NOTE 2—Labels on containers for use or distribution in certain communities or locations may be revised to include an additional language(s). See Appendix X1.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Information on the wording of the warning labels that appear on the containers will help to ensure that proper information concerning methods of safer handling is presented to the consumer.

6. Keywords

6.1 labeling; plastic bucket; plastic container; safety

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. MODIFIED LABEL

X1.1 Labels may be modified for additional languages. Fig. X1.1 shows an example that may be appropriate for Spanish.



FIG. X1.1 Example Label in Spanish

ASTM International takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org). Permission rights to photocopy the standard may also be secured from the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, Tel: (978) 646-2600; <http://www.copyright.com/>