


# ASTM Plastic Resin Codes

						
PETE	HDPE	V	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
Polyethylene Terephthalate	High Density Polyethylene	Vinyl	Low Density Polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other





# Background

- The RIC assigns a numeral from 1 to 7, with a “chasing arrows” symbol around the number, to a piece of plastic to indicate its type.
- The RIC was developed by the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) in 1988.
- In 2008 SPI began working with ASTM
- The ASTM standard is voluntary, but 39 states have legislation related to plastic container labeling.



# ASTM Subcommittee Work

- New standard was developed by [Subcommittee D20.95](#) on Recycled Plastics – [ASTM D7611](#)
- Now that [ASTM D7611](#) has been published, D20.95 plans to consider the following questions for future revisions of the standard:
  - Are the chasing arrows surrounding the numbers still appropriate?
  - What are the more specific definitions that might be needed for each resin identification code?
  - What are the criteria for adding new codes?





# November Meeting Updates

- ASTM will vote on adding three new codes with identical design (including chasing arrows) to existing codes:
  - # 8 LLDPE – **L**inear **L**ow-**d**ensity **P**olyethylene
    - Uses include: plastic wrap, stretch wrap, pouches, toys, covers, lids, pipes, buckets and containers, covering of cables, and flexible tubing
  - #9 PLA – Poly(**l**actic **a**cid)
    - Uses include: sutures, stents, media and drug delivery devices, loose-fill packaging, compost bags, food packaging, and disposable tableware
  - # 10 CTC - **C**yclohexylenedimethylene **T**erephthalate **C**opolyesters
    - Uses include: Nalgene style water bottles



# November Meeting Updates Cont.

- ASTM plans to vote on criteria for adding new codes.
  - The actual criteria are still under debate
  - Approval for the three new codes is not contingent upon the criteria being approved
  - Initial set of criteria is based on production (produced for >2 years, 10 million + pounds of production).
  - There is **no requirement** to show that products made from the resin have demonstrated a viability for end-of-life recovery.





# November Meeting Updates Cont.

- Governments, MRFs & non-profits overwhelmingly agree the existing codes are a problem.
- There is not currently a consensus about how to improve the RIC system.
- Survey results, letters and 'evidence' of problems were shared with the ASTM subcommittee.
- If the RIC system is adapted state laws in as many as 39 states may require revision.





# Opportunities to Be Involved

- Become a voting member of ASTM (\$75)
- Join the ASTM task group that will address future changes for the codes:
  - Email Tom Pecorini at [tjpec@eastman.com](mailto:tjpec@eastman.com) to get involved
- Attend bi-annual ASTM plastics Subcommittee meetings (next meeting April in Anaheim CA)
- Note your contact information on the sign up sheet being passed around.



# Discussion

- How would changes to the current RLC system impact your programs?
- Do you support changes to the current standards?
- What additional information needs to be gathered?
- What changes should be prioritized? What do we want the system to look like?





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