

<b>Product Responsibility Best Practices</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>LAST UPDATE</b>
	Plastic Bag Warning Labels	
	<b>APPLIES TO</b>	<b>FOCUS ON</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suppliers</li> <li>Distributors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third-party Decorators</li> <li>State/Municipality Regulations and Warning Label Requirements for Plastic (Poly) Bags</li> </ul>
<b>QUICK LINKS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPAI Corporate Responsibility: <a href="http://www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/">www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/</a></li> <li>UL: <a href="http://industries.ul.com/premiums-promotional-and-licensed-goods">industries.ul.com/premiums-promotional-and-licensed-goods</a></li> <li>Consumer Product Safety Commission: <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">www.cpsc.gov</a></li> </ul>		
Available For Purchase: PPAI Sourcing And Compliance Manual: <a href="http://www.ppai.org/shop/product-safety">www.ppai.org/shop/product-safety</a>		

*Italic grey text indicates a hyperlink listed in the Online Resources section of this document.*

### Background

There are no federal laws which require warning labels on plastic (poly) bags. However, some states and a few municipalities have enacted their own legislation with regard to suffocation warning labels for plastic (poly) bags.

### Regulations

If bag thickness is <1 mil, the bag's dimensions need to be considered in conjunction with the labeling specifications of the individual jurisdictions in order to establish compliance (pass/fail).

**CALIFORNIA** - Labeling is required if 1) thickness is on average less than one mil, and 2) size of opening is larger than 25 square inches or a capacity of more than 125 cubic inches.

**CHICAGO, IL** - Labeling is required for polyethylene bags intended for household use, other than ones used for food products weighing not more than 5 pounds.

**MASSACHUSETTS & NEW YORK** - Labeling is required if: 1) thickness is less than one mil, 2) size of opening has a diameter of seven inches or more, and 3) length + width = 25 inches or more.

**RHODE ISLAND** - Labeling is required if 1) thickness is less than one mil, and 2) size of opening is larger than 5 inches in diameter.

**VIRGINIA** - Labeling is required for dry cleaning bags if

- 1) thickness is <1 mil, and
- 2) length totals 25 inches or more.

### Labeling Type Size And Placement

#### CALIFORNIA & RHODE ISLAND

Total length and width of:

- <30 inches = 10 point type minimum
- = or > 30 inches and < 40 inches = 14 point type minimum
- = or > 40 inches and < 60 inches = 18 point type minimum
- = or > 60 inches = 24 point type minimum.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Total length and width of:

- = or > 25 inches and < 40 inches = 14 point type minimum
- = or > 40 inches and < 60 inches = 18 point type minimum
- = or > 60 inches = 24 point type minimum.

Label shall appear on both sides of bag. If the total length and total width is more than 40-inches (when added), the label shall be repeated at 20-inch intervals.

#### NEW YORK

Total length and width of:

- = or > 25 inches and < 30 inches = 10 point type minimum
- = or > 30 inches and < 40 inches = 14 point type minimum
- = or > 40 inches and < 60 inches = 18 point type minimum
- = or > 60 inches = 24 point type minimum.

**VIRGINIA** 36 point type minimum.

### ***Warning Language***

Plastic bags in California, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia require the following warning:

**“WARNING: To avoid danger of suffocation, keep this plastic bag away from babies and children. Do not use this bag in cribs, beds, carriages or play pens. This bag is not a toy.”**

### **Online Resources:**

**PPAI Responsible Sourcing FAQs:** [www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/product-responsibility/Pages/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx](http://www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/product-responsibility/Pages/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx)

**PPAI Prop 65 State Regs Webinar:** [www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/Pages/Education.aspx](http://www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/Pages/Education.aspx)

**PPAI State Regs Best Practices:** [www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/product-responsibility/Documents/PR-BP-State-Regulations.pdf](http://www.ppai.org/inside-ppai/corporate-responsibility/product-responsibility/Documents/PR-BP-State-Regulations.pdf)

**The Specialty Plastic Industry Warning Labels:** [www.plasticsindustry.org/files/industry/Plastic Bag Warning Label Requirements 2012-12-04 pdf.pdf](http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/industry/Plastic%20Bag%20Warning%20Label%20Requirements%202012-12-04.pdf)

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