



Designation: D7611/D7611M – 18

# Standard Practice for Coding Plastic Manufactured Articles for Resin Identification<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7611/D7611M; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice stipulates the types, names, and sizes of Codes for those material types specified in [Table 1](#).

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are likely not to be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems is likely to result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Adjuncts:

Adjunct to D7611/D7611M Standard Practice for Coding Plastic Manufactured Articles for Resin Identification<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *Resin Identification Code (RIC Code)*—a molded, imprinted or raised symbol or wording that consists of an equilateral triangle, a Resin Identification Number, and an Abbreviated Term for polymeric material.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.95 on Recycled Plastics.

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<sup>2</sup> Available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. ADJD761114-EA. Original adjunct produced in 2010. Adjunct last revised in 2014.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Resin Identification Codes are used solely to identify the plastic resin used in a manufactured article. The intended manufactured articles include, but are not limited to, packaging.

4.1.1 [Fig. 1](#) and [Table 1](#) present the appropriate information on the way the RIC is to be incorporated onto the product and the available resin identification designations.

4.2 Resin Identification Codes are not “recycle codes.” The Resin Identification Code is, though, an aid to recycling. The use of a Resin Identification Code on a manufactured plastic article does not imply that the article is recycled or that there are systems in place to effectively process the article for reclamation or re-use. The term “recyclable” or other environmental claims shall not be placed in proximity to the Code.

4.3 This practice is based upon the system developed in 1988 by the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc (SPI). It is possible that some states or countries will have incorporated the original SPI practice into statute or regulation. In those situations, that statute or regulation takes precedence over this standard.

4.4 This practice shall only apply to new tooling. Existing molds that already incorporate older versions of the SPI RIC may be modified, but modification is not required.

4.5 Assign number for manufactured items, not for adhesives or coatings. Do not code labels for resin of the label.

## 5. Requirements

5.1 The Code is to be molded, formed or imprinted on the manufactured article.















5.2 The Code shall be clear and legible.

5.3 The size of the Code shall normally equal or exceed 12 mm [ $\frac{1}{2}$  in.] in height and width.

NOTE 2—For small parts or components, it is not always possible to conform to these size requirements. In these cases, it is important to maximize the size and legibility of the Code.

5.4 The Code shall be placed in an inconspicuous location on the manufactured article, such as the bottom or the back,

TABLE 1 Resin Identification Codes

Resin Identification Number	Resin	Resin Identification Code –Option A	Resin Identification Code –Option B
1	Poly (ethylene terephthalate)	 <b>1</b> <b>PETE</b>	 <b>01</b> <b>PET</b>
2	High density polyethylene	 <b>2</b> <b>HDPE</b>	 <b>02</b> <b>PE-HD</b>
3	Poly (vinyl chloride)	 <b>3</b> <b>V</b>	 <b>03</b> <b>PVC</b>
4	Low density polyethylene	 <b>4</b> <b>LDPE</b>	 <b>04</b> <b>PE-LD</b>
5	Polypropylene	 <b>5</b> <b>PP</b>	 <b>05</b> <b>PP</b>
6	Polystyrene	 <b>6</b> <b>PS</b>	 <b>06</b> <b>PS</b>
7	Other resins	 <b>7</b> <b>OTHER</b>	 <b>07</b> <b>0</b>

where it will not be obvious to the consumer at the point of purchase so it does not influence the consumer's buying decision.

5.5 The Code shall be as shown in Table 1. Option A is commonly found in North America. Option B is often found internationally. Either option is acceptable.