



Standard Specification for Airsoft Gun Warnings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2654; 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 airsoft guns, air soft guns, or soft air guns, or any combination thereof, which propel a low energy air gun projectile, as defined in 3.1.2 and meeting the requirements in Specification F2748. These devices are also known as low energy air guns (LEAG).

1.2 *Limitations*—This specification does not cover the following categories of gun products: Products covered by Specifications F589 (non-powder guns), F2272 (paintball markers), F2573 (toy products), and F2574 (non-recreational guns such as those used by law enforcement, scientific, or military agencies).

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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.*

1.5 *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 Standards:*²

- F589 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Powder Guns
- F2272 Specification for Paintball Markers
- F2573 Specification for Low Velocity Resilient Material Projectile

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.27 on Airsoft.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- F2574 Specification for Low Velocity Projectile Marker
- F2679 Specification for 6 mm Projectiles Used with Airsoft Guns
- F2748 Specification for Airsoft Guns

2.2 *ANSI Standard:*³

- ANSI Z535 Standard for Safety Colors

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *airsoft gun, n*—commonly referred to as airsoft gun, air soft gun, or soft air gun, or any combination thereof, or a low energy air gun (LEAG), refers to a device specifically designed to expel a projectile as described in Specification F2679, by the release of energy by compressed air, compressed gas, mechanical springs, battery, or a combination thereof.

3.1.2 *airsoft gun projectile, n*—is spherical, 6 mm (.24 cal) in diameter, non-metallic and non-liquid filled projectile to be used in an airsoft gun meeting the requirements in Specification F2679.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification addresses the appropriate warnings and instructions that are to be provided for literature, labels, packages, and procedures for safe use of airsoft guns.

5. Conformance

5.1 Airsoft guns shall not, either by label or other means, indicate conformance with this specification unless they conform with the applicable requirements contained herein.

6. General Requirements

6.1 *Literature*—Literature shall be provided with each airsoft gun and shall include, as applicable, the instructions and cautionary statements specified in Section 7.

6.2 *Packaging*—Packaging shall be labeled in a prominent and conspicuous manner in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

7. Instructions, Labeling, and Marking

7.1 *General*—Packaging and literature for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a cautionary statement as prescribed in this specification.

7.2 Safety disclaimers shall not be used which dilute or negate the effectiveness of the warnings provided for in these instructions, labeling, and marking requirements.

7.3 Packaging:

7.3.1 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a cautionary statement. The statement shall be placed prominently on the package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs.

7.3.2 Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement may be in a combination of upper and lower case letters of a size not less than 8-point type. The letters in the signal word shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the cautionary statement. The signal word shall be in upper case letters and preceded by a safety alert symbol. It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point shall be orange. The cautionary statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the cautionary statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, and so forth, the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.3 The cautionary statement on packaging of all airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall convey the following information at a minimum:

7.3.3.1 A signal word “WARNING.”

7.3.3.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.3.3.3 A warning that misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye.

7.3.3.4 A warning that eye protection designed for airsoft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range.

7.3.3.5 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.3.3.6 The following cautionary statement may be used:
⚠ WARNING—This is not a toy. Misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye. Eye protection designed for airsoft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range. Read the owner’s manual before using.

7.3.3.7 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a recommendation that a person be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

7.3.3.8 The packaging must contain a warning that adult supervision is required.

7.3.3.9 The packaging for airsoft guns with an energy under two joule shall contain a warning statement: “WARNING: DO NOT BRANDISH OR DISPLAY THIS AIRSOFT GUN IN PUBLIC – IT MAY CONFUSE PEOPLE AND MAY BE A CRIME. POLICE AND OTHERS MAY THINK IT IS A REAL FIREARM. DO NOT CHANGE THE COLORATION AND MARKINGS TO MAKE IT LOOK MORE LIKE A FIREARM. THAT IS DANGEROUS AND MAY BE A CRIME.” The statement shall be placed conspicuously on the package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs in a manner that is likely to be readily visible at the time of sale. Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement shall be in upper-case boldface letters of a size bearing a reasonable relationship to the other type on the main panel, but no less than 10-point type for rifles and 8-point type for pistols. The letters in the signal word “WARNING” shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the warning statement. The signal word shall be preceded by a safety alert symbol (ANSI Z535). It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word “WARNING” shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point portion orange. The warning statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the warning statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, etc., the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.3.10 Information shall be provided which identifies the type of propellant or energy source intended for use in the airsoft gun.

7.3.4 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall show conspicuously the name and address of the manufacturer, the distributor, or the dealer.

7.3.5 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall be clearly marked with the following: a description of the type of airsoft gun enclosed in the package, the model number of the airsoft gun, and the caliber of the airsoft gun.

7.3.6 Packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule must include a statement of maximum velocity, determined using a .12 or .20 gram, or both, projectile.

7.3.7 If an airsoft gun with energy under two joule is customarily sold without the packaging that would normally contain the information required in 7.3.1 – 7.3.6, the information required in these sections shall be placed on the airsoft gun itself, either on a label or hangtag that meets the same requirements for content, prominence, and visibility at the time of sale.

7.3.8 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain a cautionary statement. The statement shall be placed prominently on the package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs.

7.3.9 Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement may be in a combination of upper and lower case letters of a size not less than 8-point type. The letters in the signal word shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the cautionary statement. The signal word shall be in upper case letters and preceded by a safety alert symbol. It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point shall be orange. The cautionary statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the cautionary statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, and so forth, the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.10 The cautionary statement on packaging of all airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall convey the following information at a minimum:

7.3.10.1 A signal word “WARNING.”

7.3.10.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.3.10.3 A warning that misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye.

7.3.10.4 A warning that eye protection designed for airsoft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range.

7.3.10.5 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.3.10.6 The following cautionary statement may be used:
Warning—This is not a toy. Misuse may cause serious injury or death. Eye protection designed for air soft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range. Read the owner’s manual before using.

7.3.10.7 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain a recommendation that a person be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

7.3.10.8 The packaging must contain a warning that adult supervision is required.

7.3.10.9 The packaging for airsoft guns with an energy over two joule shall contain a warning statement: “WARNING: DO NOT BRANDISH OR DISPLAY THIS AIRSOFT GUN IN PUBLIC – IT MAY CONFUSE PEOPLE AND MAY BE A CRIME. POLICE AND OTHERS MAY THINK IT IS A REAL FIREARM. DO NOT CHANGE THE COLORATION AND MARKINGS TO MAKE IT LOOK MORE LIKE A FIREARM. THAT IS DANGEROUS AND MAY BE A CRIME.” The statement shall be placed conspicuously on the

package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs in a manner that is likely to be readily visible at the time of sale. Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement shall be in upper-case boldface letters of a size bearing a reasonable relationship to the other type on the main panel, but no less than 10-point type for rifles and 8-point type for pistols. The letters in the signal word “WARNING” shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the warning statement. The signal word shall be preceded by a safety alert symbol (ANSI Z535). It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word “WARNING” shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point portion orange. The warning statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the warning statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, etc., the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.11 Information shall be provided which identifies the type of propellant or energy source intended for use in the airsoft gun.

7.3.12 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall show conspicuously the name and address of the manufacturer, the distributor, or the dealer.

7.3.13 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall be clearly marked with the following: a description of the type of airsoft gun enclosed in the package, the model number of the airsoft gun, and the caliber of the airsoft gun.

7.3.14 Packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule must include a statement of maximum velocity, determined using a .12 or .20 gram, or both, projectile.

7.3.15 If an airsoft gun with energy over two joule is customarily sold without the packaging that would normally contain the information required in 7.3.1 – 7.3.6, the information required in these sections shall be placed on the airsoft gun itself, either on a label or hangtag that meets the same requirements for content, prominence, and visibility at the time of sale.

7.4 Product Marking:

7.4.1 Airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall be prominently and durably marked to convey the following information at a minimum:

7.4.1.1 A signal word “WARNING.”

7.4.1.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.4.1.3 A warning that eye protection must be worn to prevent serious injury to eye.

7.4.1.4 Instructions to read operation manual before using.