



Designation: F839 – 83(Reapproved 2006)

# Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling of Portable Gasoline Containers for Consumer Use<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F839; 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.

## INTRODUCTION

On Oct. 24, 1979, at the request of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, ASTM convened a meeting of interested parties to discuss the merits of the development of a voluntary standard covering portable containers for petroleum products. As a result of this meeting ASTM Task Group F15.10 was formed at an organizational meeting held on Jan. 24, 1980.

During the early stages of its deliberations the task group concluded that the scope of its work should be limited to gasoline containers in view of the unique properties of the fluid, the broad consumer use of such containers and the impracticality of adequately addressing a broader scope on any timely basis. Further, the task group concluded that, in as much as consumer misuse is a major safety consideration, a standard specification for cautionary labeling should be its first order of business.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes nationally recognized requirements for the cautionary information to be placed on the label of portable gasoline containers for consumer use. 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.

### 2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *Federal Document*:<sup>2</sup>  
**CFR 1500 Federal Hazardous Substances Act**

### 3. Terminology Definition

3.1 *portable gasoline container*—a vessel designed to be carried by hand and to be used to transport gasoline from distribution points to use points.

### 4. Requirements

4.1 The lettering shall be of a block style and shall be of a style consistent with the requirements listed in the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.10 on Standards for Flammable Liquid Containers.

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<sup>2</sup> *Code of Federal Regulations*, available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

4.2 The information required is for a single panel or label, or both. If, because of size restrictions, the information must be divided, the main panel shall contain language consistent with the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

NOTE 1—If the information is divided, it would be a good practice to have the statement “Harmful or Fatal if swallowed” and “If swallowed, do not induce vomiting, call physician immediately” together.

4.3 The following information shall appear on all portable gasoline containers:

**DANGER**  
**GASOLINE**  
**EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE**  
**VAPORS CAN EXPLODE**  
**HARMFUL OR FATAL IF SWALLOWED**

If swallowed, do not induce vomiting, call physician immediately

Keep out of reach of children  
Avoid prolonged breathing of vapors  
Do not siphon by mouth  
Do not store in vehicle or living space  
Store and use in well-ventilated area  
Vapors can be ignited by a spark or flame source many feet away  
Keep away from flame, pilot lights, stoves, heaters, electric motors, and other sources of ignition

Keep container closed

4.4 Additional information for the proper use or function of the container may also appear.