



Designation: D5998 – 10

Standard Specification for Molded Polyethylene Shipping and Storage Drums¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5998; 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 self supporting, molded polyethylene, tight head drums designed for surface and air shipment, ranging in size from 5 gal (19 L) to and including 55 gal (208 L).

1.2 Virgin or recycled polyethylene plastics² or combinations thereof can be used provided the finished product meets the requirements of this specification.

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

NOTE 2—This standard is intended to replace MIL-D-43703C.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound 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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*³

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D1972 Practice for Generic Marking of Plastic Products](#)

[D3951 Practice for Commercial Packaging](#)

[D4504 Specification for Molded Polyethylene Open-Head-Pails for Industrial Shipping of Nonhazardous Goods](#)

[D4919 Guide for Testing of Hazardous Materials Packagings](#)

[D7209 Guide for Waste Reduction, Resource Recovery, and Use of Recycled Polymeric Materials and Products](#)

2.2 *ANSI Standards:*⁴

[ANSI Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15.01 on Polyethylene Plastics (Disbanded 01/2012).

Current edition approved April 1, 2010. Published June 2010. Originally approved in 1996. Last previous edition approved in 2003 as D5998 - 03. DOI: 10.1520/D5998-10.

² As defined in Guide D7209.

³ 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.

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

2.3 *Federal Regulations:*⁵

[21 CFR 121 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and Regulations Promulgated Thereunder](#)

[21 CFR 177](#)

[49 CFR 173 Shippers—General Requirements for Shipments and Packagings](#)

[49 CFR 178 Specifications for Packaging](#)

2.4 *Other:*

[National Motor Freight Classification \(NMFC-100\) Uniform Freight Classification \(UFC\)](#)

2.5 *National Sanitation Foundation International:*⁶

[NSF Standard No. 2 Food Service Equipment](#)

[NSF Standard No. 51 Plastics Materials and Components Used in Food Service Equipment](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions or terms, see Terminology D883 or Guide D7209.

4. Requirements

4.1 *Materials*—Drums shall conform to 49 CFR 173.24 and 178.509 Type 1H1. The drum material and components shall conform to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, Food Additive Amendment 21 CFR 177, 1520 and NSF International Standard No. 2 and 51 when used for food products. Recycled plastic can be used when practical as long as the finished product meets the requirements of this specification.

4.2 *Design and Construction*—Drums shall conform to 49 CFR 173.24 and 178.509, Type 1H1. Drums shall be molded of materials specified in 4.1. Five gallon (19 L) drums shall be furnished with one or two carrying handles. Fifteen gallon (57 L) drums shall be furnished with one or two handles on the top or without handles. Drums greater than 20 gal shall be fabricated so that they can be individually handled by customary handling devices. Handling devices shall withstand the combined lifted weight of the drum and contents. Rolling rings on drums are optional, and when specified, a minimum of two are required.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

⁶ Available from NSF International, P.O. Box 130140, 789 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0140, <http://www.nsf.org>.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard