

## Model Bale Specifications: Agricultural PE Film, Not Mulch

This model is not meant to replace the specifications of individual buyers, many of whom may have different allowables in terms of contents and bale sizes. Rather, it is meant to provide a benchmark to suppliers.

*Any polyethylene film collected after use in agriculture not including mulch film. This can include bale wrap, and greenhouse film provided the film is polyethylene and has not been used as mulch film. Non-polyethylene bale wrap is excluded. All bag bundles should be free of free-flowing liquids. Postconsumer is defined as "used for its intended purpose and otherwise directed to disposal".*

**ALLOWABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS:** Total contaminants should not exceed **10%** by weight.

- Paper and/or cardboard (2% maximum),
- Plastic bottles (2% maximum),
- Films of non-polyethylene (2% maximum),
- Soil (8% maximum),
- Liquid residues (2% maximum).

**THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ) <b><u>Blood and medical and hazardous waste</u></b> | ) Rocks and stones                          |
| ) Wood  | ) Metallized labels or films                |
| ) Glass   | ) Multi-material pouches                    |
| ) Oils and Grease                                     | ) Film with oxo or bio-degradable additives |

**IMPORTANT:** Any plastic item that previously contained or contacted any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including but not limited to chemical agricultural products, pesticides, herbicides, waste oil, paint, medical products (drugs, IV solutions, syringes/hypodermic needles, sharps), flammable, corrosive or reactive liquids, grease and solvents should be strictly avoided. This rule applies even if the aforementioned material was not the original contents of a bag. Many purchasers will reject an entire load if any of the above materials are found and will return them at the supplier's expense. Purchasers may require certification bales do not include prohibited materials.

**Bale Size/Minimum Shipping Weight/ Tare Weight:** Approximately 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60". Bale sizes should allow a minimum of 38,000 pounds to be shipped on 53 foot trailer. Individual companies may apply price deductions for shipments that do not meet their minimum weight requirements. A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale may be taken from the gross weight.

**Bale Density:** 15lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> or the minimum to achieve 38,000 pounds in a trailer load.

**Bale Integrity:** Bale integrity must be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.

**Bale Wire:** Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire, with all bale wires wrapped in one direction (crisscrossing or double strapping should be preapproved by the buyer before shipping). A minimum number of bale wires should be used to maintain bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size and density.

**Storage:** Bales should be stored, with the bottom bale on a pallet, indoors or covered outdoors. Material must not be stored outdoors uncovered for a period exceeding four (4) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination.