

APR's Meets Preferred Guidance Review Program

Plastic pump, trigger, and aerosol dispensers for PET, HDPE, and PP packaging Program Agreement

General

Pump, trigger, and aerosol dispensers made with all plastic components are candidates for review and recognition with APR's Meets Preferred Guidance Review Program effective August 1, 2021.

Notes:

The APR encourages employing the ["Caps On"](#) approach to recycling closures and dispensers on each of HDPE, PP and PET packages. Caps On advises the consumer to avoid removing the closure from the container when recycling to prevent the closure from being lost in the recycling process. A dispenser by itself, not applied to a package, is not likely to be recycled. The Caps On program requires the closure to be constructed of materials that are compatible with the recycling process employed for the plastic used to make the container.

Dispensers have traditionally been made employing a variety of materials including plastics, rubbers and metals. Often, these materials either have detrimental effects or will cause the package to be rendered not recyclable. The APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability lists the materials that may be used in an all-plastic sprayer that is compatible and thus Preferred when used on PET, HDPE and PP containers. This guidance can be found here:

[Closures and Dispensers on PET Bottles](#)

[Closures and Dispensers on HDPE Bottles](#)

[Closures and Dispensers on PP Bottles](#)

Preparation for the application:

A company wishing to submit a plastic pump, trigger, or dispenser for consideration in the MPG Program should take the following steps:

1. Review the APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability to ensure the item complies with the "Preferred" guidance
3. Perform any lab tests required in the guide
4. Gather all information required for MPG Review (see section below)
5. Complete the application found on the [APR website](#)
7. Submit the application fee.

Information required for MPG Review

The following technical information must be submitted to the Program Administrator for review by the appropriate APR Technical Committee:

(Note – the APR does not require or accept information that is confidential in this program. The APR does not publish or distribute information supplied by an applicant, but it will be used in a technical review by a committee).

- **Product family name** – this can be a trade name, or a product family identification name or number.
- **General description of the product** – Describe the function of the dispenser, how it is used, and what packaging products it is used with.
- **Components List** – Provide a list of all components and materials used to make the dispenser. Designate whether the component is molded from natural polymer, polymer with a color concentrate, or polymer that contains a mineral filler.
- **Evidence that all materials used in the dispenser will float** – Submit results from a materials analysis that shows the density of molded parts to be less than 1.0, or from data developed from the APR O-S-01 Flootation Test Protocol.

Meets Preferred Guidance Agreement

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between the Association of Plastic Recyclers (“APR”), a District of Columbia corporation having its principal place of business at 2050 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, and _____ (“Supplier”) its principal place of business at _____ as of _____ (“Effective Date”).

WHEREAS, the APR Design® Recognition Program for Meets Preferred Guidance (“MPG Program”) allows materials, components, and complete packages used in PET, HDPE, PP and PE film packaging to be recognized as meeting APR Preferred Guidelines for Recycling; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into an agreement governing Supplier’s participation in the recognition program.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and obligations set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. **APR’s MPG Review** is an engineering assessment of the technical compatibility of either a package design feature, or a complete package, with today’s plastics recycling processes. Recognition of an item does not qualify the item to be described or marketed as recyclable. APR’s complete Definition of Recyclability can be found [HERE \(https://plasticsrecycling.org/recycling-definitions\)](https://plasticsrecycling.org/recycling-definitions). Additional critical aspects of the package, beyond technical compatibility, must be considered when making recyclability claims to the public and marketing a product. These may include consumer access to recycling, specific container design features, and the consideration whether the container is commonly accepted by the recycling industry to be sorted correctly into a marketable bale.
2. **Voluntary Participation** – Supplier acknowledges that participation in the Program is voluntary.
3. **Non-Exclusive** – Supplier acknowledges that this Agreement is non-exclusive, and APR may enter into this agreement with other parties.
4. **Future Obligation** - Supplier is under no obligation to submit future applications.
5. **Effective Date and Duration** – This agreement shall take effect upon its execution and shall terminate three (3) years from the effective date unless otherwise terminated or amended pursuant to this Agreement.
6. **Fees** – Supplier agrees to promptly pay to APR an application fee within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement. Supplier acknowledges that review of Supplier’s application will not commence until the application fee is received.

7. **Indemnification** – APR and Supplier (each, as applicable, the “Indemnifying Party”) agree to indemnify, defend and hold the other party (each, as applicable, the “Indemnified Party”) harmless against any liability relating to property damage, personal injury or death of the Indemnified Party, its officers, directors, employees, agents or invitees, to the extent resulting from the negligence or intentional misconduct of the Indemnifying Party, or that of such party’s officers, directors, employees, agents or invitees, in connection with this Agreement; provided, however, that neither APR nor Supplier shall have any liability under this Agreement for special, indirect, incidental, consequential, punitive or exemplary damages, including, but not limited to, lost profits, even if such party has knowledge of the possibility of such damages, and regardless of whether the Indemnified Party’s claim is based upon breach of contract, breach of warranty, negligence, strict liability, or any other legal theory. This provision shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.
8. **Participation and Testing**
- a. All testing conducted under the Program will be performed in accordance with the most current versions of the Program Operating Procedures, and published test protocols
 - b. Eligible products must be compatible with the APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability Guidelines.
 - c. Supplier is obligated to conduct testing as indicated in the Program Operating Procedures at their own expense.
9. **Confidentiality of Information** – The information requested in the APR Design® Recognition Program for Meets Preferred Guidance Review is the type of information that is not considered confidential under the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) regulations (e.g., 21 C.F.R. § 170.102). Therefore, such information is not entitled to confidential protection. With respect to any other information voluntarily supplied, the Supplier waives confidentiality protection for all such submissions.
10. **Names and Trademarks** —
- a. Except as provided in this agreement, neither party shall use the name, badge, or other trademarks or service marks (“Marks”) of the other party without written permission.
 - b. Supplier grants APR permission to publicly release the decision to grant recognition, APR agrees not to publicize decisions to not grant recognition; however, APR reserves the right to respond to public inquiries on the results of a recognition review. An application that is withdrawn prior to the conclusion of a review will be indicated to be “withdrawn” in response to public inquiries.
 - c. For purposes of publicly releasing the decision to grant recognition, Supplier authorizes APR to use the Supplier’s name and trademark in a listing of Suppliers whose product or products have been recognized under the Program. This listing will be maintained on the APR’s web site.

11. Termination –

- a. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason provided that written notice is sent at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination.
- b. This Agreement may be terminated immediately by APR upon the default or a breach of the Agreement by Supplier.

12. Arbitration – The parties agree that disputes arising under this Agreement shall be settled through the appointment of an arbitrator selected by the parties. Should the parties not be able to agree on an arbitrator, each may select one arbitrator, and the two arbitrators will choose a third. Arbitration will be conducted under the Commercial Rules of Arbitration of the American Arbitration Association in the District of Columbia, and any appropriate statutes of limitations will also apply to claims for arbitration. The parties agree that arbitration will be the sole and exclusive remedy.

13. Entire Agreement and Amendments – This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, relating to this subject. Amendments to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.

14. Severability – If any provision(s) of this Agreement or the application of them to either party is held illegal, unenforceable, or otherwise invalid by government promulgation or court decree, such holding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provision, provided that the parties shall promptly negotiate in good faith to make adjustments in this Agreement as may be necessary to make it fair and equitable to both parties.

15. Controlling Law – This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the District of Columbia, without application of the principles of conflicts of law.

16. Headings – The headings of the paragraphs and subparagraphs of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be deemed to constitute a part hereof.

17. Notice – Any notice or communication required to be given or permitted under this Agreement shall be sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the following persons:

The following people are designated as primary contacts for this application:

For APR:

_____APR Program Administrator

_____telephone

_____email

For Supplier:

_____APR Program Administrator

_____telephone

_____email

Either party, by written notice to the other conforming with this paragraph, may change the person or persons designated to receive notices on behalf of that party and/or the address or addresses to which any notice is to be sent.