

APR Meets Preferred Guidance Review Program

Resource Document

About The APR Meets Preferred Guidance Program

The APR and our member companies are publicly committed to creating a circular economy for plastics recycling. Package designed to have negligible or no impact on the quality of recycled plastics, as well as negligible or no impact on the productivity of the recycling process, enable a circular economy. The use of plastic packages that achieve the design principles outlined in the [APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability](#) helps to ensure that good quality recycled plastic is available in the market for brand companies that are committed to using PCR (postconsumer recycled plastic) in their products.

This Meets Preferred Guidance Review Program (the MPG Program) is a voluntary program that encourages companies that manufacture packaging materials and components, as well as finished packages, to obtain an independent assessment from APR that their product meets the Preferred guidance criteria presented in the APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability. The review can be for a material, a specific design feature, or for a complete package. Candidate items are listed in the [MPG Program Standard Operating Procedures](#) Appendix once an APR Committee has confirmed that the Guidance given in the APR Design® Guide provides a complete listing of objective Preferred criteria for those items.

APR's MPG Program 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](#). 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 whether the container is commonly accepted by the recycling industry to be sorted correctly into a marketable bale.

Plastic Pump, Trigger, and Aerosol Dispensers

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

Background

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*](#)

Participation in the MPG Program

A company wishing to submit an item for consideration in the MPG Program should take the following steps:

1. Ensure the item is available for consideration by checking the list found [here](#).
2. 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 in Appendix 1 of this document.
6. Contact the Program Administrator, [*Sandeep Kulkarni*](#).
7. Submit the application and 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 Floatation Test Protocol](#).

The Application Form is provided in **Appendix One** of this Resource Document.

Appendix One Dispenser Information Form

Company name:

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Contact information:

Product family name:

General description of the product:

Components List with properties:

Evidence that all materials used in the dispenser will float (may be attached as a separate document):

By submitting this information, I verify that the information contained in this form is an accurate description of the dispenser product being submitted for MPG Review and Recognition.

Signature

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Printed Name

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Title

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Date

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