



**Association of Plastic Recyclers
1001 G Street, NW Suite 500
Washington DC 20001**

www.plasticsrecycling.org

June 16, 2016

Mr. Thomas Busard
Chief Procurement Officer
Plastipak Packaging, Inc.
41605 Ann Arbor Rd.
Plymouth, MI 48170

Dear Mr. Busard:

APR, the Association of Plastic Recyclers, is pleased to recognize Plastipak Packaging's four color (white, cyan, magenta, yellow, and black) Direct Object Printing™ technology with up to and including 70% surface coverage on a PET bottle as meeting or exceeding APR's PET Bottle Critical Guidance Document and hereby so states. APR thanks Plastipak Packaging for additionally testing at 100% innovation test bottles, higher than required by the test protocol, and for conducting commercial production-scale testing at 100% innovation test bottles to produce new, commercial-grade bottles for which no detrimental issues were noted.

A Review Committee, appointed per the APR Recognition Operating Procedures, reviewed your May 26, 2016 data submission and concluded the data were correctly obtained by a qualified laboratory and were completely presented to show the bottles with direct printing submitted meet or exceed all critical guidance requirements. APR appreciates the extra work done on wash water color and strainable particulates in wash water in support of your petition.

The PET Bottle Critical Guidance Document is the product of multi-industry consensus of key issues related to the recycling of postconsumer PET bottles. The document directs innovators to conduct specific testing per established testing procedures and then provides the innovators with guidance to interpret the results. The APR recognition is based on the innovation meeting or exceeding the most challenging test conditions and strictest guidance criteria.

APR thanks Plastipak Packaging Incorporated for its cooperation in using this important protocol. The protocol is intended to improve the quality of recycled bottles by helping innovators to make informed decisions about the consequences of PET bottle innovations. The impact of APR protocols is beneficial to world-wide recycling efforts.

Our recognition applies only to Plastipak Packaging's Direct Object Printing™ with 70% and less surface coverage and not necessarily to bottles using the printing as those bottles would need to be tested themselves to demonstrate the system of resin, adjuvants, and closure conformed to the APR Critical Guidance Document. Meeting the Critical Guidance Document guidelines is a truly significant step in demonstrating overall recyclability of your decoration system.

Yours truly,

Stephan Alexander
Executive Director

The Voice of Plastics Recycling™

