



Standard Safety Specification for Liquid Laundry Packets¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Editorially corrected 5.3.3.2, 6.1, and 6.2 in December 2015.

INTRODUCTION

In November 2012 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a Safety Alert to inform parents and caregivers that Liquid Laundry Detergent Packets need to be kept away from children as those who are exposed to packet contents are at risk of serious injury and even death due to the highly concentrated nature of the product. Children who have accidentally ingested Liquid Laundry Detergent Packets have experienced a range of injuries including loss of consciousness, respiratory distress, vomiting, coughing, choking and drowsiness, and in cases where there has been contact with the eyes, painful irritation of the eyes and corneal burns have occurred. In addition, death has been reported to occur following ingestion of Liquid Laundry Detergent Packets, including in one child.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification provides requirements for household Liquid Laundry Detergent Packet safety to help reduce unintentional exposures to the contents of the packets, especially to children.

1.2 This standard applies exclusively to household Liquid Laundry Detergent Packets. “Liquid Laundry Detergent Packets” are single-use laundry detergent products that contain a liquid detergent enclosed in a water soluble outer layer (“pouch film”). This includes laundry detergent packets in soluble film that contain liquid only (that is, all liquid), as well as those that contain both liquid and non-liquid components.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with Liquid Laundry Detergent Packet 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. It is the responsibility of the user of the product to follow the warning statements and use the product appropriately.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.71 on Liquid Laundry Packets.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D3475 Classification of Child-Resistant Packages

D4332 Practice for Conditioning Containers, Packages, or Packaging Components for Testing

D4359 Test Method for Determining Whether a Material Is a Liquid or a Solid

2.2 ANSI Standard:³

ANSI Z535.4 Safety Color Code—Environmental Facility Safety Signs—Criteria for Safety Symbols—Product Safety Sign and Labels and Accident Prevention Tags

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *liquid, n*—a substance or mixture which: (1) at 50°C has a vapour pressure of not more than 300 kPa (3 bar), (2) which is not completely gaseous at 20°C and at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa, and (3) which has a melting point or initial melting point of 20°C or less at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa.

² 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.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.