

Testing Protocol for Assessing PET Truckload Bale Grade

Accompanying Document to Model Bale Specifications: PET Bottles and Gradings

- Weigh incoming PET load
- Visually inspect load, while in truck and upon unloading, if possible

If truck weight or visual inspection identifies obvious contamination, prohibited materials, or other significant issues, material will be photographed and will trigger buyer’s specific protocols. If bale quality appears within tolerance thresholds, material from truckload will be audited using steps below.

1. Preferred sample size is 225 pounds or more. At a minimum, 75-80 pounds (approximately two 55-gallon drums of material) should be pulled. Pull sample from various places in PET bale and/or load, if possible, to get representative material.
2. Weigh full sample.
3. Sort into categories:
 - PET bottles and containers w/ caps and labels if attached, clear and light blue
 - Green PET containers
 - Other color PET containers
 - PET thermoforms non-bottle (clear)
 - OPTIONAL: Non-PET plastics, Metals, Other Contaminants

The PET container fraction weight is the key measurement for bale grading, taken as a percentage of the total sample weight. The weights of total sample, PET fraction, and other category fractions are assumed to include residual liquid and food still in bottles, as well as caps and labels *if still attached to bottles*.

- SAMPLE AUDIT SORT CATEGORIES -							
	PET Bottles & Jars (clear, light blue)	Green PET Bottles & Jars	Other Color PET Bottles & Jars*	PET Thermoform*	Non-PET Plastics	Metals	Other Contaminants
Fraction Weight	_____	□ _____					
TOTAL Sample Weight	_____						
Category Fraction / Total Weight X 100 = PET Fraction %	_____ %						

See *Model Bale Specifications and Gradings: PET Bottles* document for prohibited materials.

* Check buyer-specific specifications for Other Color and PET Thermoform material allowances.