



PLASTIC  
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INSTITUTE



## Plastic Drum & Composite IBC Label Guidelines



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# Label Guidelines

There is no single label material and adhesive that will work in every application. However, this paper will guide you to a label material and adhesive combination, which may work for your plastic drum and/or composite IBC labeling application.

How will your label be used? Do you need to print on demand and /or on-site?

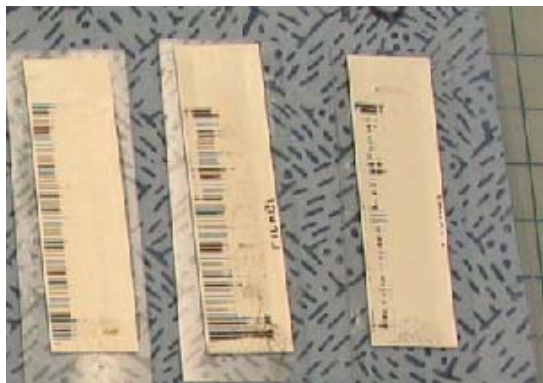
Depending on how you answer the following questions we will recommend one of the following four label constructions.

- 1) **CrockLock**- Aggressive adhesive, Chemical Resistant quick adhesion pre-printed label (Printed off-site). Must be laminated for complete chemical resistance.
  - Polypropylene face-stock-weather resistant
  - Quick Stick-Hi Initial Tack
  - Soft Adhesive- conforms well to rounded surfaces
  - This “Hot Melt” adhesive also flows well into textured surfaces when applied
  - Service Temperature range- -40f to 140f



- 2) **Lasercode L-4600**- Best Laser printable option- Vinyl face stock good all temp adhesive
  - Vinyl face-stock – weather resistant
  - Adhesive specifically designed to run through laser printers
  - Top-coated vinyl which allows for both pre-printing(off-site) and imprinting (laser printer) on-site
  - Service Temperature -40f to 300f
  
- 3) **T-100** - On-demand option- abrasion/chemical resistant- on-demand printing (Thermal Transfer)
  - Polypropylene face-stock- weather resistant
  - Topcoat provides image protection without use of a protective over laminate
  - 3M 350 adhesive 1.8mil thick- offers excellent chemical and temp resistance
  - UL recognized
  - Great option for on-demand printing i.e. (Zebra printer)
  - Long term abrasion resistance
  - Must clean surface prior to applying label
  - Temperature Range -40F for three days +300F for 24 hours
  
- 4) **Ionomer Topcoat**-Ultimate Label for chemical/weather resistance for on demand printing (Thermal Transfer)Polypropylene face-stock

**Gasoline Resistance**



Conventional Label Material



Ionomer Topcoat Images

- Most chemical resistant Top-coat available for on –demand printing
- Must be used in conjunction with the Ricoh B-110CU resin ribbon
- 3M 350 adhesive 1.8 mil thick- UL recognized
- Must Clean surface prior to applying label
- Temperature Range -40f for three days + 300F for 24 hours

**CAUTION: Paper Labels (face-stocks) generally will not withstand the normal wear and tear of your application. Please avoid the use of paper labels when Drum or IBC labeling.**



Traditional Paper Label



Traditional Paper Label

### Application Checklist

#### CHOOSE MATERIAL # 1

- If your application requires a very aggressive all purpose adhesive and must be chemical resistant- no variable information- printed off-site using flexographic technology –must be removed cleanly at the end of the product life cycle.

#### CHOOSE MATERIAL # 2

- If your application requires you to print on demand using a laser printer- must be weather resistant.

#### CHOOSE MATERIAL # 3

- If your application requires you to print on-site/on-demand and your label needs to be weather resistant and abrasion resistant and handle most chemicals and still be legible.

#### **CHOOSE MATERIAL # 4**

- If your application requires on-site/on-demand printing. The label image must be fully legible at the end of its life cycle and the label may be exposed to harsh chemicals.

This paper was prepared and endorsed by the Plastic Drum Institute (PDI)<sup>1</sup> and the Rigid Intermediate Bulk Container association (RIBCA).<sup>2</sup>

The paper will provide a step-by-step process for users of industrial plastic drums & IBC's to help in determining if the appropriate label for their products.

The paper is a collaborative effort of PDI, RIBCA and Enterprise Marking Products, Inc. (EMP).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Plastic Drum Institute (PDI) is a trade association, which represents manufacturers of industrial plastic containers, polyethylene resin manufacturers, closure and ring manufacturers, industrial container recyclers and equipment manufacturers in North America.

<sup>2</sup> The Rigid Intermediate Bulk Container Association (RIBCA) is a trade association, which represents manufacturers of intermediate bulk containers, package testing companies and polyethylene resin manufacturers in North America.

<sup>3</sup> Enterprise Marking Products, Inc. (EMP) is a company located in Westfield, IN producing labels for the plastic drum and composite IBC industry.

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