



# Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling for Five-Gallon Open-Head Plastic Containers<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1615; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers nationally recognized requirements for the cautionary information to be placed on the label of 4 to 6-gal (15 to 23-L) plastic open-head containers (buckets). It is not the intent of this specification to include any other labeling requirements, such as those set forth in Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) or other applicable regulations and standards.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ANSI Standard:*

[ANSI Z535.41991 Product Safety Signs and Labels](#)<sup>2</sup>

2.2 *UL Standard:*

[UL Standard 969 Marking and Labeling Systems](#)<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *five-gallon open-head container, n*—a straight-sided vessel having a capacity of 4 gal (15 L) or more to 6.0 gal (23 L) or less, and having an opening at the top, height greater than 10 in. (255 mm) but not over 20 in. (510 mm), and designed to be carried by hand and to be used to transport liquids or solids.

3.1.2 *label, n*—the term label is used not only to refer to stick-on-type labels, but any other method of providing the warning message, for example, melt imprinting, embossing, direct printing, etc.

3.1.3 *straight-sided vessel, n*—a container having straight sides that may or may not taper inward or outward from the true vertical position.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.31 on Plastic Open Head Pails.

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<sup>2</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

<sup>3</sup> Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Corporate Progress, 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062.

## 4. Requirements

4.1 *General:*

4.1.1 The required label shall be on the bucket at the time it is sold or delivered to the end user of the bucket's contents or, in the case of a bucket intended to be sold to the public in an empty state, at the time it is shipped to a retailer for sale to the public.

4.1.2 The label shall be placed on a side of the container below the handle.

4.1.3 All letters, words, and figures on the label shall be printed in colors that contrast from the background of the label.

4.1.4 The label shall be difficult to remove, only then by the use of tools or solvents.<sup>4</sup>

4.1.5 The label, when placed on the container, shall not thereafter be covered, obstructed, or removed by distributors or retailers.

4.2 *Label:*

4.2.1 The label shall be a minimum of 5 in. (127 mm) high by a minimum of 2¾ in. (70 mm) wide (see Fig. 1 for example).

4.2.2 The label shall be in a vertical or noticeable layout containing the following three components: (1) a signal word panel, (2) a pictorial, and (3) a message.

4.2.3 The label shall have a border or another form of contrast that delineates it from any other information on the container.

4.2.4 The signal word panel shall contain the word "WARNING" in uppercase letters, preceded by a safety alert symbol consisting of an exclamation mark inside a solid equilateral triangle background with the point of the triangle oriented upward. The word "WARNING" and the safety alert symbol shall be centered on one line and shall be in letters at least 5/16 in. (8 mm) high.

4.2.5 The pictorial panel shall be positioned between the signal word panel and the message. The pictorial shall be on a contrasting background and shall clearly depict a child falling into a bucket. A prohibition symbol (slash, oriented from the upper left to the lower right, through a circle) shall totally

<sup>4</sup> UL Standard 969 provides guidance as to determination of permanency of labels.