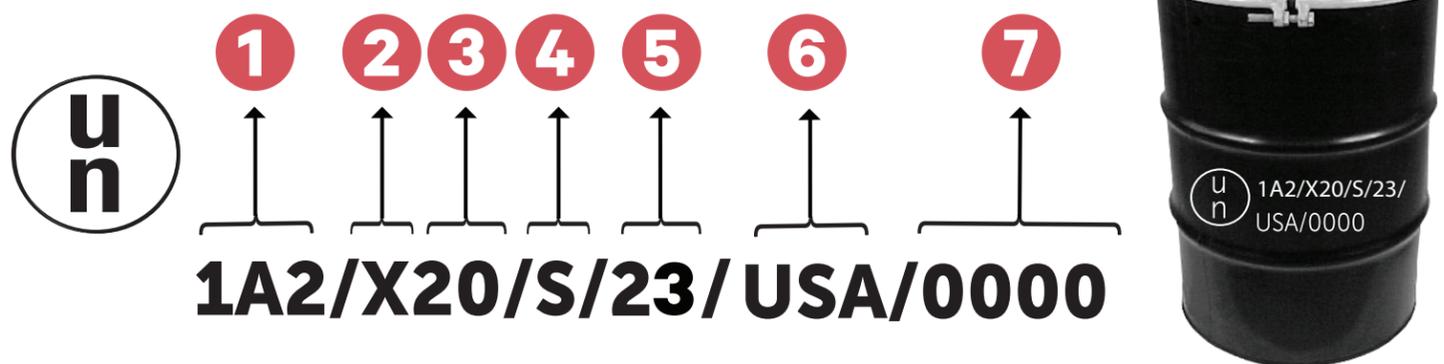




# UNPACKING PACKAGING CODES

## A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO PERFORMANCE PACKAGING CODES



### 1 PACKAGING CODE § 178.502

Three-part number/letter combination, including:

- Kind of packaging, indicated by a numeral. For example, “1” indicates a Drum.
- Material of construction, indicated by a capital letter. For example, “A” means Steel. Composite packagings will include two letters: one for the material of the inner receptacle, the other for the material of the outer packaging.
- Packaging category, or the type of package within its kind, indicated by a numeral (see list in §§ 178.504 – 178.523). Example: an open head drum would be indicated by a “2,” as opposed to a closed head drum “1”.

Do you see additional letters after the packaging code? A letter “W” means the design received Administrator approval, while “V” means it is special “variation” packaging.

### 2 PERFORMANCE LEVEL § 178.503(a)(3)

Identifies the performance standard for successful testing of the packaging.

X – Packagings meeting Packing Group I, II, and III test standards

Y – Packagings meeting Packing Group II and III test standards

Z – Packagings meeting Packing Group III test standards

### 3 SPECIFIC GRAVITY (LIQUIDS) OR GROSS MASS (SOLIDS) § 178.503(a)(4)

- Liquids (without inner packagings): specific gravity for which the packaging design has been tested (if over 1.2)
- Solids (or inner packagings): maximum permitted gross mass (in kg)

### 4 SOLID OR LIQUID § 178.503(a)(5)

- Liquids (without inner packagings): hydrostatic test pressure (kPa)
- Solids (or inner packagings): the letter “S”

### 5 YEAR OF MANUFACTURE (TWO-DIGITS) § 178.503(a)(6)

Note: Plastic drums and jerricans (1H and 3H) must also be marked with the month of manufacture.

### 6 COUNTRY OF AUTHORIZATION § 178.503(a)(7)

Country designation code indicates where the package is manufactured and marked.

### 7 MANUFACTURER IDENTIFICATION (M-NUMBER) § 178.503(a)(8)

Name and address or authorized symbol of packaging manufacturer or certifying agency.

Do you see additional letters not listed above? The letter “R” means a reconditioned packaging, and the letter “L” means it passed a leakproofness test. See 49 CFR 178.503 for more on reconditioned packaging codes.