



**SF Environment**

**Our home. Our city. Our planet.**

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



## How To Verify If A Reusable Bag Meets The Checkout Bag Ordinance Requirements

Stores are responsible for insuring that a Reusable Checkout Bag they provide to customers meets the requirements under the definition of a Reusable Checkout Bag in San Francisco's Checkout Bag Ordinance. The Reusable Checkout Bag requirements apply to carryout bags provided to customers and not to the bags that a store sells off the shelf as a product to a customer or to a bag that the customer brings to the store for carryout. In order for the Department of the Environment to verify that a bag meets the Reusable Checkout Bag definition requirements, a store or bag vendor needs to provide the Department with the results of tests, from those listed below, conducted by independent laboratories that demonstrate that the Reusable Checkout Bag definition performance requirements have been met.

### Reusable Checkout Bag Requirements and Verification Tests:

The Department has identified the following tests, *listed in italic* under the Ordinance definition criteria below, to verify that the Reusable Checkout Bag requirements have been met. If a store or vendor wishes to propose alternative test procedures for verifying that a bag meets the requirements for a Reusable Checkout Bag, the Department will consider if other tests can provide adequate verification.

A Reusable Checkout Bag is a Checkout Bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use and meets all of the following requirements:

**(1)** Has a minimum lifetime capability of 125 or more uses carrying 22 or more pounds over a distance of at least 175 feet; *Verification Test Options:*

- 1) [EcoLogo Test ATP-001](#) *Dynamic Test for a minimum of 5 sets of 300 cycles (1,500 cycles total)*  
*(see back side for list of accredited laboratories who have indicated ability to conduct the EcoLogo Dynamic test)*
- 2) "Walk Test" *(using a protocol accepted by the Department that adequately demonstrates the minimum lifetime capacity, including lifting, carrying 175 feet holding products weighing 22 pounds, placing bags down, repeating 125 times and measuring bag damage.*

**(2)** Is capable of being washed so as to be cleaned and disinfected at least 100 times; *(no test identified)*

**(3)** Is at least 2.25 mils thick; *Verification Test:* [ASTM D6988-08](#) or [ISO 4593:1993](#)

**(4)** Meets the standards of the California Toxics in Packaging Prevention Act (no more than 100 ppm by total weight combined of Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, and Hexavalent Chromium), as amended, or any successor legislation;

*Verification test: Must test for the total concentration of the above heavy metals following the [CONEG TPCH](#) and/or [RoHS Directive \[PDF, 1.2MB\]](#) protocols, please specify which methods are used to prepare samples of different bag components for testing. (see back side for list of accredited laboratories who have indicated ability to conduct this test)*

**(5)** Meets any standards for minimum recycled content established by regulation adopted by the Department after a public hearing and at least 60 days' notice, based upon environmental benefit and market availability; (no standards adopted yet)

**Accredited Labs Confirmed to Test for Reusable Bag Lifespan**

California

[MET Laboratories, Inc.](#)

Union City (510) 489-6300

[National Technical Systems](#)

Fullerton (714) 879-6110

[Westpak, Inc](#)

San Diego (858) 623-8100

Western USA

[Cascade Technical Sciences](#)

Hillsboro, OR (503) 648-1818 x230

[Microbac Laboratories, Inc Hauser Laboratories Division\\*](#)

Boulder, CO (720) 406-4800

[National Technical Systems](#)

Tempe, AZ (480) 966-5517

**Accredited Labs Confirmed to Test for Chemical in Products**

[US Consumer Product Safety Commission - List of Accredited Testing Labs](#)

[AM Testing and Service, Inc.\\*\\*](#)

Chicago, IL (708) 907-5252

[Bowser-Morner, Inc\\*](#)

Dayton, OH (937) 236-8805 x211

[Consumer Testing Services, SGS North America, Inc.\\*\\*](#)

Fairfield, NJ (973) 461-7918

[Element Materials Technology\\*\\*](#)

New Berlin, WI (262) 901-0528

[Exova\\*\\*](#)

Warren, MI (586) 501-1800 x75124

[Microbac Laboratories, Inc Hauser Laboratories Division\\*\\*](#)

Boulder, CO (720) 406-4800

[MSi Testing & Engineering, Inc.\\*\\*](#)

Melrose Park, IL (708) 343-3444

[Smithers Rapra\\*\\*](#)

Akron, OH (330) 762-7441 x1203

[Trace Laboratories, Inc.\\*\\*](#)

Hunt Valley, MD (410) 584-9099

[TUV Rheinland of North America\\*\\*](#)

Bentonville, AR (479) 250-0066

\*\* Note: Capable of performing both Lifespan and Chemical testing of reusable checkout bags