

Accreditation Scheme for Manufacturers of Plastic Sacks



The Accreditation Scheme for Manufacturers of Plastic Sacks was introduced to combat the problems associated with specifying the thickness of a sack as a measure of the quality of the sack. For example, it was assumed that the thicker the sack the better the quality, this was not always the case. Dimensions stated on the box could vary by as much as -30%.

The CHSA Accreditation Scheme for Manufacturers of Plastic Sacks addressed these challenges. Manufacturers came together to define the quality of plastic sacks by their ability to carry 5/10/15/20kg of waste and to guarantee that 'what's on the box is what's in the box'.

The Scheme Specification

Three categories of product are included within the Scheme: FFP (Fit For Purpose); OTH (Other); and LIN (bin liners).

FFP Product

- Members must take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure all products are of the stated quantity, dimensions (width, length, thickness, weight) and fit for the intended purpose.
- The product label must include the CHSA's dumbbell logo, which clearly indicates the duty, ie the weight the plastic sack can hold without splitting.
- The duties are defined as:
 - Light: 5 Kg and 8 Kg
 - Medium: 10 Kg and 12 Kg
 - Heavy: 15 Kg and 18 Kg
 - Extra Heavy: 20 Kg
- Members must operate a Quality Control System, record the test results and retain records for one year.
- The Quality Control System must include suitable testing equipment for the test methodology specified to confirm the duty, the Drop Test. The BSEN ISO 7965-2:1997 Drop Test method involves dropping a sack from a height of 1.5 metres when filled to the weight specified.

OTH and LIN Product

- Members must take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure all products are of the stated quantity, dimensions (width, length, thickness, weight).
- Members must operate a Quality Control System and retain records for one year.
- The product label must include the certification mark for the plastic sack scheme, but not the dumbbell logo.



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In addition, members must:

- For CHSA Accredited Product, the manufacturer, whether in the UK, Europe or overseas, must provide a copy of their most recent official ethical audit report which meets the minimum CHSA requirements of an ethical audit which covers labour and health and safety standards. A comprehensive ethical audit would also be acceptable, to encompass the following areas:
 - Labour standards
 - Health & Safety
 - Environment
 - Business Ethics
- Sign the CHSA's Code of Practice, which includes the Competition & Markets Authority's Green Claims Code.
- Sign the CHSA's Ethical Marketing Commitment.

Testing and inspection

Every member of the Accreditation Scheme for Plastic Sacks must have a Quality Control System able to demonstrate the products conform to the Manufacturing Standard. It must specify:

- How the drop test performance (applicable to FFP product only), width, length, thickness, and weight of finished products are determined and recorded;
- The frequency of sampling;
- The sample size;
- Who should make the tests; and
- The actions to be taken when tolerances are exceeded.

The Independent Inspector of the CHSA's Accreditation Schemes evaluates the Quality Control System records to confirm the Scheme member complies with the specifications. He also tests samples of the sacks to independently verify the member's records.

Our Standards. Your Guarantee.



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