



Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling for Candles Burned in a Home¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 2058; 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 (ϵ) 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 candle units of sale. It also includes requirements as to labels that retailers and distributors shall follow. It is not the intent of this specification to include any other labeling requirements.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 963 Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety²

D 4236 Practice for Labeling Art Materials for Chronic Health Hazards³

2.2 CPSC Standard:

Product Labeling Guide: Literature Review⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *candle, n*—one or more combustible wicks supported by a material that constitutes a fuel which is solid, semisolid, or quasi-rigid at room temperature, 68 to 80°F (20 to 27°C). It can also contain additives which are used for color, odor, stability, or to modify the burning characteristics; the combined function of which is to sustain a light-producing flame.

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

3.1.3 *product display space, n*—the area of the panel seen by the retail customer on which the warning label is displayed when looking at the top, bottom, or sides of the unit of sale.

3.1.4 *unit of sale, n*—the candle or candle and its container or package as purchased by the consumer.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Warning labels on units of sale will help ensure that information concerning methods of safe usage is presented to consumers, thereby, helping to prevent fires.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.45 on Candles.

Current edition approved Nov. 10, 2000. Published January 2001.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.02.

⁴ Available from Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408 May 1995 Contract CPSC-C-93-1122.

5. Requirements

5.1 General:

5.1.1 The label, when placed on the unit of sale, shall be on the unit of sale at the time it is sold or delivered to the end user and shall not be covered, obstructed, or removed by the distributor or retailer.

5.1.2 The label shall be placed on the top, bottom, or sides of the unit of sale and be visible to the user.

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

5.2 Label:

5.2.1 The label shall be a minimum of 10 mm (0.4 in.) high by a minimum of 23 mm (0.9 in.) wide (see Figs. 1 and 2 for examples.)

5.2.2 The label shall be visually different from any other information on the unit of sale. It may be outlined by a border or separated by contrasting the color or by change of character font or applying character formats such as point size, bold, italic, etc. to the warning label copy.

5.2.3 The symbol and signal word panel shall contain the word “**WARNING**” in uppercase boldface letters, at least 1 mm (0.04 in.) high preceded by a safety alert symbol consisting of an exclamation point inside an equilateral triangle with the point of the triangle oriented upward in type at least 3 mm (0.12 in.) high. The safety alert symbol and the word “**WARNING**” shall be left-aligned or centered.

5.2.4 The delineated symbol and signal word panel need not be limited to a rectangular box. It may conform to the shape of the overall label to allow for the most efficient use of available space.

5.2.5 The message shall have the words “**WARNING: To Prevent Fire, Burn candle within sight. Out of the reach of children and pets. Never on or near anything that can catch fire.**” The lettering of the message shall be left-aligned or centered and shall be on a contrasting background in News Gothic Bold, Helvetica Bold, or equivalent sans serif font letters in combinations of uppercase and lowercase letters. See Figs. 1 and 2. The uppercase letters shall be at least 0.8 mm (0.03 in.) high.

5.2.5.1 The messages specified in 5.2.5 represent minimum safety language requirements. Additional appropriate safety messages are encouraged.

5.2.6 When the warning label appears on a unit of sale in conjunction with other label text, the word “**WARNING**” shall be 10 % larger than the largest type in the other text with the



FIG. 1 Example Label



FIG. 2 Example Label

shall be 10 % of the product display space of the panel on which it is displayed (that is, top or bottom or sides), but in no case be smaller than specified in 5.2.1 nor larger than 3 cm (1.2 in.) high.

NOTE 1—Labels for use or distribution in certain communities or locations may be revised to include an additional language(s).

6. Keywords

6.1 candle and unit of sale; labeling; safety

exception of the lettering used in the product title.

5.2.7 When the warning label is used without other text, it

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