

STANDARDS FOR TAMPER-EVIDENT PACKAGING

1.0 Intent

1.1 Liquor Jurisdictions are responsible for the sale of products meeting the requirements of the Food and Drug Act and Regulations and the Consumer Products Packaging Act and Regulations. Products offered for sale in Ontario must be done with the knowledge that there are no known hazards or contaminants in the products. All efforts must be made to ensure that, once products are packaged, seals and tamper-evident packaging are in place for products to be sold.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 **Tamper-Evidence:** The degree to which tampering is apparent to the observer.

2.2 **Tamper-Resistance:** The degree to which it is difficult to tamper (and repair) without leaving evidence. A tamper-resistant package has an indicator or barrier to entry which, if breached or missing, can (reasonably) be expected to provide visible evidence to consumers that tampering has occurred.

3.0 Kinds of Tampering

3.1 **Casual Tampering or Grazing:** This situation may happen in the store. The tamperer wants to taste or smell, or change the price by changing caps. He/she does not intend to do harm.

Note: The current method of tamper-resistant packaging serves well against this form of tampering.

3.2 **Malicious, Surreptitious Tampering:** This tampering occurs outside the store, e.g., at home, or in a workshop. The tampered package may be returned to the store shelf. This method damages or destroys significantly the integrity of the product, and/or may cause severe illness or even death.

4.0 Acceptable Types of Tamper-Evident Packaging

4.1 All products sold by the LCBO must have effective tamper-evident packaging to ensure product integrity. Chart 11 below lists the:

- various types of packaging
- description of tamper-proof closures making the product saleable
- description of closures which have been tampered with and making the product unsaleable.

PACKAGING	CLOSURES		
	TYPES	TAMPER-EVIDENT (PRODUCT IS SALEABLE)	TAMPERED WITH (PRODUCT IS UNSALEABLE)
Bottles	Paper Strip-Seals	<p>The seal must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend below the bottom of the cap on both sides of the cap. • be firmly attached to both the cap and the sides of the bottle's neck. • provide clear evidence of being removed (cannot lift off and be re-applied) <p>Note: In most cases, the seal extends on both sides of the cap, however, sometimes and for aesthetic and functional reasons, it is acceptable that the seal extends below the bottom of the cap on only 1 side.</p>	<p>The seal is missing, torn, or loose.</p> <p>The seal is a peel and stick strip, that leaves clear visible evidence once removed.</p>
	Tamper-Evident Rings with Bridge Seals	<p>The metal or plastic ring is attached just under the cap on the bottle and is designed to break when the cap is removed.</p> <p>Plastic caps with hidden bridge seals require paper strip-seals to make them tamper-evident.</p>	<p>The bridge ring is broken.</p> <p>The strip seal is missing, torn, or loose.</p>

Note: Chart 11 is continued on next page.

PACKAGING			
CLOSURES			
	TYPES	TAMPER-EVIDENT (PRODUCT IS SALEABLE)	TAMPERED WITH (PRODUCT IS UNSALEABLE)
Bottles	Non-Twist Off Crowns	These are typically found on imported beer products and require the use of an opener to remove. Once removed, the cap is deformed and cannot be put back on the bottle.	The crown cap is deformed.
	Twist-Off Crowns	These are typically found on North American beer products and are removed by twisting the cap or using a bottle opener. Beer products using this type of closure must be sold in a sealed consumer unit or otherwise be made tamper-evident by the application of a tamper evident feature, e.g., foil overwrap, shrinkable seals, paper seals, etc.	The sealed container is opened or torn either through breakage or by accident. The tamper-evident seal is missing or torn or the cap is deformed.
	Shrinkable Seals over the Caps	These seals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are frequently found on twist-off caps. extends up the neck of the bottle over the bottle cap. must be firmly attached to both the cap and the bottle's neck. 	The seal is missing, loose or torn (enough to allow access to the bottle).
	Foil Overwrap	The foil overwrap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is frequently found on beer and coolers with twist-off caps. extends up the neck of the bottle over the bottle cap. must be firmly attached to both the cap and the bottle's neck. 	The foil overwrap is missing, loose, or torn (enough to allow access to the bottle).
	Cork Finish	Cork finish is used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mostly in wine but also in some premium spirits, fruit brandies, or liqueurs. together with an over-covering capsule, seal or disc made (normally) of paper, plastic, wax, or metal foil. <p>Note: Paper or wax discs inserted directly on top of corks must adequately adhere to the cork and must provide visible evidence of tampering when removed.</p>	The capsule is absent, or loose and removable. or There is visible evidence that the cork or seal has been tampered with or damaged.
Bag-in-Box (B.I.B)		All B.I.B. products must be winery sealed. The opening in the box for the valve must be sealed.	The opening for the valve in the box has been opened.
Tetra Pak/Flexie Pack (Cheer Pack®)	Tamper-Evident Rings with Bridge Seals	The plastic ring is attached just under the cap on the Tetra Pak and is designed to break when the cap is removed. Plastic caps with hidden bridge seals require paper strip-seals to make them tamper-evident.	The bridge ring is broken. The strip seal is missing, torn, or loose.
	Twist-Off Caps	These are removed by twisting the cap. Tetra Pak products using this type of closure must be sold in a sealed consumer unit or otherwise be made tamper-evident by the application of a tamper evident feature, e.g. plastic pull tab seal.	The sealed container is opened or torn either through breakage or by accident. The tamper-evident seal is missing or torn or the cap is deformed.
Cans	Pull Tabs	The metal pull tab is intact.	The can shows any evidence of having been opened.
	Screw Caps	A metal or plastic ring is attached just under the cap and is designed to break when the cap is removed.	The bridge ring is broken.
Enclosed Packages	Enclosed packages, e.g., beer packages, where the package completely encloses the product and the package seal must be broken to remove a product.		The seal is broken & the enclosed package is open. There is evidence that the package was resealed.
Kegs	Since kegs are (normally) a licensee package under direct control of the Liquor Jurisdiction or Brewery until the delivery of the kegs, the risk of tampering with kegs is minimal. Packaging standards are not set at this time.		N/A