



# *Sealed and Tamper-Evident Packaging*

IN THE STRENGTHENING ORGANIC ENFORCEMENT RULE



A RESOURCE FOR ORGANIC SUPPLY CHAIN ACTORS

This guide is not an exhaustive list of packaging types but is intended as a general resource.

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# What is NON RETAIL Packaging?

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Any package or container that is used for the shipping or storage of products and not used in the retail display or sale of the product.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- ✓ BULK BURLAP BAGS
- ✓ PRODUCE BOXES
- ✓ 55-GALLON DRUMS

# What is RETAIL Packaging?

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Retail packaging is any packaging intended for final sale and meant to go home with the consumer.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- ✓ CLAMSHELLS
- ✓ WINE BOTTLES
- ✓ JARS & CANS
- ✓ INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED PRODUCT

# What is SEALED, TAMPER-EVIDENT Packaging?

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The contents within the packaging are sealed in a manner where an attempt to break the seal, access the contents, or reclose the package would be obvious.

The SOE final rule states that “sealed, tamper-evident packaging makes organic products less susceptible to fraud and mishandling and helps maintain organic integrity during storage and handling by uncertified operations.”



“Sealed and tamper-evident” does **not** mean impermeable to gas and/or water.

# What does this mean for YOU?

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Product that is received, stored, or prepared for shipment (but not bought or sold) by an exempt, uncertified storage facility must be in sealed and tamper-evident packaging (retail or nonretail) and remain in the same sealed package or container while in possession of the exempt handler.

Products purchased or sold by exempt, uncertified brokers, distributors, and label owners must be in sealed and tamper-evident retail packaging and remain in the same sealed package or container while in the exempt handler's custody.

# Examples of NON RETAIL Packaging



REMEMBER: THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST AND IS INTENDED ONLY FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

## Sealed and Tamper-Evident



BULK BURLAP BAGS THAT ARE **SEWN SHUT**



PRODUCE BOXES WITH **"DO NOT TAMPER WITH"** TAPE PLACED ACROSS BOX FLAPS



SEALED DRUMS OR TOTES

## NOT Sealed and Tamper-Evident



BURLAP BAGS CLOSED WITH STRING OR TIES



PRODUCE WITH A PLU LABEL IN AN OPEN CRATE OR BIN AND NOT INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED



UNSEALED DRUMS OR BUCKETS OR DRUMS SEALED IN A NON-TAMPER-EVIDENT WAY (FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE THE LID CAN BE TAKEN OFF AND ON)

# Examples of RETAIL Packaging

REMEMBER: THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST AND IS INTENDED ONLY FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

## Sealed and Tamper-Evident



CLAMSHELLS WITH STICKER CLOSING THE CLAMSHELL



PRODUCE WRAPPED IN PLASTIC WRAP THAT MUST BE RIPPED OFF



ZIP-TOP PRODUCE BAG OR BOX WITH A SEALED TOP THAT MUST BE RIPPED TO BE OPENED



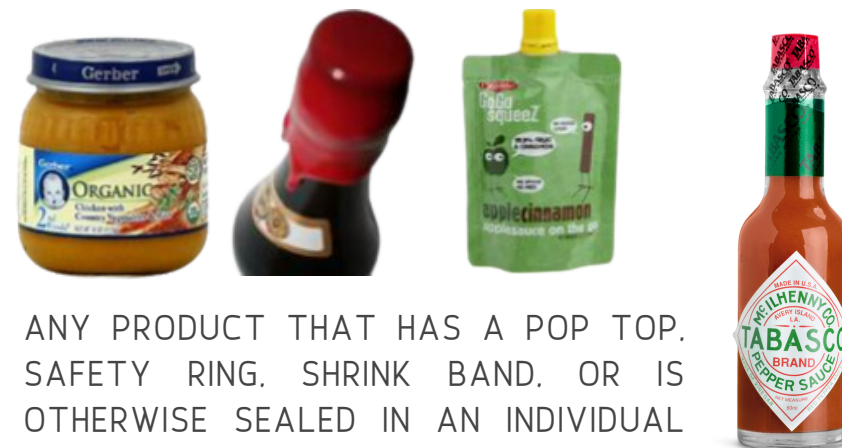
PLASTIC CONTAINERS WITH A FULLY SEALED TOP FILM THAT MUST BE RIPPED OFF TO ACCESS PRODUCT.



PLASTIC CONTAINERS WITH A FULLY SEALED TOP FILM THAT MUST BE RIPPED OFF TO ACCESS PRODUCT.



MESH OR PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS WITH A LABEL/STICKER THAT SEALS THAT BAG OR IS SEWN SHUT

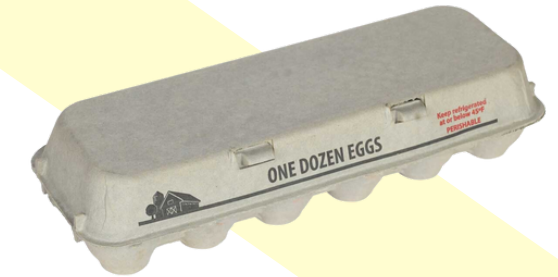


ANY PRODUCT THAT HAS A POP TOP, SAFETY RING, SHRINK BAND, OR IS OTHERWISE SEALED IN AN INDIVIDUAL PACKAGE.

## NOT Sealed and Tamper-Evident



CLAMSHELLS **WIHTOUT** A STICKER CLOSING THE CLAMSHELL



EGG CARTONS



ZIP-TOP PRODUCE BAGS WITHOUT A SEALED TOP OR STICKET



PRODUCE WITH A PLU LABEL **NOT** WRAPPED IN INDIVIDUAL PACKAING



MESH OR PLASTIC BAGS THAT ARE CLOSED WITH A TWIST TIE, STRING, OR A KNOW THAT COULD BE OPENED WITHOUT DAMAGING THE PACKAGING OR LABEL

PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH LID THAT CAN BE OPENED AND RESEALED (WITHOUT A STICKER CLOSING THE PACKAGING)