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DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Plastic laundry basket — Specification

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 072, *Plastics and Related Products*.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be subject of patent rights. EAC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Plastic laundry basket — Specification

1 Scope

This standard specifies requirements, sampling, and test methods for plastic laundry baskets.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 527-1, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties Part 1: General principles*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

plastic laundry basket

portable container manufactured entirely from molded thermoplastic material (such as polypropylene or polyethylene), designed for the storage and transport of garments

3.2

ventilation hole

molded openings incorporated into the basket body and/or lid to allow air circulation

4 General requirements

- 4.1 Holes shall be evenly spaced and sized to avoid finger entrapment.
- 4.2 Laundry basket shall be made from non-toxic, and recyclable plastic.
- 4.3 Sufficient ribs and stiffeners shall be moulded into the laundry basket to generate strength and prevent warpage.
- 4.4 Laundry basket shall have an open top to allow for ease of filling with or without a lid.
- 4.5 There shall be no colour give-off from any material in contact with the product being handled.

4.6 Plastic laundry basket shall be free from sharp edges, burrs.

5 Specific requirements

5.1 Load capacity (Handle strength)

Plastic laundry basket shall withstand a uniformly distributed load as declared by the manufacturer for 24 hours without cracking, fracture, or permanent deformation when tested in accordance with Annex B.

5.4 Tensile strength

Plastic laundry basket shall withstand a minimum tensile strength of 20 MPa when tested in accordance with ISO 527.

6 Labelling

The laundry basket shall be legibly and indelibly labelled in English and/or any other official language (such as French and Kiswahili) used in the importing East African Partner State with the following information:

- a) name of product as 'Plastic laundry basket'
- b) name and physical address of manufacturer
- c) country of origin
- d) Load capacity in kg
- e) batch/lot number
- f) Date of manufacture

5 Marking

The laundry basket shall be legibly and indelibly marked with a code of resin identification and symbol of recycling.

6 Sampling

The sampling shall be done in accordance with Table 1.

Table 1 — Scale of sampling and criteria for conformity of laundry baskets

Lot/Batch Size	Sample Size	Maximum defective units allowed
≤ 25	5	0
26 – 50	8	0
51 – 150	20	0

151 – 500	32	1
501 – 1,200	80	2
1,201 – 3,200	125	3
3,201 – 10,000	200	5
10,001 – 35,000	315	7
≥ 35,000	500	10

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Annex A (normative)

Determination of load capacity (handle strength)

A.1 Apparatus

A.1.1 Calibrated weights sufficient to achieve the declared load.

A.1.2 A suitable suspension arrangement capable of securely holding the basket by its handles, ensuring that the load is fully borne by the handles without slippage or undue stress concentration.

A.1.3 Measuring instruments (steel rule or calipers) for dimensional checks.

A.1.4 Stopwatch or timer accurate to ± 1 minute.

A.3 Procedure

A.3.1 Condition specimen under $23\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, 50% Relative Humidity (RH) $\pm 5\%$ for 24 hours prior to testing.

A.3.2 Record the manufacturer's declared load capacity.

A.3.3 Ensure handles are free from defects before commencing the test.

A.3.4 Place a uniformly distributed load inside the basket equal to the declared capacity.

A.3.5 Vertically suspend the basket by its handles using a suitable suspension arrangement.

A.3.6 During suspension, prevent any slippage or undue stress concentration on the handles.

A.3.7 Maintain suspension for 24 hours continuously.

A.3.8 After 24 hours, remove the load and visually inspect the basket for any signs of cracking, failure or permanent deformation.

Bibliography

- [1] T.E.L. (2015), *Standard for Stackable Laundry Storage Boxes*.
- [3] Ramle, N.A.B., Sarbutheen Jinnah, A.A.B., Abidin, S.B., & Masri, H.B. (2023), *Design and Development of Plastic-Based Laundry Bags to Support a Greener World*.

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