
SB 343

Frequently Asked Questions

August 13, 2025

Overview

SB 343 (Allen, Chapter 507, Statutes of 2021) prohibits use of any symbol indicating recyclability, such as the chasing arrows symbol, or any other symbol or statement indicating recyclability or directing consumers to recycle products or packaging unless certain criteria are met. The law requires CalRecycle to provide certain information that product manufacturers must consider when determining whether use of such symbols or statements is lawful.

Importantly, the law does not authorize CalRecycle to determine the lawfulness of any particular label indicating recyclability.

CalRecycle commissioned a statewide assessment of materials recovery facilities to identify which material types and forms are commonly collected, sorted, sold, or transferred for recycling in California: SB 343 Final Findings Report ([DRRR-2025-1750](#)).

Additional Resources:

Bill Text: [SB 343 \(Allen, Chapter 507, Statutes of 2021\)](#)

Public Resources Code: [\(PRC\) section 42355.51](#)

If you require further assistance, contact wastechar@calrecycle.ca.gov

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Questions

What is required for a product to be considered “recyclable” in California?

PRC section 42355.51(d)(2) through (6) states the relevant criteria.

Products are considered recyclable in the state if they satisfy the requirements of 42355.51(d)(2) and (d)(3). Products and packaging satisfy those requirements if they:

1. Are accepted for collection by jurisdiction recycling programs collectively serving at least 60% of the California population (section 42355.51(d)(2)(A)).
2. Are sorted into defined streams by large volume transfer/processing facilities that:
 - a. Collectively serve at least 60% of statewide recycling programs (section 42355.51(d)(2)(B)(i)); and
 - b. Send them to a reclaimer and reclaim them consistent with the Basel Convention (section 42355.51(d)(2)(B)(i)).
3. Satisfy specific composition and design limitations (section 42355.51(d)(3)).

Alternatively, products can comply with any of the following provisions to be considered recyclable in the state:

- PRC section 42355.51(d)(4), concerning recycling rate.
- PRC section 42355.51(d)(5), concerning noncurbside collection programs.
- PRC section 42355.51(d)(6), concerning compliance with other laws governing recyclability or disposal.

What are CalRecycle’s roles pursuant to SB 343 (PRC 42355.51(d)(1))?

CalRecycle’s role is to:

- Conduct and publish material characterization studies to determine what is collected and processed by large volume transfer/processing facilities for recycling in California (PRC 42355.51(d)(1)).
- Update regulations to require material management facilities and operations to report regularly through the Recycling and Disposal Reporting System on: (1) how materials are collected or processed in the state and (2) which material types and forms facilities recover and are not considered contaminants.

SB 343 does not authorize CalRecycle to make product-by-product determinations regarding labeling or otherwise enforce labeling restrictions.

Can I label my product with the chasing arrows symbol?

SB 343 does not authorize CalRecycle to determine the lawfulness of specific labeling practices. Moreover, because the requirements in PRC section 42355.51(d)(3) through (d)(6) are product- or packaging-specific, the study published by CalRecycle cannot, by itself, provide complete information for determining whether products and packaging can be considered recyclable.

Manufacturers are responsible for evaluating their products and packaging and reviewing available information, including, but not limited to, information published by CalRecycle, to determine if their products meet the criteria established in PRC section 42355.51(d).

What does the 18-month deadline for SB 343 apply to, and when is the deadline?

PRC section 42355.51(b)(2)(A) provides that the labeling restrictions of SB 343 do not apply to any products or packaging manufactured during the 18 months after CalRecycle published the SB 343 Final Findings Report ([DRRR-2025-1750](#)). Because CalRecycle published the study on April 4, 2025, that 18-month grace period ends on October 4, 2026.

Under section 42355.51(b)(2)(A), whether the labeling restrictions apply depends on when products and packaging **are manufactured**, not when they are **sold**.

How will CalRecycle enforce SB 343?

CalRecycle does not have enforcement authority pursuant to SB 343. In other words, CalRecycle has no authority to determine whether any manufacturer or other entity is liable for violations of the labeling restrictions.

If CalRecycle has no statutory authority over SB 343 enforcement, who does?

As stated in [PRC section 42358](#)(a) and (b), local jurisdictions and the California Attorney General may enforce the law and impose penalties. Likewise, as provided in section 42358(c), remedies may be available under the Business and Professions Code.

Can I have a copy of the data?

For access to records relating to SB 343, including raw data and R Statistical Program scripts, submit your request using the [CalRecycle Public Records Portal](#).

Frequently requested records for the SB 343 2023/2024 Final Findings study include: Local Jurisdiction Internet-Based Survey results (2023), Local Jurisdiction Survey results (2024), LVTP Facilities Survey results, and LVTP Facilities-Based Material Characterization Study data.

When will CalRecycle update the SB 343 findings?

The law requires CalRecycle to revise the study in 2027 and every five years thereafter. CalRecycle will continue to refine its methodology to ensure that it publishes the most complete and accurate information possible. CalRecycle may also publish information relevant to the requirements of SB 343 at any time in between required updates.

How do I determine the correct Material Type & Form (MT&F) for my product?

CalRecycle does not provide specific instructions for categorizing particular products or packaging.

Manufacturers should consider the specific design of their product or package and determine the most appropriate MT&F. CalRecycle recommends that manufacturers consider industry standards when determining the appropriate material type and form, including the Association of Plastic Recyclers Design Guide's "Evaluation of the Size Sorting Potential for Articles with at Least 2 Dimensions Less than 2 Inches."

How can I use the SB 343 report to determine whether the MT&F is a feedstock?

The [SB 343 MCS Final Findings – 2023/2024 study](#) includes information from local jurisdictions on the materials accepted by their recycling programs, survey results detailing the recovery activities at California large volume transfer/processors (LVTPs), and the results of material characterization sampling of recyclable materials at LVTPs statewide.

Why has CalRecycle not considered the Basel Convention and End Markets?

The information collected and published by CalRecycle characterizes collection and sorting of materials in California. CalRecycle was not directed to investigate the ultimate destination of those materials and whether their activities are consistent with the requirements of the Basel Convention. CalRecycle will publish additional information when sufficient data relevant to characterizing the ultimate destination of different material types and forms becomes available.

How does SB 343 relate to SB 54?

The two laws serve different fundamental purposes and have different scopes. SB 343 applies to all products and packaging and governs when they can be labeled as recyclable. [SB 54](#) (Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022) is concerned only with single-use packaging and single-use plastic food service ware, all of which must be recyclable or compostable by 2032, not with how such items are labeled.

SB 54 does use SB 343 standards as the standards for when regulated materials are recyclable for purposes of PRC section 42050(b) (a provision established in SB 54 that takes effect in 2032). However, CalRecycle's determinations of whether products are recyclable for SB 54 purposes concern only compliance with section 42050(b). They are not assessments of liability for deceptive labeling under PRC section 42355.51 (the requirements established in SB 343) or any other law; CalRecycle lacks authority to impose such liability.

Will CalRecycle harmonize the SB 343 MT&Fs with SB 54 covered material categories list?

CalRecycle plans to align, to the greatest degree possible, the SB 343 material types and forms and the SB 54 covered material categories in future updates.

Can I have a copy of study proposal(s) or study contracts?

Once contracts are awarded, the proposals become public record as part of the Public Records Act request process and may be accessed and reviewed by anyone. Requests for the proposal may be submitted via the [CalRecycle Public Records Portal](#).

Does CalRecycle respond to or address every SB 343 comment that is submitted to the department?

CalRecycle reviews and considers each public comment received during identified time periods. CalRecycle's final publications reflect its evaluation of all the comments. Comments received outside of the identified periods may be considered for future updates and data collection, but CalRecycle cannot respond to them directly.