

IS 14625: 2015 Plastics Feeding Bottles

Plastic feeding bottles are widely used for feeding infants and young children, offering a convenient and durable alternative to glass bottles. Plastic feeding bottles are lightweight, shatterproof, and easy to handle, making them a popular choice for parents. One of the primary advantages of plastic bottles is their practicality. They are less likely to break, making them safer for use by babies, especially when traveling. Plastic bottles are also more affordable and come in various sizes, designs, offering a range of choices to suit individual needs.

However, there are some concerns associated with plastic feeding bottles. One of the main issues is the potential for harmful chemicals, such as Bisphenol A (BPA), to leach from the plastic into the milk or formula. BPA is a chemical that has raised health concerns due to its potential link to developmental and hormonal disruptions in infants.

Indian Standard IS 14625: 2015 Plastics Feeding Bottles specifies the requirements and testing methods for infant plastic feeding bottles and receptacles.

This standard was first published in 1999 which covered polycarbonate (PC), polypropylene (PP) and polyethersulfone (PES) as raw material for manufacturing plastics feeding bottles owing to their excellent transparency and sterilizability. This standard has been revised in 2015 and use of polycarbonate as a material for manufacturing infant feeding bottles has been deleted in view of reports on Bisphenol A (BPA) and olefin based polymers as material for manufacture of feeding bottles have been included.

This standard provides guidelines on the materials, testing, and safety of infant plastic feeding bottles. It mandates the use of safe materials like polypropylene (PP), polyethersulfone (PES), or other olefin-based polymers. The use of Bisphenol A (BPA) and other hazardous substances like polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is prohibited due to health risks, especially for infants.

It specifies tests for durability (e.g., environmental stress-crack resistance, drop tests) and chemical safety, ensuring no harmful migration of heavy metals like lead, arsenic, or cadmium. Bottles must also meet the requirements for transparency, leakage resistance, and permanence of printed markings. Proper packaging and labeling are required, including clear usage and care instructions.

As per Section 11(2) of The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottle and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992, *'No person shall sell or otherwise distribute any feeding bottle unless it conforms to the Standard Mark specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards and such mark is affixed on its container'*.

In summary, IS 14625: 2015 ensures that plastic feeding bottles are safe for infants, durable and free of toxic substances. Overall, plastic feeding bottles offer convenience and durability for parents, but it's important to choose BIS Standard Mark product having BPA-free options and maintain proper cleaning habits to ensure they remain safe for infant use.