

Flexible SIOC (Ship In Own Container) Guidelines

Introduction

Flexible SIOC is an extension to our existing [Ships In Own Container](#) (SIOC) program to include items shipped in flexible packaging (e.g., bags).

Testing Requirements

To qualify for the SIOC program, tests must be conducted according to Amazon test methods. Fragile, granular, liquid, and/or sharp items must be tested by the Amazon Packaging Lab or by an Amazon Packaging Support and Supplier Network (APASS) lab. Non-fragile, non-granular, non-liquid, and/or non-sharp items may be Vendor-tested. More information about testing procedures can be found on our packaging website [here](#).

Certification Requirements

A. Restrictions

The following items cannot be shipped as Flexible SIOC:

- Items regulated as “hazardous” or “dangerous” (e.g., flammable items). More information about dangerous goods/hazmat can be found [here](#).
- Magnets or items containing magnets.
- Cylindrical or spherical item and packaging (e.g., items likely to roll on conveyance systems).
- Packages with knots, cords, and/or drawstrings closing mechanisms (e.g., bags with string, cord, or rope closures).

B. Recommendations

We recommend the package construction and material be such that the contents are indistinguishable during fulfillment and delivery (e.g., opaque packaging material [see Example 1]). This recommendation is based on feedback we’ve received from our customers.

C. Packaging Construction

Exterior packaging must be flexible (e.g., a bag/padded mailer). The exterior packaging must be able to keep product inside the packaging during sortation and distribution. The material thickness must be ≥ 2 mils Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) or demonstrate a minimum tear strength of ≥ 130 grams (ASTM D1922).

The bag material must not contain holes larger than 0.25” (6.4mm). Small vent holes (≤ 0.25 ”) are permitted to prevent ballooning/swelling and puncture during distribution.

The package must not contain any protrusions (e.g., clothes hangers, pop-open clasps, carrying handles, dangling zippers etc. see Example 2).

D. Package Dimensions and Weight

Item and package dimensions, when laid flat, must be within the minimum and maximum dimensions listed below.

Minimum Acceptable Package Dimensions		
Length	Width	Height
6" (152.4mm)	4" (101.6mm)	0.375" (9.5mm)

Maximum Acceptable Package Dimensions		
Length	Width	Height
18" (457.2mm)	14" (355.6mm)	6" (152.4mm)

Length + Height ≤ 21" (533.4mm)

Width + Height ≤ 16" (406.4mm)

Maximum allowable item and packaging weight: 7lb (3.175kg)

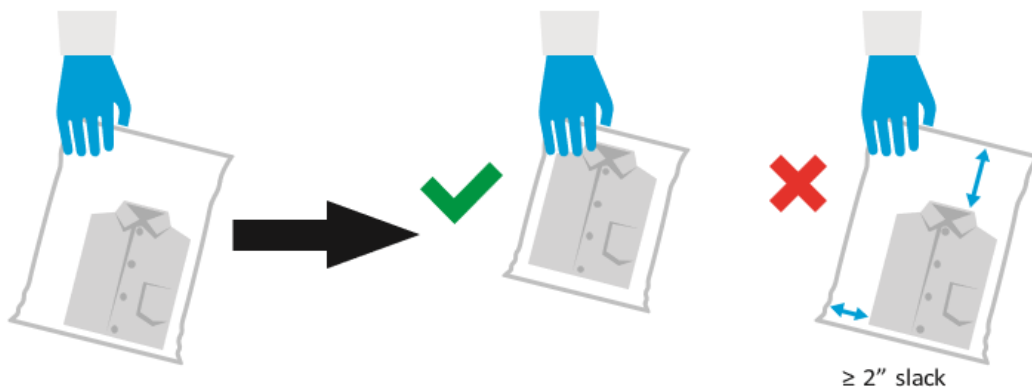
E. Package Sealing

Package must be sealed with contents fully enclosed (all open edges must be sealed). The seal must withstand pressure and impact likely to occur under normal sorting and distribution conditions. Sealing options include heat sealing, adhesive [seal strength of ≥5.7lb/in (1 N/mm), ASTM F88-15, Tail Holding Method A], or tape.

For resealable closures (e.g., sliding zippers), a security seal that provides tamper evidence when broken is required (e.g., tamper evident seal).

F. Slack-fill

The package must be right-sized for the product. The package must contain no excess slack-fill when laid flat. The cumulative slack-fill must not exceed 2" (50.8mm) in any direction. The package must also not contain excess slack-fill when held up by one corner. Slack-fill is the difference between the actual capacity of the bag and the volume of product contained therein. Rigid and padded mailers are exempt from slack-fill requirement.



G. Package Printing and Identification Labelling

Package markings and labelling must clearly indicate contents. Packages must follow the labelling and carton marking requirements as outlined in the Vendor Prep and Receive and Transportation Manual. These can be accessed in [Vendor Central](#) under the 'Forms and other downloads' section in Support.

Adhesive labels (e.g., shipping labels) must maintain adhesion to the exterior packaging under normal sorting and distribution conditions.

Potentially sensitive items (e.g., underwear, health and wellness products, medical products, adult products) must be marked and labelled discreetly to avoid negative customer experience.

H. HAZMAT Classified Products

At this time, we cannot offer Flexible SIOC certification for HAZMAT products (ASINs with a UN number) and/or if the packaging has any transportation regulated symbols or markings. More information about dangerous goods/hazmat can be found [here](#).

Example 1: Suitable Flexible SIOC examples



Example 2: Unsuitable Flexible SIOC examples

