

# Case Study:

## Plastics and Polymers: Polyfilm Wrapping Quality



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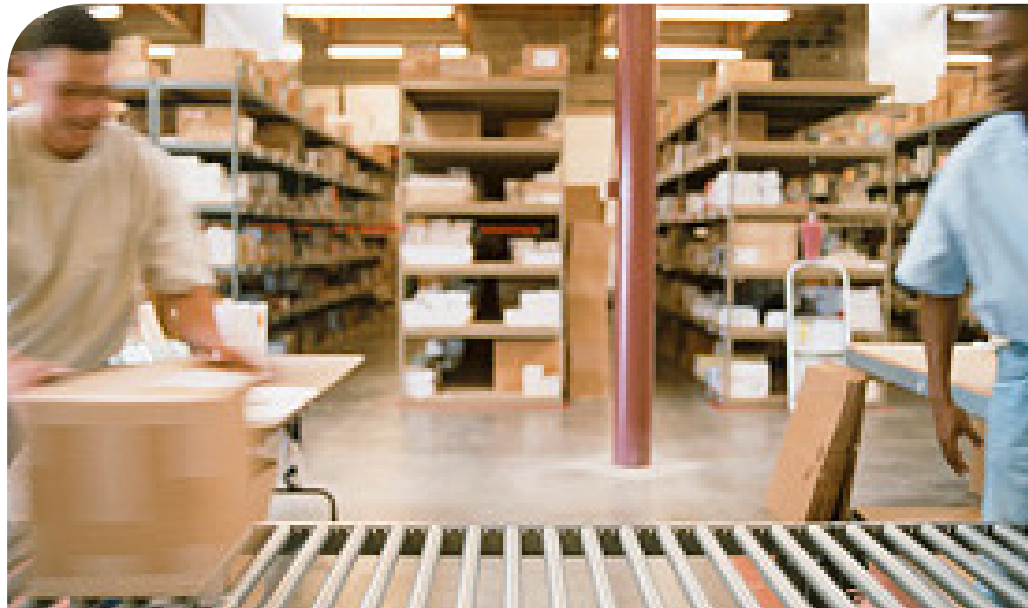
**Company**  
various

**Industry**  
Packaging

**Region**  
USA

**Intertek Solutions**  
Plastics and Polymers

The US Postal Service handles the most mail in the world, processing 177 billion mail pieces in 2009. The sheer volume of mail handled can be stunning: 584 million items handled each day, working about to 405,000 items each minute and 6,761 items each second. To put it another way, the US Postal Service handles around 40% of the world's cards and letters. With such huge volumes of mail moving each and every moment, failure of the automatic processing equipment due to poor packaging materials is not an option.



“Failure to meet the USPS standard polywrap quality tests will result in the subject material being designated as unacceptable.”

### For more information:

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### The Challenge

The United States Postal Service (USPS) depends upon automatic sorting of letters and packaging to move the large amount of mail it receives on a daily basis. To protect this investment and reduce time-consuming incidents of packaging failure, the USPS requires that polywrap films be tested before being approved for automated sorting operations.

Manufacturers of polywrap film must to meet Requirements 3.1.1 through 3.1.8 for US Postal Service polywrap testing to USPS-T-3204. The specification covers the procedures to be employed to test polywrap film used to enclose flat mail pieces destined for automated sorting operations.

### The Solution

Intertek PTL laboratory is an Approved Laboratory for US Postal Service Testing of Polywrap Film to USPS-T-3204. This capability allows the lab to test poly-film producer's products to determine if they meet quality standards, helping ensure that quality wrapping materials are used for parcels handled by the USPS. Materials submitted for testing must meet postal service requirements

for the following tests. Intertek monitors material for key performance characteristics. Failure to meet any of the

following requirements will result in the subject material being designated as unacceptable for automated processing.

Polywrap quality tests for the USPS standard include:

- Slip (Coefficient of Friction)
- Clarity of the shipping label through the film (Haze and Glare)
- Stiffness of the material (1% Secant Modulus Tensile Tests)
- Stickiness of material (Blocking)

### The Result

As a USPS approved laboratory for polywrap film testing, Intertek helps keep automatic sorter operations running smoothly, efficiently and quickly, helping improve delivery performance and saving the US Post Office time and money. Producers of polywrap and polyfilm products benefit from knowing their products meet USPS standards, which allows them to sell these products to the marketplace.