

# Packaging Testing FAQs

Answers to some of your most frequently asked questions

**Intertek offers comprehensive packaging testing services to ensure product safety, quality, and compliance. Our services include cosmetics packaging testing, ISTA packaging testing, and physical testing, adhering to ISTA and ASTM standards.**



## 1. What packaging testing services does Intertek offer?

Intertek offers comprehensive packaging testing services to ensure the safety, quality, and compliance of your products. Our services include cosmetics packaging testing, ISTA packaging testing, and physical testing.

## 2. What is ISTA packaging testing?

ISTA packaging testing is conducted by Intertek, certified by the International Safe Transit Association (ISTA). We perform tests to meet the requirements for the "Transit Tested" certification program, which includes ISTA 1, 2, 3, and 6 Series tests, as well as ASTM standards such as ASTM D999 and ASTM D4169.

## 3. What are the ISTA test methods?

The ISTA test methods include:

- ISTA 1 Series: Non-Simulation Integrity Performance Tests to challenge the strength and robustness of the product and package combination.
- ISTA 2 Series: Partial Simulation Performance Tests combining basic elements of ISTA 1 Series with at least one element of a general simulation test from ISTA 3 Series.

- ISTA 3 Series: General Simulation Performance Tests providing a laboratory simulation of transport environments.

- ISTA 6 Series: Member Performance Tests designed to meet specific requirements of a particular member or group of members.

## 4. What ASTM standards are used in packaging testing?

The ASTM standards used in packaging testing include:

- ASTM D642: Compressive Resistance Package Testing
- ASTM D999: Standard Test Methods for Vibration Testing of Shipping Containers.
- ASTM D4169: Standard Practice for Performance Testing of Shipping Containers.
- ASTM D5276: Drop Testing of Loaded Containers by Free Fall
- ASTM D5487: Simulated Drop of Loaded Containers by Shock Machines
- ASTM D6344: Concentrated Impacts to Transport Packages
- ASTM D6653: Determining the Effects of High Altitude on Packaging Systems by Vacuum Method

## 5. What types of physical testing equipment are used?

The physical testing equipment used includes random vibration, incline impact ramp, mechanical shock, free fall drop tester, compression testing, shock testing, and atmosphere testing.

## 6. What are the advantages of packaging testing?

The advantages of packaging testing include protecting the product, saving money, increasing brand loyalty, reducing the need for trial shipments, and reducing product claim headaches.

## 7. Why is packaging testing important?

Packaging testing is essential for ensuring the safety, quality, and compliance of your products in today's competitive market. With advancements in materials and regulatory standards, comprehensive testing can help you navigate the complexities of packaging development.

### 8. What challenges do companies face in packaging development?

Companies developing packaging materials face numerous challenges, including navigating complex regulatory requirements, ensuring product safety, and minimizing environmental impact. As the demand for sustainable solutions increases, businesses must balance performance with compliance while addressing concerns such as non-intentionally added substances and the longevity of materials.

### 9. What is the role of physical testing in packaging development?

Physical testing plays a key role in developing novel materials, whether conventional plastics, recycled materials, bioplastics, or plant-based materials. It helps ensure that packaging materials meet performance, safety, and sustainability standards.

### 10. What is e-commerce package testing?

E-commerce package testing evaluates the durability and performance of packaging used for online retail. This testing ensures that packages can withstand the rigors of shipping and handling, protecting the product from damage during transit.

- Amazon
- Home Depot
- Walmart
- QVC/HSN
- Costco
- FedEx
- And Others

### 11. Why is e-commerce package testing important?

E-commerce package testing is crucial because it helps prevent product damage during shipping, reduces return rates, and enhances customer satisfaction. With the rise of online shopping, ensuring that packages arrive intact is essential for maintaining a positive brand reputation.

### About Intertek

Intertek is a leading Total Quality Assurance provider to industries worldwide. Our network of over 1,000 laboratories and offices in more than 100 countries has been delivering innovative and bespoke Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification solutions for over 130 years.



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