IGBC Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program

IGBC Executive Committee
December 8, 2021
Program Background

- IGBC began providing guidance and direction relative to bear-resistant containers in the 1980s and has been the leader ever since.

- US Forest Service Technology and Development Center
Program Evolution

**Then:** Originally designed to help ensure proper storage of attractants by people visiting grizzly bear habitat and minimize human/grizzly bear encounters on public lands.

**Now:** Evolved to also include garbage containers to reduce conflicts on private lands.

**Then:** Focus has been primarily on areas of grizzly habitat in ID, MT, WA, and WY.

**Now:** IGBC Approved Product List is used well beyond grizzly bear range in the US and beyond.

**Then:** The program’s initial intent was to evaluate personal-use and home-made containers.

**Now:** Testing program is now primarily for commercially-available products.

**Now:** New developments in materials and product types have been accommodated.
IGBC Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program

- Important for bear conservation
  - All grizzly bear ecosystems
  - Between grizzly bear ecosystems
  - Areas with only black bears
- Effective
- Visible
- Important partnerships
  - IGBC agencies
  - Public
  - Manufacturers
  - Waste Haulers
2021 Testing Season

- 60 products tested
  - 28 coolers (14 Pass/14 Fail)
  - 19 trash carts (4P/15F)
  - 9 canisters (2P/7F)
  - 3 composters (3F)
  - 1 metal case (technical evaluation) (1P)
- 35% passed
2021 Funding

- $32,582 testing fees
- $10,500 administrative fees
- $10,000 IGBC support

- Annual program costs ($42,900) were covered
- carryover
IGBC Certification Rescinded

- First time a product removed from the IGBC list of approved products
  - Field failures

- Rehrig-Pacific Company
  - Model 95EG Bear Cart

- Follow-up needed
New for 2022

- Implement recommendations from IDFG marketing analysis
  - Raise testing fees
  - Simplify fee structure
  - Retain Administrative Fee
  - Provide more value for manufacturers
    - Automated forms
    - Newsletter
    - Enhanced program awareness (new website, IEO efforts)
New for 2022

- Testing Protocol Revisions
  - Lessons learned

- Plastic Garbage Carts
  - Fully-automated

- New testing protocol elements
  - Live-bear test
  - Garbage truck test
  - Field evaluations??

- Monitor advertising
Black Bear Resistant Products Testing

Where Are Products Tested?

Why Test Products?

How Are Products Tested?

When are Products Tested?

For More Information, please visit:

Contact Us

About WMI

Finding a location for bear resistant testing can be challenging, especially when dealing with state wildlife agencies. However, many states and localities have managed to successfully overcome these challenges. Bear resistant testing can be a beneficial tool in protecting public safety and property from bears. For more information on bear resistant testing and products, please visit the Black Bear Resistant Products Testing Program website at www.SEAFWA/WMI.org.

SEAFWA/WMI
Special Recognition

Patti Sowka - Living with Wildlife Foundation (through WMI)

Randy Gravatt - Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center

Chris Smith - Wildlife Management Institute

THANK YOU!!
Questions?