

## ISTA® 6 LAB TESTING FAQ

### ✓ How many packages are needed for Amazon 6 testing?

#### SIOC:

1 unit for non-fragile, 5 units for fragile or liquid

#### Overbox:

2 units for non-fragile, 5 units for fragile or liquid

#### Definition of Fragile:

Glass, ceramic, porcelain, clay

Liquid, Semi-Liquid, solids that become liquid:

>70-degree F

### ✓ Are there any exclusions to the SIOC testing?

At this time, third-party sellers do not need to have packages SIOC certified. HAZMAT (e.g. lithium ion batteries) require special stickers on the carton and do not qualify for the Frustration Free testing program.

### ✓ What is the cost for package testing?

The services provided by the Great Northern ISTA® 6 Lab are an added value for our current customers and do not incur any costs or fees for completion of package testing.

Note: testing can range from \$800-\$2,000 at third-party testing facilities.

### ✓ How is SIOC versus Overbox testing determined?

#### SIOC:

Larger than 18"x14"x8" or greater than 20 lbs. AND fulfilled by Amazon

#### Overbox:

Smaller than 6"x4"x0.375"

### ✓ Does the Great Northern ISTA® 6 Lab have any package limitations?

Currently, the weight restriction is 125 lbs. for any non-palletized package requiring drop testing.

### ✓ What is the lead time of the package testing?

As an example, the Amazon 6A SIOC test takes 5-6 hours to complete.

Typical lead time is 2-3 days from the time the Appleton Design Lab receives the package to be tested.

Lead times can vary and it's recommended to check with Appleton Design before sending the package for testing.

Contact us at **844-855-0963** or **ISTA@greatnortherncorp.com** to learn more about an optimal package design and testing protocol for your products.



# ISTA® TESTING PROCEDURES

## 1A TEST

Packaging products weighing 150 lbs. or less

**Sequence:** Linear Vibration, (10) Drops. Vibration time varies based on weight of the package and ranges from 48-95 minutes (heavier items vibrate longer)

**Drop height:** 0-21 lbs. - 30", 21-41 lbs. - 24", 41-61 lbs. - 18", 61-100 lbs. - 12", 100-150 lbs. - 8"

**Drop sequence:** (10) drops - (1) corner, (3) edges, (6) faces

## 3A TEST

Packaged products for parcel delivery system shipment weighing 150 lbs. or less

**Number of packages required for testing:** (1) package

**Sequence:** (9) drops, random vibration of (4) sequences (2.5 hrs total) & (9) drops

**Vibration step 1:** 60 min. with top load weight on Face 1

**Vibration steps 2, 3 & 4:** Each vibration test is 30 min with the package being rotated at the end of each 30 min. Steps 2 and 3 include weight that is added to the box face on top based on surface area of the respective face.

Categorized into standard, small, flat, elongated  
Additional sequences are required

**Drop height:** 0-70 lbs. - 18", 70-150 lbs. - 12"

**Drop sequence 1:** (9) drops - (2) corners, (5) edges, (2) faces

**Drop sequence 2:** (9) drops - (3) corners, (3) edges, (2) faces, includes drop onto a 1" tall wooden hazard



Drop Testing

## AMAZON SIOC 6A

Ships in its own container. Parcel delivery, less than 50 lbs., and girth equal or less than 165"

**Number of packages required for testing:** If non-fragile, (1) package. If fragile, (5) packages

SIOC 6A differs from 3A in the report form in how Amazon requires documentation. In addition, the Amazon 6 series has made specific adjustments to the procedures for items like TVs/monitors, fragile items and liquids

Fragile items are defined as glass, clay, porcelain OR liquid, semi-liquid

**Sequence:** drops, random vibration (2.5 hrs total), drops

**Vibration profiles include:** over-the-road trailer and pick-up & delivery

**Vibration sequence includes:** both with and without top loaded weight (same sequence as 3A)

**Drop height:** 0-70 lbs. - 18", 70-150 lbs. - 12"

**Drop sequence 1:** (9) Drops - (2) corners, (5) edges, (2) faces

**Drop sequence 2:** (8) Drops - (3) corners, (3) edges, (2) faces, includes drop onto a 1" tall wooden hazard

Great Northern's ISTA 6 testing complies with Amazon's Certified Frustration-Free Packaging standards.