

# Certification Explanation

(Compostable & Biodegradable Products)



Eco-Products stands behind our product quality, environmental initiatives, and working conditions of our facilities. We firmly believe in the importance of ensuring proper certification and documentation of our products, processes and facilities.

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## **BIODEGRADABILITY CERTIFICATIONS**

### **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)**

BPI is the U.S. standard in compostability. The BPI Logo Program is designed to certify and identify plastic products that will biodegrade and compost satisfactorily in actively managed compost facilities. The BPI and US Composting Council (USCC) use American Society for Testing and Materials Specifications (ASTM) to approve products for their "Compostable Logo" effort. These specifications are the result of 8 years of intensive work by researchers, product manufacturers, composters, and resin producers to identify plastic and paper products, which disintegrate and biodegrade completely and safely when composted in a municipal or commercial facility, like kraft paper, yard trimmings and food scraps. In order to be BPI certified, products must meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards based on testing in approved independent laboratories.



The following Eco-Products are BPI Approved: Hot Cups, Cold Cups & Lids, Straws, PLA Food Containers (all shapes), PLA Sushi Trays, PLA Cutlery, PLA Hot Cup Lids, Bagasse Products (all shapes).



### **ASTM D6400**

This specification covers plastics and products made from plastics that are designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities. It is intended to establish the requirements for labeling of materials and products, including packaging made from plastics, as "compostable in municipal and industrial composting facilities." The properties in this specification are those required to determine if plastics and products made from plastics will compost satisfactorily, including biodegrading at a rate comparable to known compostable materials. Further, the properties in the specification are required to assure that the degradation of these materials will not diminish the value or utility of the compost resulting from the composting process.

The following Eco-Products meet ASTM D6400 requirements: Hot Cups, Cold Cups & Lids, Straws, PLA Food Containers (all shapes), PLA Sushi Trays, PLA Cutlery, PLA Hot Cup Lids.

### **ASTM D6868**

This specification covers biodegradable plastics and products (including packaging), where plastic film or sheet is attached (either through lamination or extrusion directly onto the paper) to substrates and the entire product or package is designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities. This specification also covers the degradability of pulp-based products such as bagasse. It is intended to establish the requirements for labeling of materials and products, including packaging, using coatings of biodegradable plastics, as "compostable in municipal and industrial composting facilities." The properties in this specification are those required to determine if products (including packaging) using plastic films or sheets will compost satisfactorily, including biodegrading at a rate comparable to known compostable materials. Further, the properties in the specification are required to assure that the degradation of these materials will not diminish the value or utility of the compost resulting from the composting process.

The following Eco-Products meet ASTM D6868 requirements: All bagasse products (plates, bowls, and food containers).



### **OK Compost & DIN CERTCO EN 13432**

These two types of compost certification are standard in Europe and are very similar to ASTM D6400 and D6868. They test to ensure that at least 90% of the organic material is converted into CO<sub>2</sub>. Similar to ASTM D6400, these testing specifications require that no more than 10% residue remains after three months and the resultant compost does not negatively affect plant growth. Although these certifications are the standard in Europe and other regions of the world, we recommend attaining BPI certification if you are using compostable products in the U.S.

The following Eco-Products are OK Compost Approved: PSM Cutlery

