



Provision of Compostable Carrier Bags

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The environmental properties of compostable materials can only be maximised by correct disposal, into a home compost bin if appropriate, or into an industrial composting facility. The environmental benefits of compostable carrier bags can be further enhanced by designing in an appropriate second use and marketing that use as an integral part of the product offer. Compostable carrier bags should not be considered to be a direct substitute for carrier bags made from conventional materials, and customers should not be misled about the benefits and whether they can be realised.

- 1) Compostable carrier bags shall carry appropriate certification for their intended second use and disposal route. EN 13432 certification is a minimum requirement, with AFOR, Vinçotte, or other recognised certification for home-compostability adding further value. Certification code numbers should be visible.
- 2) Compostable carrier bags shall only be offered in areas where they are accepted by the Waste Disposal Authority as part of the food waste collection system, or in areas where there is a properly established community food waste collection system. Further permissions from the Waste Disposal Authority may be needed beyond the EN 13432 certification.
- 3) Compostable carrier bags shall be clearly labelled with information for the customer. This shall be in concordance with ISO 14021 and the Green Claims Guidance. If the bags are not home-compostable, they shall say “Suitable for food waste collection.”
- 4) Compostable carrier bags shall be labelled and coloured to make it easy for Waste Disposal Authority operatives to quickly and easily identify. A clear area for printing the seedling logo shall be used; the bag gusset is ideal for this. Pale green is the generally accepted colour for compostable bags. The print shall have sufficient contrast to facilitate identification.
- 5) Compostable carrier bags shall be sold at, or above, the prevailing charge for single-use carrier bags.

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