

Mr. S. Steedman (Director of Standards)
BSI - British Standards Institute
389 Chiswick High Rd.,
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London W4 4AL
United Kingdom

7th January 2021

Ref: PAS 9017 - “Biodegradation of polyolefins in an open-air environment “

Dear Mr. Steedman,

I am writing to you concerning the BSI standard PAS 9017 which has come to our attention and which includes references to PRE and its protocols on polymers modified for degradability, specifically:

“Note 7 - Compatibility of innovative polyolefin packaging entering the market with current recycling streams is covered by the protocols of Plastic Recyclers Europe (PRE)”.

This text infers that polyolefins which have been designed to degrade (“innovative”) can or could be “compatible” with current polymer streams covered by PRE protocols.

This is simply not true and is misleading. PRE protocols have been developed by RecyClass¹ under the value chain initiative aiming at enhancing design-for-recycling for plastics packaging.

The position of PRE regarding main stream polymers (polyolefins and others), which have been intentionally modified to degrade, is very clear and unambiguous. Such re-engineered polymers are “incompatible” with the current main stream polymers and will receive the lowest “classification” level F in the protocols.

¹ <https://recyclclass.eu/platform-members/>

Plastic manufacturers who seek to develop such modified polymers using BSI PAS 9017, need to be made fully aware of the “incompatibility” of such polymers to avoid any misunderstanding. The omission of such essential information by BSI from the Standard PAS 9017 is also misleading.

PRE requests that BSI modifies the existing text in Note 7 to clarify directly to the reader the “incompatibility” of such modified polymers with main stream unmodified polymers, without having to read the PRE protocols.

PRE is available to discuss the PAS 9017 standard at any time.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Antonino Furfari
Managing Director