



## **Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program Panel Review Process**

# **VERIFICATION AND LICENSING CRITERIA CCD-124**

### **Product Type: Biodegradable Polymer**

#### **Notice**

Throughout this document, any reference to a standard or guideline means to its latest edition.

The Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program (ECP) reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this document.

#### **Interpretation**

1. In this set of requirements, please note the following definitions:

"biodegradable" means the plastic product extruded from the resin degrades as per the prescribed ratios by the end of a standard test period when tested in accordance with ASTM D6400-99, Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics;

"non-toxic" means the quality of compost derived from controlled composting of the resin used in the manufacture of composting bags exhibits equivalent terrestrial toxicity levels when compared to a reference compost derived from the composting of cellulose, in addition to the compost (inoculum) control, under the same controlled composting conditions;

"sub-manufacturer" means a company purchasing the semi processed polymer and forming products therefrom ; and

"terrestrial toxicity" means toxicity levels determined by testing in accordance with OECD 208, *Terrestrial Plant Growth Test*.

## General Requirements

2. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>, *biodegradable polymer* must:
  - (a) meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards; and
  - (b) be manufactured and transported in such a manner that all steps of the process, including the disposal of waste products arising therefrom, will meet the requirements of all applicable governmental acts, by laws and regulations including, for facilities located in Canada, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*.

## Product Specific Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo, the *biodegradable polymer* must:
  - (a) be biodegradable; and
  - (b) not be derived from a crop that is grown for the sole purpose of manufacturing a polymer.
4. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo, all product manufacturing applications of the *biodegradable polymer* must:
  - (a) if being used in a food-related application, comply with:
    - (i) all applicable Canadian Health regulations for food packaging, and
    - (ii) the requirements of the EEC Commission Directive, *Plastic Materials and Articles Intended to Come in Contact with Foodstuffs*;
  - (b) if being used in a product whose final use involves terrestrial disposal (e.g. compost bags), use a *biodegradable polymer* that meets OECD 207, *Earthworm Acute Toxicity Test*, or OECD 208, *Terrestrial Plant Growth Test*;
  - (c) have specific approval from the Environmental Choice Program, noting that a 48-hour turn-around on these approvals is guaranteed. Specific approval of all product applications allows the ECP to maintain control of the use of the EcoLogo which is a registered trademark of the federal Department of the Environment, and ensures use of the EcoLogo is not granted to products made from biodegradable polymers that otherwise would not be eligible for the EcoLogo due to policy considerations; and
  - (d) use the words “biodegradable polymer” below and/or in association with the EcoLogo wherever the EcoLogo is used.

5. To be authorized to use the EcoLogo, any sub-manufacturer using the *biodegradable polymer* in a product application must:
  - (a) meet all applicable requirements of this document; and
  - (b) sign a two page authorised-use agreement and pay any applicable annual fees.

## **Verification**

6. To verify a claim that a product meets the criteria listed in this document, the ECP will require access, as is its normal practice, to relevant quality control and production records and the right of access to production facilities on an announced basis.
7. Compliance with requirement 2(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the licensee. The ECP shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any noncompliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any noncompliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the license agreement.

## **Conditions for EcoLogo Use**

8. The EcoLogo may appear on wholesale or retail packaging, or on the product itself, provided that the product meets the requirements in this document.
9. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo.
10. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this guideline, the license agreement and the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>*.