

Republic of Latvia  
Cabinet  
Regulation No. 1281  
Adopted 3 November 2009

**Procedures for Labelling of Packaging Made of Bioplastic and Oxy-degradable Plastic and Disposable Tableware and Accessories and Information (Labelling) Regarding the Type of Materials to be Indicated on such Packaging and such Tableware and Accessories**

*Issued pursuant to  
Section 24, Paragraph three, Clause 8 of the  
Law On Natural Resources Tax*

1. These Regulations prescribe the procedures for labelling of packaging made of bioplastic and oxy-degradable plastic (hereinafter – oxo-plastic) and disposable tableware and accessories (hereinafter – disposable tableware) and the information (labelling) regarding the type of materials to be indicated on such packaging and disposable tableware.
2. Using the compostability symbol, it shall be indicated on the labelling of the packaging and disposable tableware made from bioplastic that the packaging and disposable tableware may be composted in an aerobic environment in controlled conditions, using micro-organisms.
3. The compostability symbol on the labelling on the packaging and disposable tableware made from bioplastic shall be used in accordance with an internationally recognised certificate or licence which confirms the conformity of the packaging and disposable tableware with the standard LVS EN 13432+ AC:2009 L “Packaging. Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation. Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging” and to the standard LVS EN 14995:2009 L “Plastics. Evaluation of compostability. Test scheme and specifications”. Also the number of the allocated certificate or licence shall be indicated on the packaging and disposable tableware.
4. It is prohibited to use the symbol referred to in Paragraph 3 of these Regulations on labelling without the receipt of the relevant certificate or licence.
5. The type of materials of the packaging and disposable tableware shall be indicated on the labelling of the packaging and disposable tableware made of oxo-plastic, using the designation “OXO-PLASTIC”. It shall be allowed to use the designation “OXO-PLASTIC” if a totally degradable plastic additive TDPA<sup>TM</sup> is added to the plastic during the manufacturing process thereof, which accelerates the degradation of the plastic upon reaction thereof with oxygen and light, and if the manufacturer of the plastic can substantiate the addition of the additive with documentation.

6. In accordance with the requirements specified in these Regulations, the manufacturer of packaging and disposable tableware shall label the packaging and disposable tableware made of:

6.1. bioplastic raw materials – if an internationally recognised certificate or licence has been received; and

6.2. oxo-plastic raw materials – if the use of the additive specified in Paragraph 5 of these Regulations during the manufacturing process of the plastic can be substantiated with documentation.

The labelling of packaging and disposable tableware shall be clearly visible, easy legible and durable.

8. The Ministry of Environment shall publish the following on the Internet homepage thereof:

8.1. information regarding the approved and used compostability symbols, which are used in order to label packaging and disposable tableware made of bioplastic in accordance with a certificate or licence received, which confirms the conformity of the packaging and disposable tableware with the international standards regarding the compostability of plastic; and

8.2. information regarding institutions which grant a certificate or licence that confirms the conformity of the packaging and disposable tableware with the international standards regarding the compostability of plastic.

9. The activities of a manufacturer of packaging shall be controlled by the State Environmental Service in accordance with the requirements specified in these Regulations.

10. A merchant, which manufactures packaging and disposable tableware from bioplastic, shall be allowed to indicate the designation “Compostable” in the labelling for not longer than 31 March 2010 if he or she has commenced the process of certification in order to receive an internationally recognised certificate or licence which confirms the conformity of the packaging and disposable tableware with the standard LVS EN 13432+AC:2009 L “Packaging. Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation. Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging” and to the standard LVS EN 14995:2009 L “Plastics. Evaluation of compostability. Test scheme and specifications”. The merchant shall justify the commencement of the certification process with documentation (with an approval received from the relevant certification institution).

Prime Minister

V. Dombrovskis

Minister for Environment

R. Vējonis