

## CMCS Position on Technical Requirements

The Compostable Materials Certification Scheme interpretation of BS EN 13432, BS EN 14995, AS 5810, and NF T51-800

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This document has been developed to assist you to comply with the Compostable Materials Certification Scheme requirements. The aim of this note is to provide clarification on some of the technical aspects of BS EN 13432:2000, BS EN 14995:2006, AS 5810:2010, and NF T 51-800:2015-11 (latest versions). The interpretations given in this document have been discussed and agreed with the certification bodies.

This document is construed in a way that it can be used to assess other biodegradable products against AS 5810 that do not qualify as plastics.

Please note that this is an open document, and we will add new sections when required.

*We recommend that you liaise with your certification body if you need any further clarification.*

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## REAL Industrially Compostable Products

### 1. BIODEGRADATION TESTING FOR NATURAL MATERIALS

Clause 4.3.2 of BS EN 13432 states: 'Materials of natural origin

Chemically unmodified packaging materials and constituents of natural origin, such as wood, wood fibre, cotton fibre, starch, paper pulp or jute shall be accepted as being biodegradable without testing (see clause 6) but shall be chemically characterized (see 4.2) and fulfil the criteria for disintegration (see clause 7) and compost quality (see clause 8).'

#### REAL CMCS's interpretation

Natural materials shall be exempt from biodegradation testing under the REAL Industrially Compostable Products scheme.

## REAL Home Compostable Products

### 1. BIODEGRADATION TESTING FOR NATURAL MATERIALS

Clause 5.6 of NF T51-800 states: 'Materials of natural origin

Chemically unmodified constituents of natural origin, such as wood, wood fibre, cotton fibre, starch, paper pulp, or jute shall be accepted as being biodegradable without testing (see 6.3). Nevertheless, they shall be chemically characterized (see 5.2.2) and fulfil the criteria for disintegration (see 6.4) and compost quality (see 6.5).'

#### REAL CMCS's interpretation

Natural materials shall be exempt from biodegradation testing under the REAL Home Compostable Products scheme.

This scheme extends the requirements of AS 5810 by exempting natural materials from biodegradation testing to ensure consistency in the approach taken for certifying products as home compostable and reduce confusion in the market.

*NOTE: REAL is aware that the same approach is taken under the Australasian Bioplastic Association's (ABA's) compostability certification scheme, which is aligned with AS 5810.*

### 2. QUALITATIVE DISINTEGRATION TESTING

Refer to clauses 6.4.2 and 6.4.2 of NF T51-800. Refer to section 5.5 of AS 5180.

#### REAL CMCS's interpretation

Qualitative disintegration testing can be permitted under the REAL Home Compostable Products scheme in some circumstances but will be assessed by the Certification Bodies on a case-by-case basis.