

PROPAK - RESPONSIBLE PACKAGING

25 OCTOBER 2023

THE ROLE OF COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING IN EPR



COPCO



It is the mandate of COPCO to:

- Provide representation to importers, distributors, converters, manufacturers, and retailers of compostable plastics;
- Promote the recognition of compostable plastics; and
- Grow the market for compostable plastics in South Africa.

COPCO is a registered PRO.

COPCO promotes composting as an EPR solution.



COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS

Biodegradable materials that break down in an aerobic composting process through the action of naturally occurring microorganisms within a specific timeframe. The biological process yields carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass, leaving no visible contaminants or toxic residues.

COMPOSTING
end-of-life pathway for compostable packaging



GLOBAL PLASTIC WASTE CRISIS

WASTE REDUCTION GOALS

- Elimination of unnecessary plastics (single-use plastics)
- Recycling is not enough to solve the plastic crisis
 - 10 %of the world's plastics is recycled
 - Not all packaging is RECYCLABLE
 - Significant environmental and health concerns associated with plastic recycling
- Keep plastic in circulation
- Careful replacement
 - Safe and environmentally sound products
 - Safe and environmentally sound waste management → EPR



COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING AND EPR

CAREFUL REPLACEMENT

Replacing plastics with compostable plastics

- COMPOSTING as the end-of-life pathway for compostable packaging
 - No micro-plastics
 - Non-toxic
- Mixed compostable polymers can be composted together.

Environmentally sound management through EPR

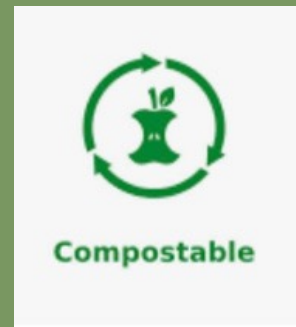
- Specific material stream through composting
- Removing organic waste from landfills
- Clear labelling to reduce contamination of recycling and compost streams



LABELLING COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING



INTERNATIONAL



SANS 1728:2019



Use of internationally acceptable polymer identification marking.

Must conform to claims made on compostability ISO 17088, EN13432, ASTM D6400, ASTM D686

PROBLEMATIC

NON-CERTIFIED CLAIMS OF COMPOSABILITY

Vague or non-specific claims

Plastic-free

Eco-friendly, earth-friendly

Claims of sustainability

Encouraging throw-away culture

COPCO EPR SOLUTIONS



BRANDING



Product identification to ensure adequate separation of all types of plastics: recyclable, non-recyclable, and compostable.

Brand products as either HOME- or INDUSTRIALLY compostable.

COLLECTION



Collected together with organic waste, through integrated waste management.

- BAG-TO-EARTH
- Collection schemes and drop-off sites
- Case studies on closed systems
- Reducing organic waste to landfill
- No problem of food contaminants.

COMPOSTING



Composting at home or at ORASA-registered composting sites:

- Infinite recycling of organic waste.
- Zero waste to landfill
- Zero micro plastics or toxins.



EPR CHALLENGES

Compostable plastics are different from any other plastics:

- New on the market
- Home compostable plastics do not require collection
- Collected together with organic waste
- No post-consumer recycled material
- Infrastructure investment



COPCO VERIFICATION

COPCO is the official body to verify products certified as compostable by the CSIR. COPCO also verifies international certification for compostability. The COPCO logo identifies HOME and INDUSTRIALLY compostable packaging.

VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proven compliance with ISO 17088, EN13432, ASTM D6400, ASTM D686 (SANS 17088; 2020, SANS/CD 2066:2023)

- Verification by Integrated ISO of international certification
- Verification by Integrated ISO of CSIR testing



National field test certificate from ORASA-approved testing facility

Proven compliance with SANS 1728:2019 (labelling)

COPCO membership and signed COPCO membership declaration (avoid green washing)