

BPI Certification Rules (July 2018)

Developed by BPI's Standards & Procedures Committee, approved by the Board July 18, 2018

1. To cover for variations in composition which are inherent to the manufacturing process, the BPI certificate, granted to a well-known basic material, is valid for a variant of this same material under the condition that this variant contains the same and no more constituents as the certified basic material and the ratio between the different constituents does not vary more than 20 % relatively speaking (e.g. the certification of a basic material with a composition of 70% - 20% - 9% - 1% is also valid for a variant with a composition of 70 +- 14% - 20 +- 4% - 9 +- 1.8% - 1 +- 0.2 % for the same components, taking into account that the total is still 100%). Subsequent variations must be compared to the tested material used in the original certification. BPI certification of a variant of a tested basic material having a composition falling within these levels of tolerance is not automatically granted and need to be checked by BPI for compliance.
2. For a certified material, a supplier change for a specific constituent(s) on the Positive List (Section 6.2.5 and Section A of the European Bioplastics Certification Scheme) may be approved without a new disintegration test under the condition that the constituent formulation from the new supplier is identical to the original constituent(s) under consideration. As proof that the constituent from the new supplier does not introduce unacceptable levels of regulated metals into the environment, metals and FTIR tests must be submitted along with the application form.
3. For certified materials under 1% (e.g. masterbatches) that strictly replace non-biodegradable carrier material with biodegradable carrier material (according to the accepted biodegradation methods in ASTM D6400 & D6868) and under the condition that the masterbatch is replaced at the same dry weight percentage, a new disintegration test may not be required, as subject to Technical Review..
4. If BPI certification is sought for a final product consisting of recycled paper, then the following information must be submitted along with the application form. Initial Certification on finished product must have:
 - a. Test report on the level of regulated metals per ASTM D6868
 - b. Test report on biodegradability or biobased content per ASTM D6868
 - c. Test report on quantitative disintegration testing per ASTM D6868
 - d. Test report on the quality of the compost (ecotoxicity) per ASTM D6868. If available, use samples from three (3) production runs to capture variation (lot to lot) as a composite sample.
 - e. Written self-declaration from Applicant of quality management procedures for recycled paper sourcing.
5. When an update is implemented in, ASTM D6400, ASTM D6868, or BPI's Certification Scheme that affects the certification of existing products, BPI will notify all applicable customers and provide a timeline for compliance.
6. BPI currently references Section 6.2.5 and Section A of the European Bioplastics Certification Scheme "Products Made of Compostable Materials." If registration/certification is being requested for a manufactured item that is intended to contain the fillers and processing auxiliaries indicated in Section A, it is possible to register individual compositions within a predefined composition range.
7. Under ASTM D6868, any coating or external polymeric additive (ie, added to the surface) must be tested separately for biodegradation (according to the biodegradation methods referenced in ASTM D6868)

regardless of the dry weight percentage within the formulation. As per section: 6.3.1, “The plastic coating or polymeric additives must meet the requirements of subsection 6.3 of Specification D6400.”

8. Under ASTM D6868, the ligno-cellulosic substrates are permitted to fulfill the requirements of 6.3.2 by demonstrating that they are “materials of natural origin” and therefore assumed to be biodegradable by showing that over 95% of their carbon comes from biobased resources, using ASTM D6866. Components over 1% in the substrate need to be identified, and organic components must be tested for biodegradation or be on the Positive List.
9. Metals, Ash, and FTIR tests must be no more than 12 months old upon the date of application. Biodegradation, Ecotoxicity and Disintegration tests do not have a limit, but if they are over 2 years old, written confirmation from the testing laboratory and the manufacturer must be submitted. BPI will co
10. Test data under EN 13432 will be reviewed if the material or product is currently certified by DIN Certco and/or TUV Austria, within the time frame accepted by BPI. The final material/product must still meet the requirements of either ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868 in order to be considered for BPI Certification.
11. Certification/Approval of masterbatches, with the following requirements:
 - All requirement of ASTM D6400 besides disintegration (no maximum thickness to be listed on certificate, as disintegration will be required on any product using the masterbatch)
 - Restrictions clearly listed on certificate with regard to maximum dry weight percent (to ensure compliance for heavy metals and biodegradation)
 - Statement from customer that the ingredient is non-reactive
13. Filler or fiber in excess of 3% by dry weight present in a product, regardless of whether it is on the Positive List 6.3.2, requires the product+filler/fiber to be tested for disintegration.
14. For molded fiber items (e.g. bagasse), grammage shall be measured along with thickness by both the lab and certifier, noting where the thickness was measured for replicability.
15. For thickness and grammage of all items, a minimum of 5 measurements shall be taken by both the lab and certifier, reporting the mean and standard deviation for both the thickness and grammage.
16. Re-certification without changes to the original formula: BPI members are eligible for re-certification if there are no changes to the formula — only Metals, Ash, FTIR and thickness must be performed. Missing core tests (e.g. biodegradation) need to be supplied or carried out before the next recertification in order to continue to be eligible. However, Members will not be asked to repeat tests due to things like historic changes to approved test methods, changed accreditation of labs, etc., unless these changes are individually deemed to significantly jeopardize compostability. Companies will have to comply with future changes to standards, tests and schemes, and will be notified by BPI of such changes with sufficient time to comply.
17. New or re-certification assessment if an ingredient is already BPI certified: When BPI-certified materials/products are listed as an ingredient in the formula of an application (whether that is a new certification or recertification), with no changes in formulation, thickness or density to that BPI-certified material/product, the Technical Review shall state that an approval is contingent on the continued active certification of those materials, conforming to BPI’s certification rules and standards ASTM D6400 and D6868.