

PRODUCE PACKAGING GUIDELINES	
<b>WEIGHT</b>	Minimise weight and remove unnecessary packaging where feasible
<b>MATERIAL</b>	<p>Acceptable Material types:</p> <p><b>Fibre:</b> recycled and /or virgin material with PEFC &amp; FEC accreditation.</p> <p><b>Rigid Plastics:</b> Punnets, trays, clamshells - materials accepted in NZ kerbside collection only. Acceptable materials – single polymer / mono PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5). Recycled content encouraged. Punnets &amp; tubs should have tethered lids.</p> <p><b>Soft Plastics:</b> Bags and wrap – materials to meet Soft Plastic NZ thresholds for ‘back-to-store’ collection network and mechanical recycling in NZ. <a href="#">Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme   Home</a> . Acceptable materials at least 70% by weight of HDPE (#2), LDPE (#4) or PP (#5) and be free from any PET (#1), PVC (#3) and PS (#6).</p>
<b>RECYCLED CONTENT</b>	Specify the maximum amount of post-consumer recycled content feasible. ie: specify % of rPET, rHDPE and recycled fibre.
<b>BIO PLASTICS</b>	<p>Avoid all oxo-degradable plastics</p> <p>Avoid all bio-degradable plastics</p> <p>Avoid all rigid commercially compostable bio plastics</p> <p>Certified home compostable packaging permitted but discouraged.</p>
<b>AVIOD HAZARDS</b>	Avoid use of materials that are potentially hazardous to the environment or to human health including: - Heavy metals in packaging, inks and pigments - Elemental chlorine for bleaching paper - Phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) and PFAS in food packaging.
<b>LABELING</b>	Include messaging in packaging design to advise consumers the correct method of post use disposal in accordance with the NZ Standardised Kerbside regulations <a href="#">Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections Notice 2023 (Notice No. 1) - 2023-go4222 - New Zealand Gazette</a> and any alternative

- Where functionally suitable, move to fibre-based products with either no coatings or that deem packaging recyclable in NZ.
- If you are unsure as to the product or packaging credentials, please consult a Foodstuffs NI Produce Business Manager.

## Packaging Definitions

### **Oxo Degradable Plastic**

Foodstuffs authorised distribution only. Final version 2: 19/03/24. This document sets out FSNI specifications and requirements only.

A standard plastic with a chemical added that disintegrates the material into micro plastics that will persist in the terrestrial and marine environment, ultimately entering complex food chains of which humans are a part.

## **Biodegradable Plastic**

Not certified to break down within a set period or to do so without any residue. People often get "biodegradable" and "compostable" mixed up but they do not mean the same thing. A biodegradable product may be broken down by microorganisms but this does not necessarily imply that the product can be converted into good quality compost.

## **Compostable Plastic– there are two sub-categories;**

**Commercial compostable bio plastic** will have EN13432 certification meaning that they will only breakdown in industrial composting facilities at temperatures in excess of 55 °C. In the marine or terrestrial it is unknown how long they will take to decompose.

The majority of rigid bio-plastics are only commercially compostable.

Commercial composters assess there is too greater risk of contamination as a result of the products and packaging being indistinguishable from standard plastics by the customer or commercial sorting facility.

**Home Compostable bio plastic** products or packaging must also have EN13432 certification but additionally they must also have complied with the TÜV AUSTRIA (formerly Vinçotte), Home Composting test. This is not a standard but a private commercial test that has been universally adopted by industry as a result of the lack of a proper standard.

To obtain the '**HOME compostable**' label the product or packaging must have been tested to decompose at lower temperatures (30c), so they can go into the compost bin in the garden, hence the title "HOME".

## **Fibre Based Products**

These include paper, card, pulped thermo formed card (i.e. egg boxes) and bagasse (a fibre derived from sugar cane waste.)

They can contain a mix of virgin fibre that may or may not be a bi-product of another industry or they can contain recycled fibre or sometimes a mix of both.

If the material is virgin fibre it is important to ensure it is either a bi-product or it has come from a 'sustainably managed source' such as a forest being managed under either FSC or PEFC certification system.