



COMPOSTING
Council of Canada

Conseil canadien du
COMPOSTAGE



Development of Canadian Standard

- Originally a Quebec-based program
- Expanded by the CCC & Quebec team nationally
- Financial support provided by
PEI, NB, NS, Manitoba, Alberta
in addition to Quebec-team



Review Process

- Look at International standards
- Ensure regulatory compliance with composting operations and compost product criteria in Canada



Review Dynamics

- 15 person panel
- Key criteria established for review:
 - Fitness for purpose
 - Time and rate of degradation and disintegration



Final Standard

Impact on the finished compost from the perspective of

visual quality

trace element content

plant growth ability



Compostable ≠ Biodegradable



**Compostable ≠ Biodegradable
≠
Disintegration**



The key distinguishing features between the terms reflects **time** and **end result**.



- **Biodegradation:** degradation caused by biological activity especially caused by enzymatic action leading to a significant change in the chemical structure of a material.
- **Compostable:** said of that which is capable of undergoing biological decomposition in a compost site such that the material is not visually distinguishable and breaks down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with known compostable materials.
- **Disintegration:** the physical breakdown of a material into very small fragments.



To claim **Compostable**

The plastic bag must prove that

- It is compatible with the dynamics involved in the composting process
- It does not detract from the physical and chemical quality of the end product, compost



BNQ Certification Program for Compostable Plastic Bags

BNQ 9011-922/2007

Details outlined in two parts:

Part I: Product Requirements

Part II: Certification Requirements



Canadian Certification

Either:

- Submit existing test results from internationally-recognized lab. org.
- Request the BNQ to conduct the testing of the selected product according to the criteria set out in the Canadian standard



