



# BPI Certified

*presented by NSF Sustainability*

## Certified Compostable

Increasingly, the global market recognizes and favors products that help to protect and preserve the environment. While there are many opportunities to enhance a product's environmental impact, equally critical are product end-of-life issues. This has led to a growing demand for compostable products and for credible compostable claims that the market can rely on for sourcing and purchasing decisions.

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certified Compostable program applies science-based testing to prove a material will compost in a municipal or commercial facility, leaving no toxic or lingering plastic residues in the soil. The Certified Compostable program uses a specific set of testing criteria published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), including ASTM D6400 for plastic, and standard ASTM D6868 for coated paper products or where polymers are used as binders. To pass ASTM tests, a product must:

- Disintegrate quickly leaving no visible residue that has to be screened out
- Biodegrade fully or convert rapidly to carbon dioxide, water and biomass
- Result in compost that supports plant growth
- Not introduce high levels of regulated metals into the soil

BPI, in conjunction with the US Composting Council, created the Compostable Logo, which identifies products that have been independently tested and verified as meeting the ASTM standards.

## Example Categories of Products

- Certified Compostable Bags
- Certified Compostable Foodservice Items
- Certified Compostable Resins
- Certified Compostable Packaging Materials

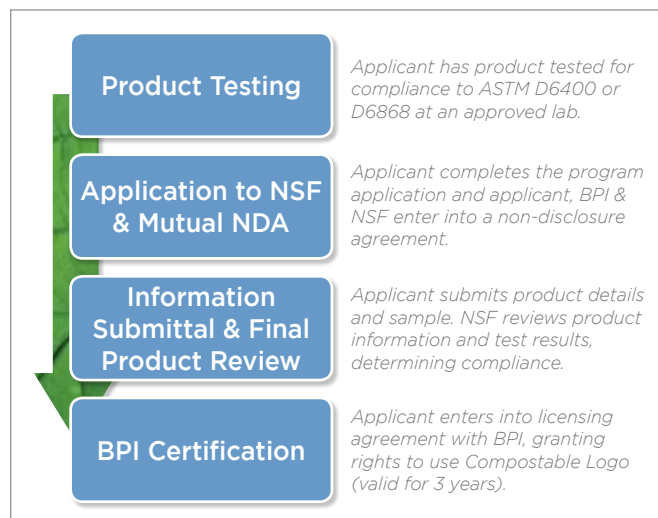


*Products carrying this symbol have been scientifically proven to biodegrade and compost quickly, safely and completely in municipal and commercial composting operations.*

The BPI Compostable Logo is the most widely recognized symbol for compostable plastic products in North America. The Compostable Logo provides credibility and confidence that Certified Compostable products will biodegrade as expected. Manufacturers that certify their products are authorized to use the Compostable Logo on both product and literature.

## NSF International

NSF International is the program administrator for BPI Certified Compostable products. Manufacturers interested in the Certified Compostable program can contact NSF and obtain further information on the product certification process, including timing and estimated costs. The chart below outlines the general steps to achieve certification.





## Steps in the BPI Approval Process

- 1. Product Testing:** Applicant must have the product tested for compliance to ASTM D6400 or D6868 at an approved lab ([www.bpiworld.org/certified-compostability-testing-laboratories](http://www.bpiworld.org/certified-compostability-testing-laboratories)). Applicants can consult with NSF prior to testing to confirm requirements.
- 2. Application to NSF:** Applicant completes the NSF Certified Compostable Program application form.
- 3. Mutual NDA:** BPI, NSF and applicant enter into a Non-Disclosure Agreement, as provided by NSF. The purpose of the NDA is to provide specific information related to the protection of all confidential information supplied to NSF and BPI.
- 4. Product Information Submittal:** Applicant provides to NSF the product description including resins or ingredients used, pigments, maximum thicknesses and trade name for product to be sold, along with samples of the product.
- 5. Final Product Review:** NSF completes the review of all product information and test results, making a determination of compliance with all certification program requirements.
- 6. BPI License Agreement:** After independent review of test results and determination by NSF of compliance with all certification program requirements, applicant enters into licensing agreement with BPI granting them right to use the Compostable Logo and other BPI trademarks. License is valid for three years.

- 7. Review of Marketing Materials and Claims:** Applicant prepares sample artwork of packaging, web pages, brochures and advertising using the Compostable Logo. NSF reviews and provides final approval for use.
- 8. Recertification:** Certification is valid for a period of three years following which the product is re-qualified. Abbreviated testing is performed to demonstrate continued compliance.

## Program Details

### Timing

- Testing for ASTM D6400 or D6868 may take a maximum of 180 days depending on the product's performance during testing. However, the scope of testing may be reduced for some products if applicant is using previously approved materials.
- NSF certification review can be completed within 30 days following receipt of all appropriate product documentation and related test results.
- Completion of the full process, including access to the BPI Compostable Logo, can be completed within 6 to 8 weeks after test results are submitted to NSF.

### Cost

- BPI certification costs include those for product review, which vary based on the product type, and an annual licensing fee per company. NSF provides a complete quote for the certification costs following initial review of the project scope.
- Product testing is a separate expense, billed directly to the applicant by the BPI approved laboratory of their choice.

Contact Cheryl Navarro at 734.913.5708, [cnavarro@nsf.org](mailto:cnavarro@nsf.org), or go to [www.nsf.org/info/bpi\\_compostable](http://www.nsf.org/info/bpi_compostable) for more details on the BPI Certified Compostable program.

## About NSF International



NSF International has a 65 year history of testing and laboratory accreditations including independent, third-party product certification, ISO/IEC Guide 65 accreditation, along with ISO/IEC 17025, International Accreditation Service, Standards Council of Canada (SCC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and American Society of Sanitary Engineering. NSF International is fully equipped to offer you the finest compliance services available today.

## About Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)

Founded in 1999, the Biodegradable Products Institute is 501-(c) (6) organization involving people and companies that produce, use or recover compostable products. It promotes the growth of a wide range of compostable products, including plastics, coated paper, molded pulp and bagasse items through education, use of scientifically-based standards and cooperative efforts with organizations in Europe and Asia. For more information, visit [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org).

