

Compostable Bags

The Bureau de normalization du Quebec (BNQ) (<http://www.bnq.qc.ca/en/apropos.html>), gained certification status in September of 2007 to test compostable bags for use in municipal compost programs. The program looks at the duration of the product through the compost process and the residual effect on the quality of the end product. (<http://www.biomatdev.com/details-reglementation.aspx?id=46>)

Currently there are only **three** companies that have completed the process and have obtained certification for their products through the BNQ. The following website lists the companies and their certification numbers.

http://www-es.criq.qc.ca/pls/owa_es/bnqw_norme.liste_entr_cert?p_lang=en&p_id_prog_certif=438

The companies are:

1. W. Ralston (Canada) Inc. – Biosak Compostable Brown Bags
W. Ralston was the first to be certified in May 2008.
2. BioBag International – BioBag
The BioBag was certified in September 2008.
3. EL-EN Packaging, 200 Great Gulf Drive, Vaughn ON L4K 5W1
EL-EN bags were certified in September 2008.

Mark of conformity:



The BNQ mark of conformity distinguishes certified products from similar, uncertified products. This BNQ mark of conformity is the exclusive property of the Composting Council of Canada and of the Bureau de normalisation du Québec, which has the exclusive right to authorize its use. A request for mark of conformity registration has been filed with the Trademarks Branch of Industry Canada's Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO).

http://www.bnq.qc.ca/en/certif/marque_confor_compostable.html

The following bags have come through the Olds College Compost Centre:

W. Ralston (Canada) Inc. – Biosak
These bags decompose and are certified.



<http://www.cttgroup.com/ralston/english/BioSakNew.html>

BioBag International – BioBag
These bags decompose and are certified



<http://www.biobag.no/>

The Tuff Guy bags did decompose, it is unknown what the residual effects are left in the end product as they are not certified.



<http://www.dorfinweb.com/en/online-catalogue-green.html>

The Glad bag did decompose, it is unknown what the residual effects are left in the end product as they are not certified.



<http://www.glad.com/>

One bag that does not compost in our windrow system is the Ecofilm bag.



<http://www.ecofilm.com/>

All of the above products have the US standards logo, even though the one product does not decompose.



The Canadian EcoLogo identifies environmentally preferable goods and services.

