



Biobased and biodegradable are two distinct concepts.

Biobased refers to the renewable origin of a material, as opposed to a fossil origin, while biodegradability characterises the end of life of a material (see sketch 01)

That said, a product that is both 100% biobased AND biodegradable has the great advantage of presenting a closed carbon loop: CO₂, water and biomass from biodegradation feed the growth of plants that can themselves be transformed into biomaterial and so on. Biodegradation is in a way the reverse of photosynthesis.

The addition of components of fossil origin will, by definition, degrade the level of biobased material.

On the other hand, depending on the case, this addition will or will not modify the capacity of the finished product to biodegrade.

Indeed, a biodegradable material is appetising to micro-organisms, regardless of its fossil or biobased origin.

Not everything that is biobased is biodegradable and not everything that is biodegradable is biobased.

That is why two different schemes and logos are needed, and why a certification body is needed.

QED