

TÜV AUSTRIA's OK compost HOME and EN 13432 Certification Programs

Describing the evaluation criteria for packaging that can be composted in industrial plants, the standard EN 13432 is the central document that forms the basis for TÜV AUSTRIA's certification program "OK compost INDUSTRIAL". The approach is the same for home compostable products, except that the biodegradation and decomposition test is carried out at a lower temperature. When the temperature drops, decomposition and decay take longer.

In 2003, TÜV AUSTRIA developed a certification system adapted to the conditions of home composting (OK compost HOME). At that time, there was no dedicated standard for household compostable products yet and so the EN 13432 scheme was applied and adapted. Since then, numerous standards have been developed worldwide on the basis of this scheme with TÜV AUSTRIA systematically participating in these projects, whereby all standards have the same origin. Here are a few examples:

- Belgium: Royal Decree (2008) laying down product standards for compostable and biodegradable materials
- Australia: AS 5810 (2010) – Biodegradable plastics / Biodegradable plastics suitable for home composting
- France: NF T 51800 (2015) Plastics / Specifications for plastics suitable for home composting
- Europe: prEN 17427 (2019) Packaging / Requirements and testing concept for tote bags suitable for recycling at composting plants
- Austria: AWG-Rechtsbereinigungsnovelle 2019 (ban on disposable plastic tote bags, which applies from 01.01.2020)

For this purpose, some requirements and corresponding tests were amended or added, but the main criteria are exactly those established for the OK compost HOME standard (see Annex for details) in 2003:

- 90% biological decomposition after 12 months at ambient temperature (25° ±5°C)
- 90 % decay after 6 months at ambient temperature (25° ±5°C)

More about TÜV AUSTRIA's OK compost certifications:

<http://www.tuv-at.be/de/ok-compost/>

<http://www.tuv-at.be/de/ok-compost/downloadcenter/>

www.tuvaustria.com/okcompost-video-DE