



Compostable Logo FAQ

Why are NSF and the BPI teaming up?

To handle the 500% percent increase in the number compostable products since 2006, The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) today announced that its successful "Compostable Logo" product certification effort will be administered by NSF International beginning in January 2012. This move capitalizes NSF's certification expertise with the BPI's internationally recognized "Compostable Logo" program.

Who is NSF International?

NSF International is one of the largest certification organizations in North America and has been testing and certifying products for safety, health and the environment for 67 years (www.nsf.org). As an independent organization, NSF's mission is to protect public health and the environment through standards development, inspection, testing and certification for the food, water, build/construction, retail, chemical and health science industries. Operating in more than 150 countries, NSF is committed to protecting public health worldwide and is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Food and Water Safety and Indoor Environment.

How will the program change versus what was done previously?

NSF will take over the validation of the BPI's program. Previously, the BPI employed independent experts to verify data generated by 3rd party approved labs. Now NSF will take over this step. Once your product is approved, you will enter into a licensing agreement with the BPI, giving you the right to use the BPI's Compostable Logo. BPI will also handle all the billing for certification and licensing. NSF will continue to have access to BPI's team of scientific experts to consult, as needed.

What will certification and licensing cost?

The costs for certification and licensing are as follows:

- NSF Certification: \$1,500-\$2,500, depending on the number and types of products to be approved. The costs for this step will be provided to the client prior to any work being performed.

- BPI Licensing: \$3,000/yr, unless the company is a US Composting Council member. In this case, the Licensing fee is reduced by \$500. The licensing fee covers all certified products sold by a company.

Will my product/material formulation information remain confidential?

Yes, all information supplied to NSF will be classified as confidential business information. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that all confidential customer information is protected and secure. This is a fundamental component of all NSF's existing certification programs. A non-disclosure agreement will be instituted with your company, NSF and BPI, prior to starting any programs

Where do I access my certified materials/products?

All certified material/products will remain listed on the BPI website. After NSF's validation that your products comply with ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868, you will be sent the BPI licensing documents for signature granting you the right to use the Compostable Logo. The certified product(s) will also appear in the public listing on the BPI web site as they have historically.

Will there be changes to the Compostable Logo?

No, the compostable logo will remain unchanged. Manufacturers can continue to use the current artwork. There will be no changes in packaging or sales materials. Composters, municipalities and haulers can still count on products that carry the Compostable Logo for their organic diversion efforts.

How does this change in program administration affect my certified product/material?

The change in program administration has no affect on materials/products currently certified. All materials/products will remain certified during their 3-year certification period unless a change is made to the product. NSF will notify customers when a material/product is due for recertification. The appropriate procedures for maintaining certification will be followed according to the Program Rules Document.

Where are payments made?

All BPI Certification program related fees will continue to be paid to BPI.

Who can I contact at NSF for additional questions?

All questions may be directed to Cheryl Navarro at cnavarro@nsf.org or by phone at 734-913-5708. You will find contact information on the BPI website: www.bpiworld.org.

How do I begin the process of certification?

To begin the certification process, you may contact Cheryl Navarro (cnavarro@nsf.org; 734-913-5708) directly at NSF or go to the BPI website for links to NSF. We will discuss all of the necessary steps required to certify your material(s) and or product(s). Product information is required to be submitted for review. This includes items such as product name/model number, formulation information, color, thickness and applicable test data from an approved BPI testing laboratory.

Can I continue to use the same laboratories I've been using for testing purposes?

You can continue to use any BPI approved laboratory for testing purposes. These are listed on the BPI website: <http://www.bpiworld.org/certified-compostability-testing-laboratories>.