

A Note to Our Customers about New California Compostability Laws

As with many other progressive issues the State of California is usually at the forefront of setting or establishing regulatory guidelines as it relates to new products or services. This case seems to follow suit with that pattern as it relates to the claims California is willing to accept on the new green products in the plastics industry. California will be enforcing these new laws at the start of calendar 2009 which basically states they will only allow truly compostable bags and other foodservice packaging to be used which must meet commercial composting guidelines for their operations. Any "oxobiodegradable" or "oxodegradable" claims will not be accepted if they can not meet the ASTM D6400 standards. BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute), a third party compostable certification is backing these new laws.

If you have any questions or want more information please do not hesitate to contact Green Nature Marketing as we want to be a trusted resource when it comes to true Green options and don't want to represent or put your organizations in a position of "greenwashing."

Sincerely,

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Details on Compostability Laws Recently Passed In California

California has signed into law AB 1972 and AB 2071 and continues to lead the country in attempting to minimize misleading environmental claims. You can see a recap of each bill after my signature.

California's AB 1972 was signed into law over this weekend and takes effect at the start of 2009. The bill is intended to clarify some of the labeling issues that have arisen over the past few years, as a result of prior regulations. The new regulations achieve the following:

- Reinforces the concept that plastic bags and plastic foodservice items, which are labeled compostable must meet ASTM D6400;
- Expands the definition of foodservice items to include paper, molded pulp and bagasse items. These must meet ASTM D6868 in order to be labeled compostable;
- Includes the term marine degradable for plastic and paper items that meet ASTM D7081;
- Eliminates the use of the terms biodegradable and degradable on plastic bags and foodservice items. This portion of the bill is aimed at stopping the misleading claims by plastic bag manufacturers who claim that their products will biodegrade in landfills. Please note that this restriction on the term biodegradable and degradable will apply to all products outlined in this legislation, including those that meet the ASTM Specifications. Be sure to check the copy on your packaging.

You can find the text of the bill at the following link:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_1951-2000/ab_1972_bill_20080815_enrolled.html

CA AB 2071 was also signed into law. This legislation provides enforcement language and penalties for manufacturers that mislabel their plastic bags of up to \$2000 offense. Further it provides cities and municipalities the opportunity to enforce this regulation.

You can find the legislation at the link below:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_2051-2100/ab_2071_bill_20080903_enrolled.html