EMIRATES CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS AND OTHER RELATED PACKAGING MATERIALS
ACCORDING TO
UAE STANDARD 5009: 2009
1. **INTRODUCTION:**

This document defines the Criteria for the product registration of Oxo-biodegradable Plastic bags and other related packaging materials under the Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme (ECAS) being implemented by the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).

The requirements defined in this document are issued for the information, guidance and compliance of Manufacturers and Traders intending to promote and sell plastic bags in the United Arab Emirates.

2. **SCOPE:**

**Products Covered by this Specific Requirement:**

This specific requirement shall cover all oxo-biodegradable plastic bags and other related packaging materials such as shopping bags and semi-rigid plastic packaging for food, magazines, consumer-durables, garbage bags, bin-liners for household use, shrink wrap, pallet wrap, cling film etc.

3. **APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND NORMATIVE REFERENCES**

3.1 **MANDATORY STANDARDS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>UAE STANDARD</th>
<th>EQUIVALENT GULF/INTERNATIONAL STANDARD</th>
<th>TITLE OF STANDARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UAE.S 5009/2009</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Standard &amp; Specification for Oxo-biodegradation of Plastic bags and other disposable Plastic objects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 **REFERENCES STANDARD:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>STANDARDS</th>
<th>TITLE OF STANDARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UAE.S ISO 14851</td>
<td>Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by measuring the oxygen demand in a closed respirometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UAE.S ISO 14852</td>
<td>Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UAE.S ISO 14855-1</td>
<td>Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
plastic materials under controlled composting conditions — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide — Part 1: General method

4 UAE.S ISO 14855-2 Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials under controlled composting conditions — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide — Part 2: Gravimetric measurement of carbon dioxide evolved in a laboratory-scale test

5 UAE.ASTM D 6954 Standard Guide for Exposing and Testing Plastics that Degrade in the Environment by a Combination of Oxidation and Biodegradation

6 UAE.S ASTM D 883 Standard Terminology Relating to Plastics

7 BS 8472 Method for determining Biodegradability and Non-eco toxicity of Oxo-Biodegradable Plastics

8 CEN/TR 15351 Plastics - Guide for vocabulary in the field of degradable and biodegradable polymers and plastic items

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4. DEFINITION OF TERMS

ESMA – The Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology. The UAE’s Standards body as mandated by Federal Law No. 28. It is the competent government entity responsible for implementing this Specific Requirement for Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Bags / plastic materials.

Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Bag – plastic bags which will degrade when subjected to environmental conditions to produce water, carbon dioxide and biomass.

Approved Supplier – a manufacturer and/or trader responsible for the product covered by this Specific Requirement.

Initial Testing - refers to the verification of product conformance to a specified Product Standards and/or Specific Requirements prior to the registration of Product.

Specific Requirements - a document specifying the set of rules in order for a product to be registered under ECAS.

Certificate of Conformity – a certificate issued by ESMA indicating that a product complies with the requirements of the Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme

Approved Standard – refers to a Product Standard approved by ESMA to be used in verifying conformity of a product.

Recognized Conformity Assessment Body- a competent body recognized by ESMA to carry out factory inspection and/or testing of product.
All other general definitions are given in Terminology as outlined in UAE.S ASTM D 883 “Standard Terminology Relating to Plastics” and in CEN/TR 15351 “Plastics - Guide for vocabulary in the field of degradable and biodegradable polymers and plastic items”.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

Compliance of oxo-biodegradable plastic bags and other related packaging materials to the requirements of UAE Standards 5009: 2009.

Effective implementation of Quality Management System based on ISO 9001

Use of ESMA approve additives to make plastic bags and related packaging materials oxo-biodegradable.

6. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Application Submission

Manufacturers / Traders shall submit a filled ECAS application form together with the following:

Manufacturer’s Declaration of Conformity for oxo-biodegradable plastic bags and other related packaging materials.

List of components such as polymers, organic additives (plasticizers, impact modifiers, fibers, etc....) inorganic fillers, pigments, stabilizers, pro-oxidants etc. shall be declared with chemical and trade name and where possible the percentage of each component.

Note: None of included components constituting \(\geq 0.1\%\) may be used if officially classified as environmentally hazardous.

Abiotic Degradation Test Report
Chemical Analysis of residual material and Non-degradable fraction
Ultimate Aerobic Biodegradability Test Report

Quality Manual

Valid Industry License

Proof of Exclusive Distributorship from the manufacturer in case the applicant is a trader or an agent.
Location Map of the factory and/or warehouse where the product is stored.

Application Fee.

**Factory Inspection, Sampling and Testing of Product**

Upon the submission of application for Registration, ESMA authorized personnel or representative shall conduct a factory audit to check the implementation of the Quality Management System and draw samples for testing.

Samples shall be tested independently by an ESMA recognized third party testing laboratory.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to pay the necessary fees for the sampling and testing of product together with the cost of sending the samples to the laboratory where necessary.

**Issuance of Certificate of Conformity**

ECAS Certificate of Conformity which is valid for five (5) years shall be issued after a full confirmation that product is complying with the requirements of UAE S. 5009/2009, by this Specific Requirement and is manufactured by a company implementing a quality management system.

A Mark of Conformity shall be issued to products having Certificate of Conformity.

Where the results of test showed that product is not complying with the requirements, the client needs to rectify the observed non-compliances and can reapply once rectification is made.

7. **INSPECTION AND MARKET MONITORING**

7.1 Plastic bags and other related packaging materials are being inspected at Port of Entry. Only consignments having valid ECAS Registration Certificates are allowed to enter the country.

7.2 Consignment without Certificate of Conformity shall be held. Ports and Customs authority shall coordinate with ESMA whenever a consignment without ECAS Certificate of Conformity is observed. Appropriate action shall then be taken by both ESMA and the Ports and Customs Authorities.

7.3 Registered products shall be inspected to ensure continuous compliance. ESMA reserves the right to inspect and conduct inspection of product in the market. As part of the monitoring process, ESMA shall take samples either at the retail shops or the
manufacturer’s warehouse for independent testing. The result of test shall be the basis whether to continue or stop the certification of product.

7.4 ESMA also reserves the right to conduct at anytime factory inspection to ensure full compliance of the product. Factory inspection shall include amongst other the process and product verification and the manner in which the product are carefully inspected and handled.

7.5 All fees related to market sampling and testing shall be paid by the manufacturer / supplier

8. **THE ECAS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**

After obtaining the Certificate of Conformity, the supplier is required to attached the Mark of Conformity together with the Certificate Number on the product.

The Certificate of Conformity can be used as a clearance releasing imported products from Ports and Customs Authorities.

The supplier can use the Certificate in trading their product as a proof that the product has been approved by ESMA.

The Certificate of Conformity and Mark of Conformity shall only be used on oxo-biodegradable products approved by ESMA. Care should be taken so as not to misuse the certificate and mark of conformity or to use it in such a manner that ESMA may consider misleading.

ECAS Certificate of Conformity shall be valid for five (5). Renewal of registration shall be required three (3) months before the expiration of the Registration Certificate.

9. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANUFACTURER / SUPPLIER**

Manufacturers and suppliers are required that only complying products are distributed in the market.

It is the responsibility of the manufacturer / supplier to continually comply with the relevant UAE Standards and by this Specific Requirements.

Manufacturers / Suppliers shall allow ESMA authorized representative to conduct factory inspection if necessary and conduct sampling of the products related to the implementation of this Specific Requirements.
10. LIABILITY AND DISCLAIMER

10.1 ESMA shall not be held responsible for any action (legal or otherwise) raise by any party against the manufacturers / suppliers on matters resulting from the implementation of ECAS for Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Bags and other related packaging materials.

10.2 The manufacturer / supplier are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the product meets the requirements of other applicable regulations that were not assessed during the process. This includes quality, safety, health and environmental regulations that are not necessarily covered by the relevant Standards and or the Specific Requirements.

11. FEES
ESMA shall collect the following fees for the processing of ECAS registration for Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Bags / plastic materials.

11.1 Application for Registration
11.2 Operational fees
11.3 Certification Decision Fee

For more information
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