



Press release

20th April 2009

BIOTHENE PASSES DEGRADABILITY TEST

The revolutionary new biodegradable plastic product Biothene™ has passed the first phase of a stringent international test which proves its degradability.

Biothene™, which is manufactured in Skegness, Lincolnshire by CFN Packaging Group Ltd, conforms to the first tier of a testing guideline published by ASTM International (formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials).

Samples of Biothene were tested to the principles of Tier 1 of ASTM D6954-04 using UV irradiation as the initial degradation process and tensile testing to demonstrate degradation.

Results showed that the material tested had reached a significant state of brittleness after 14 days of UV irradiation with the samples disintegrating in the test chamber.

There was also a noticeable drop in the tensile strength and an increase in surface oxidation.

“We’re delighted with this result,” said CFN Packaging Director Jayson Clark.

“This comprehensive and stringent testing procedure demonstrates conclusively that our pioneering new Biothene™ product is indeed oxo-degradable.”

The unrestricted use of non-degradable plastic bags has been high on the environmental agenda for some time.

About 13 billion plastic bags are given out free to UK shoppers every year and most take 1,000 years to decay.

CFN Packaging is leading the way by finding degradable alternatives which will not harm the environment.

And the company's environmentally friendly plastic products are proving popular: Biothene™ already accounts for 40 per cent of the carrier bags produced by CFN Packaging and that figure is growing all the time.

"Environmental issues are now at the top of everyone's agenda and our new degradable Biothene™ product will make a significant contribution to helping us to live more sustainably," said Jayson Clark.

"A sturdy carrier bag which can be re-used several times before degrading harmlessly is much better for the environment than a cheap plastic bag which stays in the environment for hundreds of years," said Mr Clark.

Notes to editors:

- ASTM International (ASTM), originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, is an international standards organisation which develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services.

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