

# Compostable bags

A DUTCH SPECIALIST COMPANY INTRODUCES ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY, BIODEGRADABLE BAGS FOR BREADS AND BAKED GOODS

**+** Imexpo b.v., a specialist company for ecological packaging solutions has developed totally compostable paper bags for bread and bakery items. The bags are available in various sizes and can be used for the packaging of cookies as well as for large baguettes. The paper bags have a transparent “window” made from NatureFlex film by Innovia Films, UK, through which the contents can be seen. These bags are similar to commonplace bags with windows made from plastic film, but they have an important difference: paper, film, printing inks as well as adhesive have been certified according to EN 13432 as compostable film. They are allowed to carry the “compostable” logo of the International Biodegradable Polymers Association & Working Groups (IBAW – [www.ibaw.org](http://www.ibaw.org)).

This means that in countries with a waste sorting system, these bags can be discarded as organic waste. Michael Jongerius, managing director at Imexpo, is very keen to highlight the benefits of “wet-strength” paper used to make the bags: “We supply all kinds of primary fiber paper – white, brown, printed and plain. However, due to the use of wet-strength paper, we can promote an additional benefit of our bags. Prior to throwing them into the waste, they can be used as bags for organic kitchen waste.”

This secondary use is an additional advantage and will also reduce the number of paper waste bags for wet waste bought by the consumers. The Imexpo bread bags are made from sustainable raw materials such as primary fiber paper and NatureFlex, a transparent cellulose film made from environmentally-friendly wood fiber material.

According to Michael Jongerius, the disposal of these bags together with the organic waste also provides another benefit. “Commonly wood fibers are added to the household waster to increase the quality of the compost and to control the composting process. The paper bag serves the same purpose and might contribute to eliminate the necessity to enrich the compost mixture with additional wood fibers.



Imexpo, wholesaler to a Danish production company which supplies the markets in Denmark and Sweden with more than 75 million paper bags each year, is convinced that the compostable bread bags will offer the retailers increased sales chances. “The change from plastic bags to compostable bags will increase the price for the bread bag slightly. But these bags are also very good communication carriers for the retailers.”

NatureFlexT is one of the few biopolymers available on the market which meets the European standards for soil, private compost and waste water systems at ambient temperatures as well as industrial compost production. This means that in regions where organic waste is not taken away by the municipal garbage collection, the bread bags can be disposed of in the private compost system.

E-Mail: [Imexpo@euronet.nl](mailto:Imexpo@euronet.nl) +++