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Specifications for compostable plastics

Spécifications pour les plastiques compostables



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 17088 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17088:2008), of which it constitutes a minor revision to clarify the wording of the second paragraph in Subclause 6.3.1.

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Introduction

Management of solid wastes is a problem of growing interest around the world. Cities, towns and countries are attempting to divert more materials from disposal (landfills and incineration without energy recovery) by performing different recovery options in order to transform waste into usable products. Plastics recovery technologies include material recovery (mechanical recycling, chemical or feedstock recycling, and biological or organic recycling) and the recovery of energy in the form of usable heat under controlled combustion conditions.

As interest in composting (biological or organic recycling) grows, it will be necessary to identify correctly plastics, and products made from plastics, which will disintegrate and biodegrade satisfactorily under composting conditions and will not leave any persistent or toxic residues.