Second edition
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Plastics — Determination of the degree of disintegration of plastic materials under simulated composting conditions in a laboratory-scale test

Plastiques — Détermination du degré de désintégration de matériaux plastiques dans des conditions de compostage simulées lors d'un essai de laboratoire

Reference number
ISO 20200:2015(E)

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Foreword

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20200:2004), which has been technically revised with the following changes:

a) the term "heavy metal" has been replaced by "regulated metal" (3.2);

b) the term "commercial" has been replaced by "municipal or industrial" (Clause 4 and 5);

c) the numerical value of R 42,8 % has been replaced by 42,3 % (Clause 13);

d) the variability of the results has been raised from 10 % to 20 % (Clause 13).

Introduction

The test method described in this International Standard determines the degree of disintegration of plastic materials when exposed to a composting environment. The method is simple and inexpensive, does not require special bioreactors, and is scaled for use in any general-purpose laboratory. It requires the use of a standard and homogeneous synthetic solid waste. The synthetic waste components are dry, clean, safe products which can be stored in the laboratory without any odour or health problems. The synthetic waste is of constant composition and devoid of any undesired plastic material which could be erroneously identified as test material at the end of testing, altering the final evaluation. The bioreactors are small, as is the amount of synthetic waste to be composted (approximately 3 l). With the limited amount of test material, this method provides a simplified test procedure. This test method is not aimed at determining the biodegradability of plastic materials under composting conditions. Further testing will be necessary before being able to claim compostability.