



# EMIRATES CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME



**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE REGISTRATION OF  
OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC OBJECTS  
ACCORDING TO  
UAE STANDARD 5009: 2009**



## 1. INTRODUCTION:

This document defines the Criteria for the product registration under the Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme (ECAS) being implemented by the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) under Federal Law No. 28:2001 to ensure that products that affects the life, health and safety of consumers and the environment and products that may affect the economy of the country are complying with the relevant adopted UAE standards. The requirements defined in this document are mandatory and issued for compliance of Manufacturers and Traders intending to promote and sell their products in the United Arab Emirates.

## 2. SCOPE:

This regulation covers the following products made of Polyethylene and Polypropylene with the exception of plastic products used in medical and foods fields (Annex 1).

## 3. APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND NORMATIVE REFERENCES

### 3.1 MANDATORY STANDARDS:

#	UAE STANDARD	EQUIVALENT GULF/ INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	TITLE OF STANDARD
1	UAE.S 5009/2009	None	Standard & Specification for Oxo-biodegradation of Plastic bags and other disposable Plastic objects

### 3.2 REFERENCES STANDARD:

#	STANDARDS	TITLE OF STANDARD
1	UAE.S ISO 14851	Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by measuring the oxygen demand in a closed respirometer
2	UAE.S ISO 14852	Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide
3	UAE.S ISO 14855-1	Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of 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

#### 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS

**4.1 ESMA** – The Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology. The UAE's Standards body as mandated by Federal Law No. 28 year 2001.

**4.2 Specific Requirements** - a document specifying the set of rules in order for a product to be registered under Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme.

**4.3 Supplier** – a manufacturer or trader responsible for the Products approved under the Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme.

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

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

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

**4.7 Recognized Conformity Assessment Body-** a competent body recognized by ESMA to carry out factory inspection and/or testing of product.

**4.8 Conformity Mark of Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Objects-** the logo which is approved by ESMA and placed on the oxo-biodegradable plastic Objects which is indicating the conformity of the product according to the UAE standard 5009:2009.

All other general definitions are given in Terminology as outlined in UAE.S ASTM D 883 “Standard Terminology Relating to Plastics”.



## 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Compliance of oxo-biodegradable plastic Objects with the UAE Standard 5009/2009.
- 5.2 Implementation of the quality management system of the factory according to the requirements of ISO 9001.
- 5.3 Use of additives which is approved by ESMA in manufacturing the plastic objects and other oxo-biodegradable materials. Additives used for plastic objects and food application shall be food safe and shall provide the necessary documentation as a proof of compliance.
- 5.4 Clients are required to submit Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity supported by Test Reports required under Clause 7 of UAE S. 5009/2009.
- 5.5 Compliance of the product according to the labeling requirements mentioned in UAE S. GSO 1827/2007 Labeling for Industrial Products except for Clause 5/2/9 wherein the "Use by Date" shall be stated as per the requirement of UAE S. 5009/2009 Clause 10.1 and 10.2.
- 5.6 Use of the Conformity Mark of Oxo-biodegradable Plastic objects as stated in Annex 1

## 6. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

### 6.1 Application Submission

- 6.1.1 Approved Supplier shall submit a filled ECAS application form together with the following:
- 6.1.1.1 Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity for oxo-biodegradable plastic objects
- 6.1.1.2 Test Report for plastic objects as per the requirement of UAE Standard 5009/2009 Clause 5.3 (Abiotic Degradation Test reports).
- 6.1.1.3 Chemical Analyses of the residual material on the non-degradable fraction.
- 6.1.1.4 Chemical analyses for the Ultimate Aerobic Biodegradability
- 6.1.1.5 Quality Manual
- 6.1.1.6 Valid Industry/ Trade License

Form: Specific requirements for Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Objects	Identification no.: CARL-03
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- 6.1.1.7 Proof of Exclusive Distributorship from the manufacturer in case the applicant is a trader or an agent.
- 6.1.1.8 Submit the statistical data for the production quantity (kg) for non-biodegradable and biodegradable plastic objects for the previous year (for UAE factories)
- 6.1.1.9 Location Map of the factory and warehouse where the product is stored.
- 6.1.1.10 Product Samples of oxo-biodegradable objects which will be registered.

## 6.2 Sampling and Testing of Product

- 6.2.1 Upon the submission of application for Registration, ESMA authorized personnel or representative will conduct audit.
- 6.2.2 The factory should ensure the implementation of the quality management system and shall draw samples for testing.
- Said samples shall be tested independently by an ESMA recognized third party testing laboratory.
- 6.2.3 It is the responsibility of the applicant to pay the necessary fees for the sampling and testing of the product together with the cost of sending the samples to the laboratory where necessary.

## 6.3 Registration of Product

- 6.3.1 Product shall be registered after a full confirmation that the product is complying with the requirements of UAE S. 5009/2009 and by this Specific Requirement.
- 6.3.2 Where the results of test showed that product is not complying with the requirements, the client needs to rectify the observed non-compliances within the agreed period.
- 6.3.3 An ECAS Registration Certificate shall be issued to the product upon the fulfillment of all the requirements.

## 7. INSPECTION AND MARKET MONITORING

7.1 Plastic objects are being inspected at Port of Entry. Only consignments having valid ECAS Registration Certificates and the Conformity Mark are allowed to enter the country.

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

7.3 Registered products being delivered to UAE shall be inspected to ensure continuous compliance. ESMA reserves the right to inspect and conduct inspection of the product being distributed in the market. ESMA shall conduct a regular monitoring of plastic objects where 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 registration of the product.

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

7.5 As a minimum requirement, samples taken as market samples and monitoring samples shall be verified for:

- Ecotoxicity
- Heavy Metals
- Abiotic Degradation
- Any other parameters as deemed necessary by ESMA

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

## **8. THE ECAS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**

8.1 The Conformity Mark shall be placed on the certified product in a clear manner, at the bottom part, on both sides of the product. The conformity mark shall be non-removable and shall occupy 10-15% of the total surface area and after approval from ESMA.

8.2 After obtaining the Registration Certificate, the approved supplier can use the certificate in clearing the registered products at the Ports and Customs Authorities.

8.3 The approved supplier may also use the Certificate in trading their product as a proof that the product has been approved and monitored by ESMA.

8.4 The ECAS Registration Certificate and mark shall be used only on the oxo-biodegradable objects and approved by ESMA. Care should be taken so as not



to misuse the certificate and the mark or to use it in such a manner that ESMA may consider misleading.

8.5 ECAS Registration Certificate for Plastic objects shall be valid for one year. Renewal of registration shall be required a month before the expiration of the Registration Certificate.

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

9.1 Approved suppliers are required that only complying products are distributed in the market.

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

9.3 Approved Suppliers shall allow ESMA authorized representative to conduct factory inspection and monitoring the production process and conduct sampling if necessary of the products related to the implementation of this Specific Requirements.

## **10. LIABILITY AND DISCLAIMER**

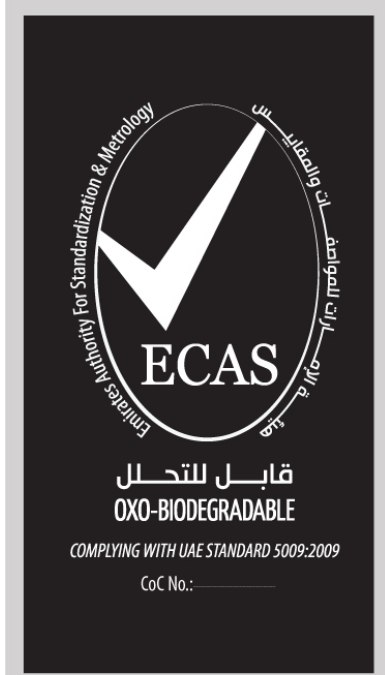
10.1 ESMA shall not be held responsible for any action (legal or otherwise) raise by any party against the approved suppliers on matters resulting from the implementation of ECAS for Oxo-biodegradable Plastic Objects / plastic materials.

10.2 The approved suppliers 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**

- 11.1 Application for Registration
- 11.2 Technical Document Review
- 11.3 Issuance of Certificate





**ECAS LOGO Guideline**  
 Plastic Bag Color = "Black"  
 Printing = "1" Color



**ECAS LOGO Guideline**  
 Plastic Bag Color = "White"  
 Printing = "1" Color



**ECAS LOGO Guideline**  
 Plastic Bag Color = "Multi"  
 Printing = "1" or "2" Color





Annex (1):

This regulation covers the following products made of Polyethylene and Polypropylene:

1. All Carrier Bags (including shopping bags, garbage bags, garment bags, and any disposable bags).
2. Courier and Security bags.
3. Mail Order Bags (Magazine and Newspaper Bags)
4. Disposable Cutlery such as plastic plate and plastic cups
5. Bubble Wrap and Cushioning Packaging
6. Flower Wrap
7. Overwrap Packaging
8. Stretch Film
9. Cling Film
10. Shrink Film
11. Plastic Liners for Cartons
12. Personal Care products made of plastic materials such as gloves, shoe covers, aprons and any disposable personal care products
13. Plastic bags for seedlings
14. Polyethylene Sheets on Rolls such as table covers
15. Bags for packaging Bread, nuts, sweets and all bakery items

**For more information  
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