

OK BIOBASED and USING LOGOS – Frequently Asked Questions

BASIC PRINCIPLE:
THE OK BIOBASED LOGO
MAY BE FEATURED ONLY
IF THE RELEVANT
PRODUCT HAS BEEN
FORMALLY CERTIFIED
BY VINCOTTE.

Can my product be OK biobased certified if I did not manufacture it myself?

Yes, provided you conclude a model contract (manufacturer's agreement) with the manufacturer in order to assure that the manufacturer is aware of the certification rules and follows them.

What do the stars mean?

The number of stars on the logo refers to the Biobased Carbon Content (BCC) class obtained:

- 1 star: 20 – 40 % BCC
- 2 stars: 40 – 60 % BCC
- 3 stars: 60 – 80 % BCC
- 4 stars: > 80 % BCC

What is the difference between "OK biobased" and "OK compost"?

The main difference is that OK biobased treats the origin of the product (what is the product made of?), whereas OK compost concerns the end-of-life of a product (how to dispose after use?).

Subsequently the test and evaluation methods of both certifications are completely different.

I know my products are renewable/biobased. What are the advantages of having the OK biobased certificate/logo?

- The logo of an independent third party shows the attention you pay to the credibility of your product in the eyes of your customers.
- Your product and those of your competitors are all evaluated according exactly the same rules. This increases transparency and fair play on the market.

Can I also use the logo without the stars?

No. The number of stars must always be present in the logo. It is not allowed to modify the number or the position of stars allocated to the specific product. The logo application technique (printing, embossing, ...) must allow the stars obtained and non-obtained to be clearly visible.

What does the logo's S number represent?

The logo's "Sxxx" code refers to the licence holder of the product certificate, who is responsible for ensuring the product complies with the requirements of the OK biobased certification programme.

May the logo also be used without an S number?

The logo may be used without the S number solely for commercial and information purposes (on flyers, websites, information panels, etc...), unlike a logo featured on a product or promotional material: this must always be formally certified and feature a logo with the S code.



My material is OK biobased certified. May the logo be used by those who process my product?

No, because you do not know what the processor may add to your product (ink, glue, ...). Your product being OK biobased certified is no guarantee that every product into which it is incorporated complies with the requirements of the OK biobased programme.

May I show further information about the environmental aspects of my product alongside the logo?

Yes, you may but you have to bear in mind that as an OK biobased licence holder you are responsible for the *accuracy* of the information.

For example: an OK biobased certified product, that was *not* certified for compostability or biodegradability (see the column on the left for the difference between OK biobased and OK compost) may not be accompanied by "This product is compostable/biodegradable".

Does the certificate number have to be featured on the product?

No, the product certificate number is not featured on the product, solely the licence holder's S code, which allows the product to be traced precisely.

More information?

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