

SYMPHONY'S d₂w OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC APPROVED BY UAE GOVERNMENT

A certificate has been issued by the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA), authorising Symphony UK, through its exclusive local Distributor, Ecopolymers, to supply oxo-biodegradable plastic products in the United Arab Emirates.

Certification is necessary because plastic bags and other plastic products are progressively banned in the UAE **unless they are oxo-biodegradable**, and supplied by a certified supplier whose technology and manufacturing process has been inspected and approved by ESMA in accordance with UAE Standard 5009/2009. Symphony was the first company to obtain this certification.

Symphony's d₂w technology turns ordinary plastic at the end of its useful life into a material with a completely different molecular structure. At that stage it is no longer a plastic and has become a material which can be bio-assimilated in the open environment in the same way as a leaf.

This is seen in the UAE as a very important step forward in protecting its desert lands and coasts, from the blight of plastic pollution, because ordinary plastic without d₂w could lie or float around for decades.

It is not practical to collect all of this plastic for recycling or other forms of disposal, and it is not necessary or desirable to ban plastic altogether. The Government of the UAE has therefore decided to require the plastic to be oxo-biodegradable, so that if it gets out into the open environment it will degrade then biodegrade in a short period, leaving no harmful residues. Compostable plastic would not do this, as it is designed for industrial composting.

Symphony's CEO, Michael Laurier, said "We congratulate the Government of the UAE in being the first in the world to take effective action to deal with the plastic pollution which cannot realistically be collected, and we congratulate our Distributors, Ecopolymers, for all their hard work during the certification process."

Ecopolymers CEO, Winston Pryce, said "We are proud to be Symphony's exclusive Distributor for d₂w in the UAE, and to be making a positive contribution to protecting our environment for future generations."

NOTE TO EDITORS

Symphony has a diverse and growing customer-base and has established itself successfully as an international business. Products made with d₂w plastic technology are now being sold by 59 Distributors in more than 90 countries around the world and in many different product applications. The technology is branded d₂w[®] and appears as a droplet logo on many thousands of tonnes of plastic packaging and other plastic products. Symphony is a member of the Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (www.biodeg.org), the Society for the Chemical Industry (UK), and the American Standards Organisation (ASTM). Symphony is also a member of the European Organisation for Packaging & the Environment (Europen), the US Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, and the British Brands Group. Symphony actively participates in the work of the British Standards Institute (BSI), the European Standards Organisation (CEN), and the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

CONTACT:

Louise Ling
Symphony Environmental 0208-207-590
louise.ling@d2w.net

