



Press Release

15th February 2011

UAE BANS PLASTIC PRODUCTS – EXCEPT OXO-BIO PLASTICS

The United Arab Emirates have brought forward their ban on all disposable plastic products except those made from oxo-biodegradable plastic, from next year to this year because of worries about plastic pollution accumulating in the deserts and the sea, and its effect on the local wildlife. By Decree 77/5 plastic bags and other plastic products had been prohibited as from 1st January 2013.

Oxo-biodegradable plastic, with its controlled lifespan and its ability to biodegrade completely either on land or water, has proved popular across the Middle East and particularly in the UAE, where Symphony is an authorised supplier. This is a huge opportunity for Symphony to supply a market estimated at 500,000 tonnes. Symphony is also making available its d2detector, a portable device which can tell instantly whether a plastic product is oxo-biodegradable.

The Official Notice covers not just plastic bags, but all packaging and disposable articles made from plastic polymers derived from fossil-fuels. These include but are not limited to, flexible shopping bags and semi-rigid plastic packaging for food, magazines, consumer-durables, garbage bags, bin-liners for household use, shrink wrap, pallet wrap, cling film etc and other articles normally used over short periods and subsequently discarded.

From now on, all plastic products will need an ECAS Registration Certificate issued by ESMA (Emirates Authority for Standardisation & Metrology). However, these will be issued only for products made from oxo-bio plastic. These products must be made with pro-degradant additive from suppliers who have been audited by ESMA and they have to comply with UAE Standard 5009 of 2009.

ESMA announced that plastic bags and other plastic products would be inspected at port-of-entry and that consignments without an ECAS Registration Certificate would be impounded and appropriate action taken by the authorities.

ESMA will also conduct factory inspections to ensure full compliance of products being manufactured within the UAE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Symphony is the only public company specialising in oxo-biodegradable plastics. It has a diverse and growing customer-base and has established itself as a global business, now serving more than 90 countries through 67 Distributors. It has invested heavily in R&D and is continuing to develop innovative environmental technology.

Symphony is a member of the Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (www.biodeg.org); the Society for the Chemical Industry (UK); the British Plastics Federation; the European Organisation for Packaging & the Environment (EUROPEN), and the Pacific Basin Economic Council.





Symphony actively participates in the Committee work of the American Standards organisation (ASTM), the British Standards Institute (BSI), the European Standards Organisation (CEN), and the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

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