



BSI Standards Publication

Plastics — Template for reporting and communication of bio-based carbon content and recovery options of biopolymers and bioplastics — Data sheet

National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Plastics - Template for reporting and communication of bio-based carbon content and recovery options of biopolymers and bioplastics - Data sheet

Plastiques - Modèle pour le rapport et la communication de la teneur en carbone biosourcé et des options de valorisations des biopolymères et bioplastiques - Fiche technique

Kunststoffe - Vorlage für die Angabe des Gehaltes an biobasiertem Kohlenstoff und der Verwertungsmöglichkeiten für Biopolymere und Biokunststoffe - Datenblatt

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16398:2012) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 “Plastics”, the secretariat of which is held by NBN.

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Introduction

CEN/TR 15932 [1] gives recommendations for the terminology and the characterisation of biopolymers and bioplastics.

Biopolymers and bioplastics can be either bio-based (based on biomass) or biodegradable in industrial composting plants, or both. Furthermore, in the biomedical sector the terms biopolymer and bioplastic mainly refer to the biological compatibility with living tissues. As a consequence, the terms "biopolymer" and "bioplastic" can identify products with very different characteristics.

The different characteristics which relate to the "bio-" prefix can thus be a potential source of confusion as recognised by CEN/TR 15392. As the result of chemical modifications or the combination with non-biodegradable parts, the biodegradable nature of the original biological raw material can be lost in the final biopolymer rendering it non-biodegradable. This is a potential problem especially for disposable products as the end-user may mistake bio-based for biodegradable products and vice-versa.

The terms biopolymer and bioplastic are not exhaustive and more detailed information needs to be declared in order to better specify the real nature and properties of each biopolymer or bioplastic.