

Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P) Process for Industry Investigation

Designation Item

This section details the item that has been investigated for designation in the FB4P.

Item Investigated: Biodegradable Films

Item Description: Films used in packaging and other applications made from biobased materials that meet ASTM D6400 standards for biodegradability.

Industry Investigation

There are four main sources of information used to gather data about items for designation. These include Internet search engines, the Thomas Register, industry associations, and biobased industry contacts. Each of these sources provides different results. The Internet search engines and the Thomas Register provide many results when a keyword is entered. However, when investigating products through the industry associations and biobased industry contacts, the results tend to be product or company specific. A lengthy, but thorough list of biobased companies which product the designation item can be developed best by utilizing all four information sources.

Internet Search Engines

When searching the Internet, each search engine utilizes a different algorithm to find related topics. To maximize results and ensure correct data, keywords are entered into several search engines. Primary search engines include Google, Yahoo, WebCrawler and Meta Crawler.

| Search Engine | Keywords | Results |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Google | Biodegradable Films Biobased films | www.corrosionvci.com www.biomatnet.org www.brittontaco.com www.pollutionengineering.com |
| Yahoo | See above | www.corrosionvci.com www.penpages.psu.edu www.arserrc.gov www.cortecvci.com |
| Alta Vista | See above | www.corrosionvci.com www.bio-tec.biz www.penpages.psu.edu www.cortecvci.com |

Thomas Register

The Thomas Register, a free web service found at <http://www.thomasregister.com/>, provides a database of over 173,000 companies that can be searched by company name, product name or keyword. Each result contains contact information and may also include other useful information such as a product catalog.

| Keyword | Results |
|---------|---------|
|---------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Biodegradable Films | www.tazpack.com www.tekra.com |
| Biobased films | www.kapcoconverting.com www.generalrubberplastics.com www.gulfpacific.com www.blueridgefilms.com www.cpfilms.com www.usplastic.com www.contractconverting.com www.paperandfilm.com |
| | |

Industry Associations

Industry associations provide a good source to identify potential manufacturers, determine additional keywords for internet searches, and provide general descriptions of products within an item. Many associations maintain official websites with lists of member organizations and in some cases catalogs of available products.

| Association Investigated / Contacted | Results |
|--|---------|
| Biobased Manufacturers Association United Soybean Board California Film Extruders and Converters Association | |

Biobased Company Contacts

Company contacts come as a result of interaction with government officials, researchers, and industry representatives. FB4P staff follow-up on personal referrals or potential leads to possible biobased products.

| Company | Contact Person | Results |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Cortec Corporation | Mr. Bob Boyle | Eco Works 30 Eco Works 55 Eco Works 50 |
| Biodegradable Food Service, LLC | Kevin Duffy | Bio Wrap |
| | | |
| | | |

Conclusion

The results from the four information sources indicate that 15 manufacturing companies in the United States are currently producing Biodegradable Films that may be considered for inclusion in the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program.