



We base our assessments of compostable, biodegradable or biobased products on laboratory tests according to well-defined standards.

There are three possible configurations:

### 1. UNPROVEN COMPETENCE

The laboratory is not accredited or is accredited but for other tests than those used for our assessments.

In this case, we cannot use the reports issued.

### 2. COMPETENT (ACCREDITED) lab

The laboratory is ISO 17025 accredited (by the authorities) for the relevant tests.

This means that the laboratory is technically competent, but probably does not know our interpretations (resulting from 25 years of practice in this field) or our particular protocols (e.g. for tests on inks) or how we define worst cases in the case of product families.

This means that we must - before assessing the conformity of the product under test - evaluate the test methods, test conditions and content reports.

In addition to the extra costs charged for these additional steps, there is no automatic acceptance of the reports, and we are regularly forced to reject reports as not conforming to our internal procedures and requirements. This is extremely inconvenient for the clients who have carried out the tests, as it is a waste of time and money.

### 3. COMPETENT & REGISTERED lab

The competence of the laboratory has been validated by an audit carried out by us and the laboratory is aware of our particular protocols and working methods and knows that in case of doubt, they can ask for our advice before starting any tests.

We know that these tests have been carried out to our requirements, so the verification of the reports is streamlined and they can be used in the evaluation of the products.

When an applicant is looking for a laboratory, we will only direct them to registered laboratories, a list of which is available on our website.