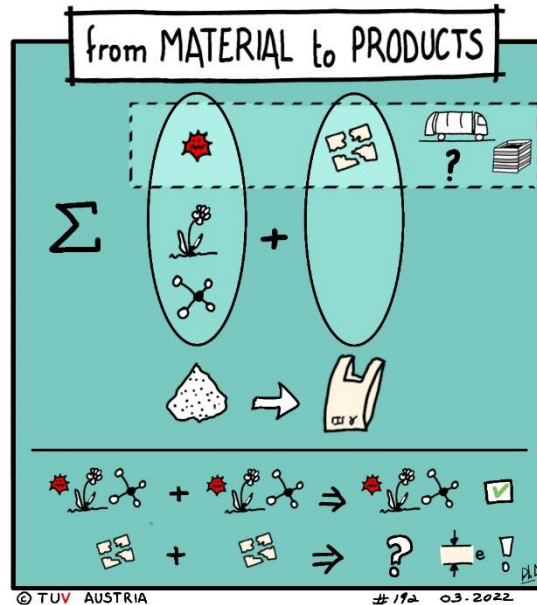


19 – From material to products



As explained previously, 4 criteria must be met for a product to be considered compostable (see sketch 01):

1. The basic material(s) of which it is composed must be transformed into CO₂, water and biomass by the action of micro-organisms within a given timeframe;
2. It cannot be toxic to the environment;
3. It can only contain certain regulated elements in very small quantities;
4. And it must disintegrate within a specified time.

Biodegradability and disintegrability are related to the environment in which this degradation occurs (e.g. industrial or home compost). (see sketch 09 – industrial vs home compost)

The first three characteristics are related to the material. For a specified environment, a material is either considered biodegradable or not, regardless of its form.

In contrast, the ability of a finished product made from this biodegradable material to disintegrate (in that environment) will depend on its shape, and especially its thickness. The thicker a film is, the longer it will take to disintegrate.

It therefore follows logically that the combination of two biodegradable components/constituents remains biodegradable. The same applies to regulated elements and ecotoxicity.

On the contrary, the same combination may not meet the disintegration criteria of the finished product.

For this reason, a product made from certified components/constituents cannot claim to be compostable without an assessment of the product in question, particularly in terms of shape and thickness.

If you find a product bearing our logo with an SCode that corresponds to a base material/resin producer, you can be sure that this product has not been assessed by us and - without prejudging the product's compliance with the criteria - that it is a misuse (see sketch 06 – valid or fake)

In this case, do not hesitate to inform us via monitoring@tuv-a.com