

Cortec's Eco Film™ & Eco Works™ Receive BPI Certification

New York, NY April 12, 2004 Cortec Corporation of White Bear Lake, MN is the latest addition to Biodegradable Product Institute's (BPI) growing list of ASTM D 6400-99 certified compostable product manufacturers. Cortec is the first manufacturer with both ISO 14001 and ISO 9001-2000 certifications to join BPI and the first domestic extrusion facility to receive the scientifically-based symbol awarded by the BPI and US Composting Council.

In 1977, Cortec was founded in a garage by Boris Miksic in an attempt to combat the devastating effects of corrosion (rust) on industries including automotive, telecommunications, military and construction. "From the beginning we strived to offer our customers unparalleled performance without sacrificing worker or environmental safety," states Miksic, Cortec's President. Cortec is now the world's largest manufacturer of corrosion-inhibiting (VpCI/VCI) products with four manufacturing sites, distribution in 75 countries and eight sales offices in five countries.

Capitalizing on their cutting edge industrial film extrusion experience, Cortec continued to pursue additional markets by creating unique compostable films. "Our initial customers required durable, moisture resistant corrosion-inhibiting films to meet stringent environmental regulations. We realized that we could apply our expertise to overcoming the existing issues of compostable films and successfully enter and compete new, diverse markets," states Bob Boyle, Technical Representative at Cortec. Two new products were born: Eco Film and Eco Works.

Eco Film™ is an elastic, compostable film ideal for applications ranging from organic collection bags to high performance stretch film replacement. “Eco Film is not just another compostable film,” states Boyle. “Our testing shows that it is actually stronger than non-biodegradable films and has longer curb-life and useful life than other biodegradable films on the market.”

Eco Works™ uses proprietary corn-based resin and co-polyester technology, enabling the physical characteristics to be modified while still adhering to the USDA’s proposed biobased regulations. Eco Works bags are superior to those based on starch, which are susceptible to moisture and temperature. “We are able to modify the barrier properties, appearance, rigidity and other characteristics to meet or exceed our customers needs, even under very rigorous conditions,” explains Boyle.

“BPI is a very important organization for Cortec and our customers,” explains Miksic. “By using a recognizable, scientific standard for the industry, our customers are able to select the



products that will meet their compostability needs. Additionally, BPI levels the playing field for manufacturers of truly compostable films. Prior to BPI, companies selling older technologies, confused the market with claims that couldn’t be verified. We look forward to finally competing on performance and quality,” Miksic added.

Cortec® Corporation, a pioneer and global supplier in specialty chemicals, plastics, packaging, metalworking, cleaning and metal protection technologies, is located in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. ISO 9001 and 14001 certified, it manufactures over 300 products in five plants located in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The BPI is designed to be a multi-stakeholder group, involving people and organizations that produce, use or recover biodegradable plastic products. It promotes the growth of biodegradable plastics through education, use of scientifically-based standards and cooperative efforts with organizations in Europe and Asia.

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