

PACKAGING MADE OF BIODEGRADABLE MATERIALS

DEFINITION

Packaging made of biodegradable materials within the meaning of the Austrian Packaging Ordinance are materials made from renewable raw materials that are used for packaging purposes, are biodegradable and cannot be assigned to categories 1.01.0 to 1.04.6 or 2.01.0 to 2.10.0 of ARA's list of tariff rates.

Important:

The definition of plastics has been expanded in accordance with Article 3(8)e of the Austrian Packaging Ordinance 2014 (as amended by Federal Law Gazette II No. 597/2021): From 1 January 2022, this definition also includes all types of chemically modified natural polymers.

This means that bioplastics largely fall under the definition of plastics and are no longer classified as packaging made of biodegradable materials (e. g. polyhydroxyalkanoates PHA, polyhydroxybutyrate PHB, polylactic acid PLA).

Examples of packaging made of biodegradable materials:

- Natural polymers that have not been chemically modified, such as regenerated cellulose (viscose, lyocell, cellulose film, but not cellulose acetate)
- Palm leaf
- Straw

Textile fibres such as jute, cotton etc. are classified as textiles, groundwood pulp is classified as paper.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.