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CALIFORNIA Labelling Laws – 2011

Applies ONLY to packaging sold in California.

California's Laws: *Strict laws regulate the marketing and labeling of degradable plastic products sold in California, including those claimed to be "compostable" or "biodegradable." Environmental marketing claims, whether explicit or implied, must be substantiated by competent and reliable scientific evidence and meet specified standards to prevent misleading consumers about the environmental impact of degradable plastic products, including bags, food service ware, and packaging.*

In 2011, legislation was passed that extended restrictions on use of degradability terms to nearly all plastic products. ([See Public Resources Code \(PRC\) Sections 42355-42358.5.](#)) The law requires clear scientific evidence for environmental claims, noting biodegradation is a complex process dependent on physical and chemical structure, environmental conditions, and time.

"Please be aware that due to California Labelling Laws, the words "Biodegradable or Compostable" are not permitted, along with any other wording/claims referring to degradation. Should you wish to over-label the packaging where that is present, TekPak Solutions will not be responsible for labels falling off or peeling off. The testing of your label's adhesion is your responsibility. (Permanent Adhesive is best).

What they want to avoid are unsubstantiated claims. Proof can be too lengthy for a package but this can be shown on a website. It has to be honest and not misleading. TekPak can supply you with extensive proof.

As an option, you can print on the packaging "Go to (Insert Your Website) or use (www.tekpaksolutions.com) for more info on this packaging"

Failure to comply could cause a lawsuit and/or fines by California against your company, which we want to avoid."