

Seedling ? EN 13432 ? OK compost Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an additional evaluation procedure required if I want to use the Seedling logo for products that are already OK compost-certified? Will there be additional cost?

- Standard \neq Certification scheme

The European standard for biodegradability and compostability EN 13432 was published in 2000. This standard specifies the reference requirements that all compostable products must meet. However, compostable products are in a constant process of evolution and improvement. In the more than 10 years after the publication of EN 13432 new products or variants regularly emerged which the standard did not always fully cover. It is important to always interpret the standard in the same way, and these interpretations are recorded in a certification scheme.

In Europe two certification schemes developed completely independently, so both certification schemes do not completely overlap. These are the certification schemes of OK compost and the Seedling logo.

- Overlap and differences

Vinçotte offers both forms of certification (OK compost and Seedling) with their respective certification schemes. As both certification schemes are based on the same standard (EN 13432) there is a large degree of overlap. Nevertheless there are differences in interpretation. An evaluation is therefore still needed to transform an OK compost-certificate into a Seedling logo-certificate, and vice versa. You can always request a free quote to find out the specific cost for the evaluation of your product.

Will multiple certification bodies offer the OK compost logo?

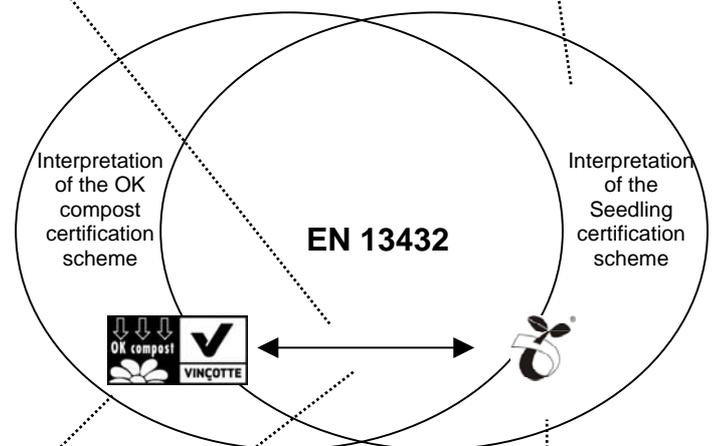
No. Vinçotte will remain the only certification body for OK compost certification.

Will the Seedling and OK compost logo coexist?

Both logos – OK compost and the Seedling logo – have built up an important degree of recognisability and credibility during the course of their long history and in some countries the emphasis is on OK compost (France, Italy, Belgium, ...) whereas in other countries (Germany, the Netherlands, ...) the focus has instead been on the Seedling logo. Vinçotte offers both logos side by side so that its customers can provide their products with the necessary degree of recognisability to their compostable products.

What should I do if I want to change the certification body for the Seedling logo?

Din Certco and Vinçotte operate under the same certification scheme for the Seedling logo, while both working as independent certification bodies for European Bioplastics (owner of the Seedling logo). You could compare this to two different shops that sell the same brand. Din Certco and Vinçotte can therefore not recognise each other's certifications without additional evaluation. With the permission of the client (because of the confidentiality of the data) Certco Din and Vinçotte will however do their utmost to exchange data with each other to allow this additional evaluation to transpire as swiftly as possible.



What should I do if I want to have an end product certified for the Seedling logo while its base material was certified by another certification body?

See the answer to the question above. In addition to the data exchange that can take place between Din Certco and Vinçotte, as a certification body for OK compost, Vinçotte possesses an extremely wide range of certified raw materials and intermediate materials. Assuming the rules regarding confidentiality of data are respected, Vinçotte can use the data from these OK compost certified materials for certification in the context of the Seedling logo.