Consultation Response

Standards for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics

October 2019
Introduction

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Our Environmental Law sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to consider and respond to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs’ consultation on Standards for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics. We have the following comments to put forward for consideration.

General comments

In relation to the imposition of standards for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics, we note the importance of the standards being clear and understandable. We consider that there would be merit in consistency in the standards across the UK jurisdictions, both for commercial reasons and to avoid confusion for consumers. The more different standards and systems there are, the less effective the overall recycling effort is likely to be. However, we recognise that this could be challenging given that this is just one aspect of wider regulatory frameworks that might establish differing labelling and recycling requirements.

This work interacts with the development of DRS schemes throughout the UK and a plastic packaging tax. Where necessary, it is important that proposals are consistent to ensure that they can operate effectively.

3 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plastic-packaging-tax
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