



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Omniplast First Canadian Manufacturer to Offer Environmentally Friendly Plastic Bags with a Controlled Lifetime

(St. Hubert, Quebec – November 17, 2004) - Omniplast Inc., a pioneer in manufacturing polyethylene bags in North America, is pleased to announce that it has completed an extensive test program and is the first Canadian manufacturing company ready to provide customers with environmentally friendly plastic bags designed with a controlled lifetime.

According to the latest available statistics, nearly four million tons of plastic products are sent to Canadian landfills every year. This waste is expected to accumulate in the environment for decades, contrary to the principles of sustainable development.

Omniplast, in partnership with Vancouver-based EPI Environmental Products Inc., has acquired the rights to apply the Totally Degradable Plastic Additives (TDPA[®]) technology in the manufacturing process of its poly bags. Plastic bags will degrade in a little time as a few months to five years when discarded as the additive accelerates the oxidation of the plastic.

The degradation process, triggered by UV light, heat or mechanical stress, occurs at a rate tailored to the buyer's requirements, breaking down over a period of months or years. Once the plastic begins to oxidize it becomes brittle and susceptible to the usual agents of degradation, such as moisture and microbes.

“We have many clients we can offer this process that will let them control the life cycle of their plastic bags,” says Omniplast President Marc Robitaille. “Our customers can promote their corporate image through distinctive and creative designs using the most appropriate choice of biodegradable plastic packaging products that are recognized as environmentally friendly.”

Less than ten per cent of plastic bags end up in the recycling chain, the rest is disposed in landfills or in the streets accumulating as litter. Plastic bag products incorporating the controlled lifetime additive begin to degrade over a pre-determined period and ultimately biodegrade leaving no toxic or harmful residue in the environment. Large corporations

such as Safeway, Tesco and Wal-Mart have successfully completed a two-year test using biodegradable plastic bags using TDPA[®] in their European operations.

“We are proud to be the first Canadian manufacturer to provide a 100 per cent biodegradable plastic bag,” says Robitaille. “We will continue to strive to be a pioneer in our industry providing innovative products to our customers.”

About Omniplast

Omniplast Inc., an innovative Canadian supplier of flexible packaging products, manufactures polyethylene bags, envelopes and roll stock. It also supplies folding cartons; paper bags; tissue paper; gift-wrap; and garment bags. The company manufactures more than 500 million plastic bags a year for customers that include major North American specialty apparel, gift, wine and spirits and cosmetic retail chains; retail packaging distributors and paper merchants; commercial, promotional and industrial facilities; and local, regional and national institutions or government agencies.

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