

LANXESS offers high-quality products for the PVC industry

Mumbai: While Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is a key constituent of most objects that we see around us in our day-to-day lives like furniture, children's' toys, cables and several packaging applications. A key chemical component that lends plasticity/malleability to most of these applications is plasticizers. Most of the commonly marketed plasticizers in the market are phthalate-based which are not only toxic but could prove to be carcinogenic. Specialty chemicals group LANXESS offers a range of phthalate-free plasticizers to enable them to switch to safer alternatives. LANXESS has recorded above-average growth with its high performing plasticizer Mesamoll since 2005. This product is used by many customers as an alternative to phthalate-based plasticizers.

In the rubber industry and among manufacturers of polyurethane sealants and high-quality PVC products, Mesamoll II serves as a versatile alternative to phthalate containing plasticizers. The polymer additive is also in great demand due to its superior technical properties. Its rapid gelling behavior enables low processing temperatures and time, while its high resistance to light and saponification are particularly beneficial in applications where weathering resistance is important. The latter property of this plasticizer prolongs the life of PVC products. It also displays low volatility, and the products manufactured from it demonstrate outstanding high-frequency welding properties. In addition, it neither contains phthalates, nor is it manufactured using them.

Mesamoll® is a general purpose plasticiser compatible with acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR) from LANXESS and can be specially designed for the manufacture of PVC Pipes and polyurethanes, commonly used for plumbing. It is a highly flexible plasticiser, suitable for fittings and other plumbing applications. It remains unaffected by adverse and extreme weather conditions and is free from toxic substances.

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Furthermore, PVC film containing Mesamoll® II displays excellent heat-sealing characteristics, and in contrast to many conventional plasticizers, products manufactured with Mesamoll® II have excellent weathering resistance and printability.

Mesamoll® II is suitable for a large number of applications which include toys, gloves, film for water beds, sealants and casting compounds for the construction sector, as well as swimming floats and rubber boots.

Another significant offering from the LANXESS stable for the PVC processing industry are the nitrile rubbers which, as a versatile additive enhances several properties. LANXESS also offers of easily processed powder NBR additives with the pre-crosslinked nitrile rubber (NBR) Baymod N XL 33.61. This new variant is capable, among other things, of improving the surface quality of extruded PVC products. Baymod N XL 33.61 can also help to mitigate challenges that can probably arise with potentially problematic plasticizers.

Due to their polarity, nitrile rubbers with a medium to high acrylonitrile (ACN) content can easily be mixed with PVC in high proportions and results in a cost-effective material with much sought-after new properties. The spectrum extends to proper PVC / NBR blends that are characterized by good elasticity and exceptional ozone and weathering resistance. Moreover, NBR can improve the low-temperature flexibility and oil resistance of the plastic and eases extrusion of the material.

The powder nitrile rubber, Baymod N XL 33.61 from LANXESS, (particle size 0.4 ± 0.2 millimeters) with 33 percent ACN proportion, is pre-crosslinked ex works and specially designed for use in PVC extrusion, such as in cable and profile manufacture. Even at proportions of around 20 percent in the PVC matrix, this Baymod N variant produces particularly smooth and high-quality surfaces which looks much superior than the PVC material resembling an ordinary plastic.

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Another key advantage of using Baymod N XL 33.61 is that the user can regulate the volume of plasticizers required. Combined with the LANXESS plasticizer Mesamoll, it would be possible to largely dispense with dioctyl phthalate (DOP) and its alternative, diisononyl phthalate (DINP). Although the latter may not be considered in the European Union as it is considered harmful for humans, some of LANXESS customers in other markets want to opt out of using phthalate-containing plasticizers altogether. Baymod N XL 33.61 provides them with another way of doing just that, and significantly boosts the quality of their products at the same time.

About LANXESS

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 9.1 billion in 2012 and roughly 17,500 employees in 31 countries. The company is currently represented at 52 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of plastics, rubber, intermediates and specialty chemicals. LANXESS is a member of the leading sustainability indices Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) World and FTSE4Good as well as the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI).

Forward-Looking Statements

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You can find further information concerning LANXESS chemistry in our WebMagazine at <http://webmagazine.lanxess.com>.

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