

Technical articles

P. BHADANE

Santoprene R² TPVs made using Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) materials offer opportunities for sustainable solutions 136

The drive towards sustainability has gained such momentum in the last decade that it has become top of the agenda for many industry conferences. Millennials and society in general are becoming more conscious of the products they use and their impact on the environment. Initiatives like the EU Green Deal and CHINA VI which are stimulating the automotive value chain to constantly consider how new sustainability objectives can be achieved, only underline this movement. Value chains and brand owners have already made aspirations to use materials made using or incorporating recycled content.

Where does this transition start? How can it be seamlessly implemented without compromising a company's competitiveness? What is taken into consideration when assessing a product that is made using post-consumer recycled material? If "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle" is ones aim, the management of the product's end-of-life (EOL) becomes an important step in closing the loop.

S. ZEPNIK

Electrically conductive TPV. A solution for elastomeric conductive applications matching the growing market demand 142

Thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) are frequently used nowadays in a wide range of applications from seals to hard/soft parts. This is mainly due to their interesting properties such as high elasticity, good resilience, easy coloring, good recyclability as well as thermoplastic processability. The penetration of electronics in more and more everyday equipment, combined with the versatile characteristics of TPEs, means that their electrical conductivity is also becoming an increasingly important property for a wide range of applications in the automotive, E & E and mechanical engineering sectors. During development of conductive TPEs, various criteria must be taken into account and fulfilled, thus making it a complex challenge. The following technical paper aims to describe essential criteria for the production of electrically conductive TPVs, using Alfater XL EC as an example.

R. MOLteni, L. KLING

Carbon footprint of thermoplastic elastomers. Nowadays a good instrument for decision-making?.... 148

To fight climate change and to achieve the mandatory climate goals set by the politics, many companies implemented in the past years a climate management system and aim to drastically reduce their emissions within the next few years. The carbon footprint summarizes the total greenhouse emissions caused by a person, an organization, a service or a product – and it is widely accepted as good way to measure emissions and their variation over years.

R. MARIOTTI

Sanitizing of TPE surfaces..... 152

The pandemic has brought many changes in our lifestyle; some of which are destined to remain the heritage of our culture: the greater use of personal protective equipment in the professional sphere is certainly the most evident change. Like the world of food packaging, even for the personal protective equipment, the use of reusable devices is establishing the detriment of disposable; this trend brings the need to have materials that allow easy and effective sanitization of the devices. Therefore, it makes sense to talk about the processes typically used for sanitation. In the medical sector, the autoclave sterilization process is commonly applied by hospitals to clothing, personal protective equipment, medical devices and equipment.

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