



APN reports on leading TPE manufacturers, Kraiburg and VTC TPE Group



Versatile elastomers

With the new Thermolast M portfolio, Kraiburg TPE is presenting itself as a competent and reliable partner to the medical profession and the pharmaceutical industry. The new product line offers a material that satisfies the stringent performance and safety requirements called for by customers worldwide. What's more, those customers benefit from the fast and economical one- or two-component injection moulding process.

Based on styrene block copolymers (SBC), the TPEs guarantee the highest safety standards for manufacturing pharmaceutical packaging, medical products, instruments and therapeutic appliances. All the materials in the medical portfolio have been cleared for medical use, as is verified by approval certificates as per USP class VI, USP 6.6.1 (chemical/physical interactions), ISO 10993-5 (cytotoxicity), ISO 10993-11 (system toxicity), and ISO 10993-10 (sensitisation and irritation). Extraction studies conducted by independent institutes also confirm the quality of the compounds. Furthermore, all the TPEs are listed in a drug master file that unequivocally documents their ingredients and production. Another advantage for customers: the delivery guarantee. Kraiburg TPE pledges unchanging formulations and processes for all the Thermolast M compounds for two years. Should a change nonetheless become

necessary, due to a feedstock material no longer being available, for instance, then the customer will also be informed of this at least two years in advance. To ensure this, the company has concluded appropriate agreements with its materials suppliers.

In addition to that, the TPE specialist has set up a separate production unit in Waldkraiburg, dedicating certain pre-existing items of machinery to medical production. This unit processes only those raw materials that are suited for the use in medical equipment and ensures that they present no health risk. Apart from the additives which are responsible for the ability to resist gamma radiation, the compounds consist of four main components: the styrene block copolymer (SEBS/SEPS) provides elasticity and mechanical qualities, medical white oil lends softness, medical polypropylene (PP) provides hardness and further mechanical properties in the compounds. The fourth main component often found are fillers, such as chalk, which are used if necessary. In the interest of additional safety, Kraiburg TPE does not use these fillers. This makes the TPEs less susceptible to interaction with media and they assume a translucent appearance. Potential processing faults can thus be found and corrected easily. This ensures high production standards for manufacturers in the medical and pharmaceutical industries and makes quality con-

trol for the finished parts easier. In addition, all the materials in the new product line are free of latex and phthalate esters. Over and above that, a separate and highly experienced development and marketing team attends to all the customers in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors.

Softer than ever

VTC TPE Group, a leader in the development and manufacture of custom formulated thermoplastic elastomer, has introduced a new family of TPO compounds which will be marketed under the Dryflex Olefin Block Copolymer (OBC) name.

OBC based TPOs offer design possibilities of conventional TPOs with unique property advantages - a broader range of hardness and superior processing performance. The new Dryflex OBC compounds can be injected moulded or extruded, are easily coloured and display excellent UV and weathering resistance. They can also be processed at lower temperatures, saving energy costs and lowering environmental impact.

Per G Hellberg, managing director of VTC TPE Group commented, "Dryflex OBC compounds are an ideal complement to our range of customised TPEs, they offer our customers an attractive cost-performance solution, and open up application opportunities previously unobtainable with conventional TPOs."