

Techmer PM has developed new non-halogenated flame retardant for polyamide injection molding & film extrusions

Europe's tough new environmental regulations, dubbed RoHS and WEEE, herald a new age of environmental responsibility in general--and flame-retardant plastics in particular. Europe wants to reduce or eliminate the environmental hazards posed by some types of halogenated compounds, especially brominated flame retardants in electrical and electronic equipment and parts.

Because electrical and electronic goods are major markets for polyamide resins and similar restrictions are emerging worldwide, Techmer PM has been developing a new, non-halogenated flame retardant for polyamide injection moldings and film extrusions. The new flame retardant (FR), designated PNM13319, "is now shipping to our initial customers," says Mark Jordan, Techmer PM's Vice President of Marketing.

In addition, Techmer PM has unveiled a newly improved halogenated FR, PNM13318. "This FR concentrate was developed in tandem with non-halogenated PNM13319," notes Jordan, "so it shouldn't be too surprising that they share many of the same physical properties."

For example, both flame-retardant concentrates can be used to formulate polyamide systems that will pass Underwriters Laboratories' most stringent V-0 specification in Section UL-94. Other FR usage levels will comply with the V-1 or V-2 tests. Also, both FRs are non-blooming, says Ebrahim "Abe" Mor, Techmer PM's Vice President of Technology. "That means customers needn't worry about the flame retardant migrating to the surface and affecting the aesthetics of molded parts."

Both FR concentrates are carried in polyamide pellets that can be processed at temperatures of up to 500F (260C).

Techmer PM launched development of its new non-halogenated PNM13319 more than a year ago. "It is pretty clear that the European Union's efforts are going to spill over into most parts of the world," says Mark Jordan. Measures similar to the EU's directives on Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and Waste Electrical & Electronic Devices (WEEE) are already pending or enacted in Japan, China, South Korea, and South America--plus California, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, and Washington.

"Even if you're a small polyamide processor and don't ship anything to Europe," adds Jordan, "your customers might. So you need to keep on top of how this sort of legislation is being enforced. It's only going to get more strict."

Techmer PM is a major producer of value-added color and additive masterbatches for the plastics and fiber industries. With ISO 9001-certified plants supporting a worldwide customer base. Techmer PM specializes in high-performance applications where quality, technical support, and problem solving are critical.



August 2006

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