NEWS
OF THE ADHESIVES WORLD

Licensing Agreement Opens Door for Hot Melts in Bottle Labeling

Union Carbide Corp. and National Starch and Chemical Corp. have jointly announced an agreement that will open the door to the use of hot melt adhesives in bottle labeling. The agreement allows Union Carbide to license the use of its silane adhesion promoters in technology patented by National Starch for the formulation of hot melt adhesives that provide a water-resistant bond to glass.

Hot melt adhesives offer the advantage of fast production rates in labeling operations, and formulations containing a silane adhesion promoter achieve superior adhesion to glass and metal foil that is maintained under wet and high-humidity conditions. Labels on beverage, beer, wine, and other glass bottles subject to cooling are normally exposed to moisture (in wine buckets or ice chests, for example).

Under terms of the agreement, Union Carbide is able to license its customers to make hot melt adhesives as covered by National Starch's U.S. Patent 3,644,245 upon payment of a royalty on the purchase of the silane adhesion promoters. The agreement also provides that the customer has the option of obtaining a license directly from National Starch.



H. F. Tomfohrde (right), vice-president and general manager of bonding and elastomer materials, chemicals and plastics, Union Carbide Corp., and W. K. Grubman, vice-president and general manager of National Starch and Chemical Corp.'s Adhesive Div., announce licensing agreement.

Senate Hearing Held on Vinyl Chloride

The Subcommittee on the Environment of the Senate Committee on Commerce held a hearing on vinyl chloride in Washington, D.C., on August 21. Vinyl chloride, the chemical used to produce polyvinyl chloride, has been linked with angiosarcoma of the liver among workers who have been heavily exposed to the substance.

The Subcommittee held the hearing to review the need for Government control of toxic substances. The Toxic Substances Control Act, which would provide for the pretesting of possibly toxic substances, was passed in separate versions by both houses of Congress last year, but remains in a joint conference committee.

Statements were presented at the hearing by Ralph L. Harding, representing the Society of the Plastics Industry, and Theodore R. Torkelson, speaking for the Manufacturing Chemists Association.

Mr. Harding said that "decisions and policy judgments with regard to chemical substances must be made on the best available fact-finding basis. Supposition and conjecture cannot be relied upon to make these decisions."

Urging that facts, not passion, determine the Government's response to the vinyl chloride problem, Mr. Harding stated that "the plastics industry has not shrunk from its worker and environmental responsibilities." He also cited a statement made by the Environmental Protection Agency on June 11 pointing out that there is no scientific evidence to indicate that emissions from vinyl chloride plants pose an imminent hazard to people living nearby.

In his statement Mr. Torkelson traced the past vinyl chloride research that has been sponsored by individual American companies, European companies and U.S. governmental agencies. He also summarized the several epidemiology, carcinogenic, teratogenic, metabolic and photo-decomposition studies that MCA has administered or is contemplating.

"The known potential of harm from vinyl chloride justifies stringent precautions in its handling," Mr. Torkelson advised. He urged, however, that "critical review be made of what is known about vinyl chloride and on what further research will be appropriate."

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