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# How do you improve the impact of your organization











Filler Masterbatches

Impact modifier



Processing Lubrication



















## **SAPPMA Webinar IX** 2022









## Presenter

## **SAPPMA Webinar IX**

### 27 October 2022







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## ΑRΚΕΛΛΑ

## PVC 101: Processing and Additive use for Rigid PVC Pipe

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SAPPMA Webinar Series – October 27, 2022



### Content overview

#### $\rightarrow$ Introduction to PVC Gelation and Processing

- What is PVC gelation why does it matter?
- The (famous) torque rheometer curve

### $\rightarrow$ PVC Formulations and Blending

- Rigid PVC formulations
- PVC lubrication theory
- Blending order and why it matters

### → Acrylic impact modifiers and rigid PVC formulations

- Core-shell acrylic impact modifiers
- Mechanical performance vs. Processing

### $\rightarrow$ Acrylic process aids and rigid PVC formulations

- Mineral content incorporation
- Cellular PVC and melt strength

### Arkema Plastic Additives

### CLEARSTRENGTH

- → Clearstrength<sup>®</sup> MBS impact modifiers
- Core-shell modifiers based on METHYL METACRYLATE / BUTADIENE / STYRENE
- Excellent cold temperature impact strength and transparency
- *Applications:* PVC film & sheet, CPVC pipes and fittings, engineering polymers and thermosets

### DURASTRENGTH®

### → Durastrength<sup>®</sup> acrylic impact modifiers

- Core-shell modifiers based on acrylic chemistry
- Optimized balance of impact performance and weatherability
- *Applications:* PVC window profiles, pipe and fittings, vinyl fence and siding, roofing membranes

### PLASTISTRENGTH®

### → Plastistrength<sup>®</sup> acrylic process aids

- High molecular weight acrylic co-polymers
- Enhances processing, PVC fusion promotion, and rheology / melt strength
- *Applications:* vinyl resilient flooring, PVC foam, film & sheet, pipe and profiles, vinyl fence and siding, bio-based polymers, and engineering polymers



### Rigid PVC Pipe: modern infrastructure improving local communities







## Introduction to PVC Gelation and Processing

## PVC resins for rigid (and flexible) applications

- → 3 main PVC resin product processes:
- Suspension: majority
- Mass: PVC synthesized in its own monomer
- Emulsion: plastisols, dispersion resin, some flexibles
- → Suspension PVC process (K-value or IV (intrinsic viscosity) characterizes MW):
- VCM polymerized in water where PVC grains are maintained in suspension with dispersion agents (PVC, surfactants, emulsifiers, etc.)
- Initiator in monomer phase
- PVA and suspending additives remain in the final product
- Skin around PVC grains
- Remaining residual additives have some influence on the applicative performance:
  - Heat stability (+)
  - Color (+)
  - Haze (-)
  - Water blush (-)

Free radical mechanism: and why PVC is a dark art



PVC is the only polymer that is processed into end products in the same physical form that it was produced in the reactors. All other major polymers are compounded and sold as pellets. The formation and morphology of the PVC particles in the reactor is the key to processing and its many uses.

- Bob Paradis (Formosa)

### PVC particle morphology



## PVC Gelation – the Summers Model

Gelation:  $\rightarrow$ Primary Secondary The act of breaking down all crystallites (A) crystallites (B) the Stage 3 particles (grains) **PVC grains - Stage 3** Melting the Stage 2 particles (primary particles) and forcing (100 -180 um) them together Stage 2 The degree that one melts the **Primary** Stage 1 domains and reorders **Particles** them is the key to the final **Processing : primary Cooling:** physical properties of the PVC (0.2 - 2 um)Recrystallization crystallites partial fusion compound **Crystallites** Gelation of 65 - 80% is  $\rightarrow$ considered optimum for opaque formulations: Stage 1 Considerable molecular **3D network** Domains interdiffusion between the (100 A) Stage 1 and 2 particles Interfaces in parts still exist resulting in better impact **Mechanical Properties** Summers. J.W., Rabinovitch, E.B., Booth, P.C. Measurement of PVC

fusion (gelation). Journal of Vinyl Technology, March 1986, pp 2-6.

## Torque Rheometer (Plasticorder®) Testing Instrument

- → Torque rheometry (ASTM D2538)
- → Primary analysis tool for
  PVC compound processing characteristics
- Fusion time
- Appearance at vent
- Temperature specific
- Approximates powder to melt transition
- Fusion Torque
  - Related to extrusion amperage
- Equilibrium torque
  - Continuous melt
  - Approximates melt viscosity in die
- Stability time
  - Time to degradation
- Color chip analysis
  - Important for stabilization







### "The Brabender Bowl"



Torque Rheometer Test with Haake Internal Mixer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlCP3D3tnD8)



## What is happening during the processing microscopically?



### Gelation – correlations to the extruder\*



ARKEMA PVC101: Processing and Additives for Rigid PVC Pipe







## PVC Formulations and Blending

### PVC Formulation – rigid PVC basics

Function	Ingredient	Role Within Formulation
Base Resin	PVC Resin	Basic properties
Heat Stability	Organotin Heat Stabilizer	Thermal stability, PVC resin can be easily degraded by exposure to high temperatures
Internal Lubricant	Calcium Stearate	Helps to process PVC by promoting PVC particle breakdown
External Lubricant	Paraffin Wax	Helps regulate extrusion process
External Lubricant	PE / OPE Wax	Helps regulate extrusion process / metal release
Fusion Promotion Melt Strength	Process Aid (PLASTISTRENGTH®)	Helps molten PVC compound maintain integrity during processing / promote fusion as needed
Impact Resistance	Impact Modifier (DURASTRENGTH®)	Provides PVC articles with improved toughness
Filler	Calcium Carbonate (0.7 µm)	Used for cost reduction in PVC processes. May help, or hurt certain physical properties
Pigment / UV Protection	Titanium Dioxide	Provides protection from UV light
Color	Pigments / Colorants	As Needed

Combination of Calcium Stearate (CaSt) and Paraffin Wax are the most common throughout the industry

These are among the fundamental building used to control gelation in rigid PVC formulations.

The Summers model for lubrication explains how these work together during processing



Summers, J.W., Proceedings SPE ANTEC 2006, p2882

#### Generic PVC Substrate Formulation

Component	phr
PVC Resin (K67)	100
Organotin Stab (8% RE Sn)	1.0
Calcium stearate	Varies
Paraffin wax	0.7
Durastrength <sup>®</sup> 200	2.5
Plastistrength® 530	0.5
CaCO $_3$ (0.7 $\mu$ m, treated)	18
Titanium dioxide	1.0



## Effect of paraffin wax melting point on rheology



### Blending Order – it matters!

- → Blend in order listed at defined temperatures, deviations could have consequences
- $\rightarrow~$  Start with PVC resin and Stabilizers
- Allows for stabilizer diffusion into PVC particle
- → Add lubricants next to facilitate melting and 'coating' of PVC grains (60°C – 65°C)
- Never put lubricants in prior to organotin stabilizer
- → Add impact modifiers and process aids (< 75°C)</p>
- → Add fillers (calcium carbonate) (< 90°C)</p>
- → Add pigments (titanium dioxide) (> 95°C)
- Blend time is minimized in mixer to reduce wear



Mixers are dumped between 100°C and 120°C depending on geography (moisture removal). Note that extended times at these temperatures can initiate the degradation process.

### Processing effects due to blend order changes

Ingredients	Too early? Impact on the compound? Effect at the extrusion?	Too late? Impact on the compound? Effect at the extrusion?	
Stabilizer	n/a	Degradation of PVC resin may occur (>120°C) resulting in lower stability time. Poor dispersion	
Solid Paraffin Wax	Could interfere with stabilizer migration into PVC particles	Could preferentially coat fillers and additives rather than resin. Poor dispersion.	
Calcium Stearate	Could interfere with stabilizer migration into PVC particles. If CaSt added before stabilizer, it can lead to agglomeration of stearate leading to conveying issues.	Could preferentially coat fillers and additives rather than resin. Poor dispersion.	
Paraffin / PE Wax	Could interfere with stabilizer migration into PVC particles	Could preferentially coat fillers and additives rather than resin. Poor dispersion.	
Titanium dioxide	Premature equipment wear. Waxes could preferentially coat the TiO <sub>2</sub> lessening their effect on the PVC resin.	Poor dispersion.	
Calcium carbonate / filler	Waxes could preferentially coat the CaCO <sub>3</sub> lessening their effect on the PVC resin / could lead to conveying issues to extrusion lines	Poor compound homogeneity at higher filler levels.	
Pigment	Agglomeration of pigment particles	Poor mixing.	
Process Aid	Could be preferentially coated by lubricants	Poor dispersion.	
Impact Modifier	Could be preferentially coated by lubricants. Rubber agglomeration resulting in loss of impact properties and of conveying issues.	Poor dispersion.	

### Formulations: rigid PVC pipe – low shear, non-weatherable PVC

- → Accounts for largest PVC resin consumption (by far)
- → Formulating largely governed by regulatory entities (e.g. HSB TR-2 range formulations)
- → Pipe extrusion can be lower shear vs. window profile or other rigid PVC processing
- → Tensile and burst physical properties most critical (less impact needed)
- → \*impact modifier used in foam core pipe (FCP skin)
- → \*\*process aid used in FCP core for cellular PVC (> 0.90 g/cc density)

Component	PHR
PVC Resin (0.91 IV or K-65)	100.0
Sn Stabilizer (< 12% Sn reverse ester stab.)	0.3 – 1.0
Calcium stearate	0.4 – 1.5
Paraffin wax (165°F MP)	0.6 – 1.5
Oxidized PE (low MW common)	0 - 0.5
*Durastrength <sup>®</sup> 200, 320, 350	0 - 3.0
**Plastistrength® 379, 580	0 - 3.0
**Plastistrength® 770	0 - 2.0
Calcium Carbonate (3.0 µm) – can vary	0 - 5.0
Titanium dioxide (chalk / non-chalk)	0.5 – 3.0
Color / pigments	0 – 1.0, as needed
total	~ 108

- → Conduit typically for electrical applications:
- Often governed by regulatory bodies (e.g. UL certification and others)
- Typically formulated with elevated levels of calcium carbonate (can be > 50 phr)
- Requires impact modifier for crush testing / mechanical integrity
- → Corrugated pipe can be single or dual wall:
- Formulations are not significantly different vs. conduit, however are often made on much larger diameters
- Impact performance critical for wall integrity
- Processing can be complicated process aids can help with larger diameter fusion
- Calcium carbonate levels typically at least 20 phr

Component	PHR
PVC Resin (K-67)	100
Stabilizer (10% Sn)	1.2
Paraffin Wax (165°F)	1.3
Calcium Stearate	0.7
Oxidized PE Wax	0.2
Durastrength® 367 or Chlorinated PE	4
Plastistrength <sup>®</sup> 562	0 - 0.7
Calcium Carbonate (1µm)	20
Titanium dioxide	0.5
total	~ 128





## Acrylic impact modifiers and rigid PVC formulations

## DURASTRENGTH®

### Impact modifier core / shell technologies



### Impact modifier influence: processing and rheology

- → PVC mechanical properties and melt rheology are correlated:
- Transition from a brittle to ductile PVC material is highly dependent on impact modifier content
- Increasing modifier levels generally improves fusion and mechanical properties
- Cost-efficiency gains possible due to improved fusion at higher filler loading levels while maintaining mechanical properties



### Processing: dispersion of core-shell particles

Y. Kayano et al., Polymer 37 (1996) 4505-4515.



## Impact modifier – inorganic filler synergies

### → Example of mineral / AIM synergy via stress concentrators

SEM Morphology investigations after impact testing (ductile break)



### Catastrophic impact / falling weight evaluations

- → Core-shell impact modifiers protect against catastrophic failure
- Engineer formulations for ductile failure
- Prevent brittle "blow-outs" and cracking
- Withstand building material shipping, handling and installation
- Enhance extreme temperature performance
- → Formulation perspective:
- Increasing filler content typically reduces overall impact strength
- Monitoring overall rubber content in formulations can balance failure mode
- Acrylic content can compensate for processing differences leading to gelation optimization



internal test results

## Notch sensitivity and impact strength



- Acrylic impact modifiers provide impact performance and also acrylic fusion
- Added mechanical integrity to tongue and groove assemblies and notch sensitive / exposed building material parts









Acrylic process aids and rigid PVC formulations

## **PLASTISTRENGTH®**

## Acrylic process aids and PVC rheology

- Process aids enhance fusion: force and shear transfer between primary  $\rightarrow$ **PVC** particles!
- Typically based on acrylic emulsion chemistry
- Can use a variety of acrylic and specialty monomers
- Molecular weights < 1 MM 10 MM+ g/mol vs. PVC molecules < 100k g/mol
- Excellent compatibility with PVC matrix (high miscibility!) ٠
- Process aid composition and rheology control  $\rightarrow$
- Process aid Tg can manipulate fusion promotion •
- Acrylic emulsion polymerization allows for a broad range of compositional and • structural changes to the co-polymers
- Molecular weight effects can complicate Tg effects
- Torque variation in equipment during fusion
- Processing differences such as flow, dimensional stability







Τg

### Consistent processing paramount with elevated filler content



## Acrylic process aid in highly filled formulations



## Acrylic process aid influence on rheology



## Melt strength guides process aid selection for foam applications



melt strand

- $\rightarrow$  Process aid melt strength evoluation based on molecular weight:
- Force versus velocity: drawing down the strand out of the die (load cell)
- Remember: the curves represent PVC compound melt strength (PVC K-value = 58)
- The differences in melt strength are caused by process aid selection

## Melt strength guides process aid selection for foam applications

- → Cell structure based on available melt strength:
- Melt strength largely determined by acrylic process aid selection
- Capturing and surviving gas evolution most important during cellular PVC processing
- If MW chosen is too low, large voids will appaer in the foam structure throughout the PVC article



### Acrylic process aids for foam PVC and density reduction

PVC melt strength and cell structure uniformity  $\uparrow$  as  $M_w$   $\uparrow$ 

- → Molecular weight for cellular applications is critical:
- Generally, increasing molecular weight is desirable for improved efficiency and final performance
- Drawbacks of ultra-high MW technology are possible with diminished melt flow and high extrusion torque
- Process aid selection based on understanding processing needs is essential

#### \*cellular PVC formulations w/ 5 phr PA



Pull-Off Speed [mm/s]

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## **Questions and Answers**









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## SAPPMA Webinar IX 2022

Much Appreciated! Audience & Organizers APPROVED





## **Questions and Answers**



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