



Press release

Düsseldorf, May 29, 2008

DRUPA 2008: Emission-reduced PUR hotmelts from Henkel are increasingly establishing themselves in the market

Breath of fresh air for bookbinders

With its range of emission-reduced polyurethane hotmelt adhesives (PUR hotmelts), Henkel is setting new standards of occupational health and safety in the graphic arts industry. The innovative adhesives of the Purmelt MicroEmission series are a response to the growing awareness of the need for sustainable production processes in the industry and are recommended by accident insurance institutions. At DRUPA 2008, the Company is presenting not only improved products for spine binding, but also – and for the first time – emission-reduced PUR hotmelts for side gluing and endpapering.

A breath of fresh air: By using emission-reduced PUR hotmelts, a growing number of bookbinders are creating a safer working environment on the shop floor. At the last DRUPA, Henkel unveiled its Purmelt MicroEmission series, a new generation of PUR hotmelts that are exempt from hazard labeling. This caused quite a stir in the industry, as conventional PUR hotmelts, despite their excellent performance profile for book and magazine production, are classified as hazardous and therefore call for additional protective measures.

Emissions slashed by 90 percent

Conventional polyurethane hotmelts carry the Xn hazard symbol. This is because they contain up to 5 percent monomeric isocyanates that are given off as vapors into the ambient air during processing at elevated temperatures and can irritate the respiratory organs, eyes and skin, or cause allergies. Production plant and melters therefore have to be equipped with extraction systems, and special employee training is a useful added precaution. Furthermore, according to the law in some parts of Europe, hazardous substances subject to compulsory labeling have to be separately stored, which imposes an extra burden on businesses. Purmelt MicroEmission adhesives, on the other hand, contain only 0.1 percent monomeric isocyanates. This puts them well below the threshold for statutory labeling as a hazardous substance and eliminates the need for extra extraction equipment and other processing precautions. Independent institutes have tested MicroEmission adhesives in authentic operating conditions on all commonly used binding machines and application systems and confirmed the reduction in monomeric isocyanates in the working atmosphere by up to 90 percent. The German statutory accident insurance institution therefore explicitly recommends that firms use MicroEmission products. Purmelt MicroEmission products also comply with the strict environmental protection standards in Scandinavian countries and have been carrying the Nordic Swan environmental label since the beginning of 2008. Moreover, the products conform to the European Chemicals Regulation REACH, which came into force in 2007.



Now also available for side gluing and endpapering

In terms of bonding performance, MicroEmission products are in every way equal to conventional Purmelts. All international plant manufacturers have tested and approved the products. Initial problems with pot life and stability have been overcome in the meantime. Product stability in the machine can be ensured among other things by reducing processing temperature over the usual long period, which also reduces energy consumption. At the same time, initial tack has been significantly enhanced, even on difficult surfaces. Henkel gives users a precise temperature control guide to ensure optimal results. The positive response in the graphic arts industry has now prompted Henkel to expand its range of emission-reduced Purmelts. At DRUPA 2008, the Company is presenting new products that have been specially developed for side gluing and endpapering and are already available on the market. These products have also undergone extensive technical testing; it should be noted that they are designed exclusively for nozzle application. Also new is that all PURmelts are now optionally also available as granules, which can be poured straight into the gluing unit for trial purposes. This way, Henkel is making the changeover to this forward-looking product category even simpler for interested bookbinders.

For more than 130 years, Henkel has been a leader with brands and technologies that make people's lives easier, better and more beautiful. Henkel operates in three business areas – Home Care, Personal Care, and Adhesives Technologies – and ranks among the Fortune Global 500 companies. In fiscal 2007, Henkel generated sales of 13,074 million euros and operating profit of 1,344 million euros. Our approximately 58,000 employees worldwide are dedicated to fulfilling our corporate claim, "A Brand like a Friend," and ensuring that people in more than 125 countries can trust in brands and technologies from Henkel.

Press Contact:

Sabina Hampe
Phone: +49-211-797-7519
Fax: +49-211-798-4040

Peter Lienkamp
Phone: +49-211-797-1458
Fax: +49-211-798-11458

Henkel AG & Co. KGaA
Head of Corporate Communications
Ernst Primosch, Corporate Vice President

press@henkel.com

Following images are available:



No labelling required: Purmelt MicroEmission adhesives contain only 0.1 percent monomeric isocyanates