



Press release

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DRUPA 2008: Hotmelts from the Technomelt Safe-T series deliver high bonding performance with significantly reduced energy consumption

Taking the heat out of hotmelts

When developing innovative adhesives technologies for industry, energy saving is a top priority. The most recent example of this is a new generation of hotmelts for bookbinders. Although high temperatures are still essential to melt them, the heat can be moderated. At DRUPA 2008, Henkel is showing how to significantly cut energy consumption and costs without compromising on the proven processing properties of hotmelts.

EVA hotmelts are excellent performers when it comes to the binding of mail order catalogs, telephone directories and magazines. These adhesives feature outstanding bond quality and rapid setting at very high machine speeds and have proven particularly useful for the cost-effective processing of mass-circulation products. Bookbinders can now boost their production efficiency still further, as Henkel has developed a new low-temperature technology for hotmelts with considerable cost-cutting potential.

Application temperatures dramatically reduced

While application temperatures of 160 to 180°C are necessary for classic EVA hotmelts, the adhesives of the new Technomelt Safe-T series need only 120 to 140°C. Temperatures can thus be lowered by an average of about 40°C, which results in savings of up to 30 percent in energy costs. This starts when binding machines are switched on in the morning, as they are ready for operation sooner. At the same time, the lower temperature of the adhesive also means that the associated machine components and application equipment are exposed to lower thermal stressing. The outcome is reduced maintenance for the removal of charred deposits and longer equipment service life.

Greater efficiency during bonding

The special benefit of the new low-temperature technology is that it provides bonding performance that is just as good as tried and trusted EVA hotmelts. Even better, the rapid setting surpasses the accustomed high standards, although much less adhesive has to be applied. Comparative testing has shown that the thickness of the adhesive film can be reduced from 0.95 to 0.7 millimeters without any loss of performance. This faster setting has a positive impact, even on different grades of paper. When used, for instance, to bond papers with cross-grained fibers, the much-feared phenomenon of waviness does not occur after drying. The new hotmelts also improve efficiency when used as a primer and processed on machines with two gluing units. All that is necessary is to raise the temperature of the first unit to 175°C; no additional adhesive is required.



Henkel pushes ahead with low-temperature technology

Overall, low-temperature hotmelts not only yield substantial improvements in productivity, but they also raise quality standards for the products themselves. Some international mail order companies have therefore already specified the use of Technomelt Safe-T. Henkel is now working on expanding its low-temperature technology to include high-grade EVA hotmelts for use on low-speed machines. The first products will be launched in the market soon.

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:



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