



Press release

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DRUPA 2008: Henkel launches new cold seal coatings for food packages

Outstanding Cold Seal performance without natural latex

Thanks to its outstanding adhesive properties, natural-sourced latex is a key ingredient of cold seal coatings, which are mainly used for the packaging of temperature-sensitive foods. However, latex can cause allergies – a risk that is statistically minimal but which cannot be entirely excluded. Synthetic cold seals are a potential alternative, although their high cost has so far been a hindrance to widespread use. With its newly developed Liofol® CS 9000 series, Henkel has now succeeded in achieving an attractive price/performance ratio.

For the packaging industry, cold seal coatings are ideal for sealing temperature-sensitive products such as ice cream and chocolate bars in film packages. They can be applied without having to be heated, which is better for the package contents and saves energy. A major advantage of cold seal coatings is their productivity as they bond instantly and permit very high application speeds.

Risk of allergies

Classic cold seals are based on natural latex. However, this raw material may trigger anaphylactic shocks in latex allergy sufferers, causing death in extreme cases. The cold seal compound itself does not normally come into contact with the food, because it is only applied on the edges of the package. However, there is a risk that allergy sufferers' lips or tongue may come into contact with such a patch of adhesive on the packaging – for instance, when eating a chocolate bar still partly enclosed in the wrapper for hygienic reasons. This statistically minimal risk is growing because of the sheer quantity of such products and their growing worldwide distribution. International food manufacturers therefore have a strong interest in excluding this risk to allergy sufferers. Also, they are equally keen to prevent possible food scandals from damaging their reputation.

Perfect match of cold seal compound and release coat

With the goal of achieving optimal consumer protection, Henkel has recently been intensifying its development of synthetic cold seal compounds. Initially, they have been used for the packaging of medical products such as plasters and sterilized surgical instruments. Henkel's new Liofol® CS 9000 series now represents a marketable alternative for food packages that also avoids the severe cost instability often associated with common latex materials. To ensure reliable processing at all times, Henkel has also developed a new release coat specifically geared to the synthetic cold seal compound. With this complete single-source system and thanks to its global presence, Henkel is a reliable partner to the packaging and food industries. Working together in this area provides an opportunity to bring international success to synthetic cold seal technology and thus to improve consumer protection.



Liofol® Academy user forum

Liofol® Academy consists of a series of international events at which the latest trends in flexible packaging are presented. Experts from Liofol team up with industry co-suppliers (e.g. machinery, ink and film suppliers) to deliver the newest application technology for converting processes. In addition, attendees of Liofol® Academy events are the first to learn of innovative new products for the industry. This interactive forum gives experts and decision makers the information they need to improve their business. Further information, dates, and locations regarding Liofol® Academy can be found at www.liofolacademy.com.

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.

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Following images are available:



Henkel's new Liofol® CS 9000 series now represents a safe and marketable alternative for food packages.