



YOUR PLASTICISERS NEWS UPDATE

October 2017

NEWS



Media field trip: First-hand look at the PVC value chain

Over a dozen of specialised trade media from all over Europe joined the press visit organised by European Plasticisers and sponsored by VinylPlus. They had the chance to visit Renolit Iberica and Inovyn, two major players in the European PVC landscape. “It is vital for European Plasticisers to have a constant dialogue with journalists” explained Michela Mastrantonio, General Manager at European Plasticisers. >>[Read more](#)

REGULATORY UPDATE

Final SEAC and RAC opinions support the restriction of DEHP, DBP, BBP and DiBP

On 20 June 2018, ECHA announced that the Socio-Economic Assessment Committee (SEAC) adopted a final opinion on the restriction of four low molecular weight phthalates. Based on socio-economic arguments, SEAC opinion confirms the position expressed in March by ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) supporting the restriction of the use of DEHP, DBP, BBP and DiBP in articles either imported or manufactured in Europe. >> [Read more](#)

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE



October 2017

The power of many. Different plasticisers for different applications

Whenever PVC needs to have high elasticity and flexibility, plasticisers are there to do the job. But, did you know that they can do much more? They can also improve the performance of other polymers through adding new critical properties such as resistance to extreme temperatures or fire. There are a wide range of plasticising substances which are chosen depending on the specific performance demands of the finished product. Today, over 90% of all plasticisers sold in Europe are used in flexible PVC applications. Still, the remaining 10% is used in a wide range of applications which improve our daily life... let's discover how.



Inks and Paints

Plasticisers are used in inks to make the dried print more flexible and pliable. For example, inks which dry by evaporation tend to be quite brittle. Fading or wrinkling both printed material can cause the ink film to crack and loosen. Plasticisers – including some phosphates and benzoates – help give elasticity to the ink film, allowing them to bend or crease without breaking apart. In printing and manufacturing, plasticisers are used to provide more specific properties such as increased gloss, flexural resistance or to minimise discoloration at high temperatures.

In paints, plasticisers are used for similar enhancing properties. Triacetates, for example, are widely used to make paint softer, improve its elasticity and adherence, and minimise the cracking of the final coating. Plasticisers are most used in industrial, appliance and automotive coatings (rather than architectural or DIY (do-it-yourself) paints). They can, however, be used in coatings and other applications for which very low levels of emissions are required.



Sealants and Adhesives



Plasticisers are important components in many adhesives and sealants. Not only do they increase the service and shelf life of products in which they are used, but they also durability and product stability which allow formulators to reduce costs and optimise product performance.

For sealants and adhesives, plasticisers are typically chosen based on polymer compatibility and the desired properties of the end product. Correct compatibility protects the plasticiser from leaching out of the product and losing the benefits of plasticisation. Plasticiser permanence, or resistance to migration out of the adhesive or sealant, plays a key role in the longevity of a product. They can minimise joint failures, giving the products or parts of the products an extended trouble-free life whenever sealants and adhesives are used.



Rubber

Rubber is used extensively in a range of applications and products and is mostly known for its stretch, resilience and waterproof properties. Yet the use of plasticisers can modify these physical properties and improve their processing as well as the final products. Rubber is used in a variety of plasticisers can be used in rubber to promote properties from increased flexibility to lower processing temperatures and better flow in production. Phosphates are often used in rubber due to their plasticising efficiency and flame retardant properties. Triacetates are used as a solvent and plasticiser in both natural and synthetic rubbers.



Concrete



In the construction industry, plasticisers have numerous applications including where they are widely used to reduce water intake requirements, to make it more workable and to increase its strength. Some phosphates, for example, are used in self-consolidating and high-performance concrete. Mixed with concrete, plasticisers have a temporary dispersing effect. They allow for thorough hydration as plasticisers are absorbed by each cement particle. They help reduce the total water-to-cement ratio, giving a more workable 'fluid' consistency, delayed setting or self-leveling concrete, and allow the mix to remain malleable until application without losing its consistency.

Pharmaceuticals

Plasticisers are often used in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. More specifically, they can be used in coatings and as solvents in the preparation of certain products. In pharmaceutical coatings, plasticisers made from castor oil are used on the outer film of pills and capsules. They enable manufacturers to achieve the right amount of film flexibility to avoid cracking and peel-off. They are also tasteless, making them a perfect additive for pharmaceutical products for oral administration. Such coatings and films protect the medicine, improving its longevity as well as the visual appeal for the user. Importantly, plasticisers also protect the integrity of the medicine before application, yet renders the drug to release more rapidly or more sustained when in contact with the gastric environment.

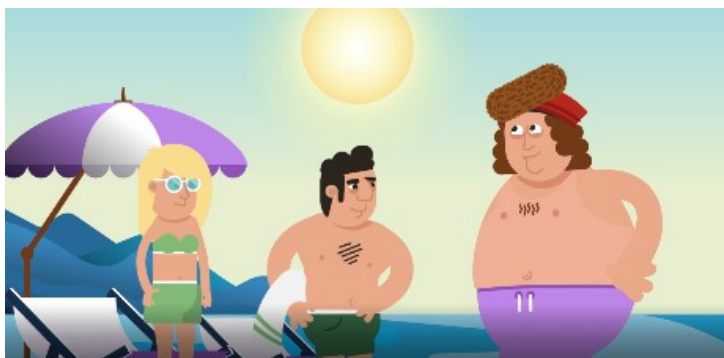


‘The power of many’ factsheet

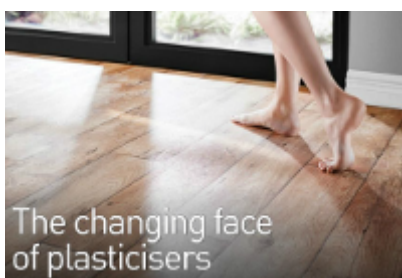
Whenever PVC needs to have high elasticity and flexibility, plasticisers are there to do the job. But, did you know that they can do much more? Today, over 90% of all plasticisers sold in Europe are used in flexible PVC applications. Still, the remaining 10% is used in a wide range of applications which improve our daily life. Our latest factsheet shows you how. >> [Download](#)

Risk vs. hazard

Have you watched Paracelsus explaining the difference between risk and hazard? Wait no more, it will be a fun trip to the beach. Enjoy! >> [Watch and share](#)



PRESS CORNER



‘The changing face of plasticisers’ - Compounding World

This article looks in detail at the latest developments in the world of plasticisers and the main drivers behind its most recent evolution. The author provides a wide overview of different types of plasticisers in the market and also looks at the regulatory status of some of the most important substances. >> [Read article](#)

Beware of the 'food babe fallacy' in your mac and cheese – Forbes

Following up on the *New York Times* story about a study that found “potentially harmful chemicals” in mac & cheese, this article tries to bring some common sense to the debate. “Several [critics say](#) the story is [a hyped interpretation](#) of a [non peer-reviewed report](#) commissioned by scaremongers with an anti-chemical agenda” writes the author >> [Read article](#)

EVENTS



Vinyl Sustainability Forum 2018

Organised by VinylPlus, the European PVC industry's

sustainability programme, next year's Sustainability Forum will be held on 16 & 17 May under the title “**Global View on Vinyl**”. European Plasticisers will be there to discuss the contribution of the PVC industry to sustainable solutions that meet people's essential needs.

>> [Read more](#)

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We have recently launched our official LinkedIn page and the number of followers is steadily growing. Are you one of them? Follow us to get news articles, reports and videos about the use of plasticisers and the companies behind them. And please do share our posts so your connections can also learn about the work of European Plasticisers. >> [Follow us](#)

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