



FOSTER OFFERS NON-MIGRATOR ANTISTATIC POLYMERS FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

PUTNAM, CT USA - (October 29, 2013) - Foster Corporation, a leader in custom polymers for medical devices, introduces static dissipative polymer blends specifically designed for medical devices and equipment. These blends use a non-migratory, polyether block amide (PEBA) polymer additive that retains continuous antistatic properties and cannot be wiped off with medical cleaning agents.

Dissipation of static electricity is critical to avoid damage to electronic circuitry and reduce particle build-up on medical devices and surrounding surfaces. New devices, such as vascular imaging catheters, utilize highly sensitive electronics for enhanced diagnosis and treatment. Dissipation of static electricity that can build up on surrounding surfaces is critical to avoid damage to sensitive electronic circuitry in these devices. In drug delivery devices, such as dry powder inhalers, static charge can cause accumulation of drug particles on the device surface and lead to variability in dose delivery. As a leading provider of specialty compounds for medical devices, Foster recognizes the need for static dissipation in emerging devices and offers these USP Class VI complaint blends for use in regulated applications.

The PEBA polymer additive used in Foster's static dissipative blends, disperses throughout the entire base polymer. When melt blended in quantities between 10 and 20% by weight into other polymers it provides immediate and permanent antistatic properties of 10^{10-12} ohm/sq, depending on the loading and the base polymer. These antistatic properties are maintained in the polymer blend even at low humidity levels.

This unique polymer additive can be compounded into other polymers with compatible melting temperatures, including thermoplastic polyurethanes (TPU), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polymethyl-methacrylate (PMMA), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

“Traditional antistatic additives, such as ethoxylated amines, migrate to the component surface where they attract atmospheric moisture that helps dissipate static charges. These materials require time to migrate and a minimum level of moisture in the air. They can also easily be wiped off the surface with cleaning agents,” said Bill Blasius, Manager of R&D and Polymer Science for Foster Corporation. “The PEBA additive provides a continuous polymer network throughout the host polymer that is intrinsically antistatic and permanent.”

For more information about antistatic polymer blends, please visit www.fostercomp.com.

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About Foster Corporation

For nearly 20 years, Foster Corporation has been at the forefront of medical and materials solutions based on extremely precise polymer technology. Foster Corporation is a leading supplier of custom biomedical polymers for the medical device industry, including custom compounds for minimally invasive devices, polymers blends for implants, and drug/polymer blends for combination products. For more information visit www.fostercomp.com.