CHEMISTRY THAT MATTERS™



UNPTM COMPOUNDS WEAR AND FRICTION SOLUTIONS LUBRICATED COPOLYMERS FOR THIN-WALL HEALTHCARE APPLICATIONS

As designers miniaturize drug delivery devices (insulin pens, inhalers) for improved portability, they are often faced with a difficult dilemma. How do you design for smooth, repeatable, and quiet actuation in parts created with thin walls and maintain the tight dimensional tolerances required? Semicrystalline resins will generally flow better and provide better wear and lower friction compared to amorphous resins, but they can't always hold the tolerances needed.

Dimensional accuracy and low friction

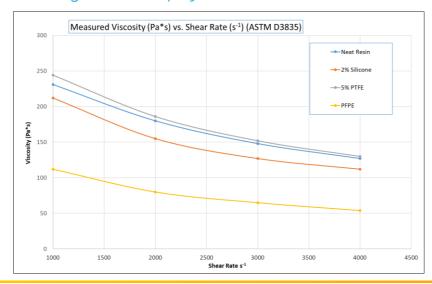
To get dimensional accuracy and good tribological performance, a common technic is to add an internal lubricant into an amorphous resin. But adding traditional lubrication packages like PTFE and silicone generally reduces the flow of a thermoplastic resin. One possible solution is compounding a high-flow PC Copolymer resin for use in healthcare applications, with PFPE, a fluorinated synthetic oil.



PFPE as internal lubricant and flow promoter

Perfluoropolyether (PFPE) is available as a USP Class VI material, and it can act as both an internal lubricant, reducing wear and friction, and as a flow aid to improve filling of thin wall parts. The chart below illustrates the effect of adding various lubrication packages on melt viscosity of a high flow PC Copolymer. The PFPE lubricated formulation showed significant improvement in flow and has been shown to reduce assembly and actuation forces in some applications. Based on these results, a new grade LUBRICOMPTM DX19519H compound was created.

Viscosity vs shear for a high flow PC copolymer resin with various internal lubrication types



WEAR AND FRICTION SOLUTIONS LUBRILOY ALLOY TECHNOLOGY

The recently introduced LUBRICOMP DX19519H compound exhibits good flow in thin-wall parts and reduces frictional forces associated with squeak generation during operation of buttons and sliders. It joins a family of PFPE lubricated grades embraced by drug delivery device and surgical tool manufactures as a reliable way to get improved friction performance from tight tolerance parts.

SABIC LNP compounds based on ULTEMTM, LEXANTM and LEXAN Copolymer resins and managed under the LNP Healthcare Management of Change process have found use in a variety of applications.

Grade	Description	Features	Possible Applications
LUBRICOMP DX19519H compound	PC Copolymer, PFPE	Improved "slip-stick", low friction, low squeak, thin wall molding	Thin wall medical drug delivery, lab equipment, injector pens/pump
Other PFPE lubricated grades			
LUBRICOMP DX07404H compound	PC, PFPE	Improved "slip-stick", low squeak, lower COF than unmodified PC	Drug delivery, lab equipment, injector pens/pump, medical connectors
LUBRICOMP EX03599H compound	PEI, PFPE	HDT: 213C, Improved "slip-stick", low squeak, lower COF than unmodified PEI	Surgical instruments, trocars
LUBRICOMP EX10405H compound	PEI, 30% carbon fiber, PFPE	FM: 17.3 GPa, improved "slip-stick", low friction	Metal replacement, surgical tools

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