

Holger Woeltje; Wacker Chemie; DE-Burghausen

SUSTAINABLE SILICONES – ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS RESOURCE-SAVING LABELS

The sustainable manufacturing, use and recycling of products has meanwhile become a central issue for adhesive materials. CELAB was launched on the subject of recycling label material, sustainable wood cultivation is established in many places for paper and there has been good progress in the use of recycled raw materials for films. A pioneering concept for the resource-saving production of silicone-based release coatings was introduced by the Munich-based chemical company WACKER. DEHESIVE® eco release agents are produced with the aid of non-fossil methanol obtained from renewable raw materials. WACKER is currently the only manufacturer to offer fossil-free silicone release agents for the label and film-coating industries.

The company uses methanol from both fossil and plant sources in its silicone production. It then records the mass balance of non-fossil methanol in its mix, allocating it to select product lines in proportion to the quantity of biomethanol used – an approach comparable to the green electricity certification system used in Germany.

The same mass balance method is applied for manufacturing DEHESIVE® eco. Only certified non-fossil methanol made from straw or cut grass is used. That makes WACKER the first company to introduce silicone release coatings that are sustainable and, most importantly, manufactured using resource-efficient methods. DEHESIVE® eco is a product line in which 100 percent of the fossil-based methanol components have been replaced with methanol derived from renewable resources. In a market in which climate protection and sustainability are becoming increasingly important, such products are a decisive step towards a fully sustainable label.

All eco products are formulated in exactly the same way as the corresponding standard release coating and possess the same product properties. In other words, there is no need for technical modifications to the coating process.

The mass balance method used by WACKER is regularly reviewed as part of an annual recertification. This ensures that all eco products are 100 percent based on plant-based methanol.