ENGINEERED FILLERS/EXTENDERS FOR WOOD COMPOSITES: EXTEND AND ENHANCE PHENOLIC AND PMDI ADHESIVES



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Willamette Valley Company

Company Overview

- Founded in 1952
- Privately owned multinational
- Markets served:
 - Wood Products Industry
 - Railroad (SpikeFast[®])
 - Specialty Coatings (PolyQuick[®])
 - Equipment & Robotics (PreTec)
 - Do-It-Yourself products (Eclectic Products)
 - Industrial Adhesives





Our Core Technology Competencies

Wood Products Industry

Fillers and Extenders

North America over 80% of the Fillers/Extender business

Modal® CCR Walnut Shell Wheat flour Q-bond®

Patch for Plywood Repair

Water-based Putty Polyurethane Epoxy

Edge-sealers and primers Sealers and Paints for OSB, particleboard and plywood

Railroad Industry

Wood Tie Plugging Non-foaming Polyurethane SpikeFast® ES-50

PreTec

Precision metering and dispensing equipment

Robotics, automation, sensors

High Performance Coating to coat/seal/waterproof concrete, wood or metal. Polyurea coatings PolyQuick® P – 480 PolyQuick® P – 690

Erosion/Dust Control Soil stabilization/fugitive dust control

Hydrobind, DustPly Plus®

Eclectic Products
Do-it-yourself products
E6000®
Goop®
Famowood®



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Willamette Valley CompanyFillers and Extenders in Wood CompositesHow do Fillers-extenders enhance glue efficiency?

- Enhancing flow behavior (rheology)
- 2. Improved distribution

Benefits of fillers/extenders

- Improve glue-mix distribution
- Reduce over penetration
- Improve tack
- Improves glue-mix stability
- Overall resin reduction





Present and Future of Fillers/Extenders

Present:

Conventional fillers/extenders can provide performance. Decades long data and experience in conventional applications

Future:

- Engineered fillers/extenders which can provide specific rheology required for specific customer needs.
- Extending the technology beyond phenolic adhesive chemistry
 - Understanding physical and chemical properties of individual components and their contribution in glue properties.
 - Engineered filler blend formulation for required glue-mix performance.
 - Process improvement to produce products in tight spec range.



Willamette Valley Company



(patent pending)

Engineered pMDI Additive for wood composites







Proven Success-15-30% pMDI reductions









What is the REZ-FLEX System?

- **Two main parts**
 - 1. Chemical: REZ-FLEX suspension
 - water + interactive engineered extender



- 2. Equipment: metering and mixing
 - a) Accurately mixes pMDI and REZ-FLEX seconds before application
 - b) Accurately follows wood flow rates to apply constant %pMDI





Schematic representation of REZ-FLEX application



The system is precisely operated by a computerized control panel













"""Viscosity profile following 1 h mixing



- pMDI didn't change over 1 h mixing
- Water + pMDI blend didn't shear thin, poor spraying efficiency.
 - Blend with REZ-FLEX showed high viscosity at low shear rate and low viscosity at high shear rate.
 - Good stability
 - Good sprayability





MILL TRIALS

- Several Particleboard Mill Trials
- Core and face application
- Reduce pMDI application
- Closely monitor press and blender build up







Average IB Strength From Trials 20 – 25% resin reduction without property drop







Mill Trial Conclusions

• Data clearly shows:

• With REZ-FLEX, pMDI reductions over 20% are possible, while maintaining panel properties.

- Blender build-up is similar or less than normal
- Results warranted full scale production with REZ-FLEX





Full Mill Scale Results

- November 2014 start (Successfully running full time)
 - pMDI usage
 - Other advantages









FULL MILL SCALE RESULTS

- <u>Significant savings 17% reduction for the year</u>
 - Up to 26% pMDI reduction in one month
- Continuous Improvement-through data







ADVANTAGES

- Resin Reduction without affecting properties
- More efficient resin distribution
- Pathway for other enhancers
- Less "pitting"
- Reduced "free" pMDI in plant
- Overall cost reduction \$\$\$\$





REZ-FLEX

Commercially Successful pMDI Extender