



ADDITIVES for PLASTICS HANDBOOK

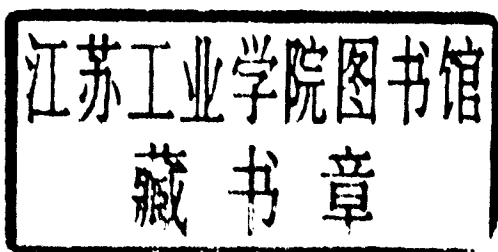
Second Edition

John Murphy

Additives for Plastics Handbook

2nd Edition

John Murphy



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Preface

Both technically and economically, additives form a large and increasingly significant part of the polymer industry, both plastics and elastomers. In the five years since the first edition of this handbook, there have been wide-ranging developments, covering the chemistry and formulation of new and more efficient additive systems and the safer use of additives, both by processors in the factory and, in the wider field, as they affect the general public.

It has also become clear that, to meet today's requirements, the budgets for research and development and the structure needed to maintain a global presence are beyond the resources of individual companies, resulting in many mergers and takeovers, leading to the creation of a few world-scale giant producers, complemented by a number of specialists.

This second edition follows the successful formula of the first, presenting a comprehensive view of all types of additives, concentrating mainly on their technical aspects (chemistry/formulation, structure, function, main applications) with notes on the commercial background of each. Whereas reports concentrate on only one sector (such as pigments or 'performance' additives), in this handbook we have again expanded the field to include any substance that is added to a polymer to improve its use, so including reinforcing materials (such as glass fibre), and carbon black and titanium dioxide.

As with the first edition, this information is again presented in a more 'user-friendly' form, starting from the information requirement of the user, and so classifying additives by the properties that they offer and the applications in which they are used. To avoid excessive cross-referencing, there may be some repetition, but it is hoped that the advantages of this form of presentation will outweigh any disadvantage.

JSM, June 2001

Publishers' note

Sadly, just before completion of this book the author, John Murphy, passed away. Elsevier Advanced Technology has endeavoured to complete this work to John's very high standards. We hope that Additives for Plastics Handbook will live up to John's expectations and prove to be an invaluable aid.

CONTENTS

List of Tables	xvii
List of Figures	xxi
Preface and Publishers' note	xxiii
Chapter 1 An Overview of Additives	1
Chapter 2 Types of Additive and the Main Technical Trends	5
2.1 Current Lines of Development	5
2.1.1 Fillers	6
2.1.2 Pigments	7
2.1.3 Plasticizers	7
2.1.4 Stabilizers	8
2.1.5 Flame retardants	8
2.2 Special Additives	9
2.2.1 Antistatic and conductive additives	9
2.2.2 Food contact and medical additives	9
2.2.3 Clarifiers, nucleating agents, compatibilizers	10
2.3 Multi-functional Formulations	10
2.4 Masterbatches	10
2.5 Dendritic Polymers	11
Chapter 3 The World Market	13
3.1 World Consumption of Additives	13
3.2 The Market for Masterbatch	15
3.3 Overall Commercial Trends	15
3.4 Growth of Specialist Compounders	16
3.5 Regional Factors	16
Chapter 4 Modifying Specific Properties: Mechanical Properties – Fillers	19
4.1 Effect of Fillers	21
4.1.1 Mechanical properties	21
4.1.2 Thermal properties	21
4.1.3 Moisture content	21
4.1.4 Reinforcement mechanism of fillers	21

4.2	Factors for Compounding	22
4.2.1	Aggregation of fillers	23
4.3	Types of Fillers	24
4.3.1	Calcium carbonate	24
4.3.2	Kaolin	26
4.3.3	Magnesium hydroxide (talc)	26
4.3.4	Wollastonite	27
4.3.5	Silica	27
4.3.6	Metal powders	28
4.3.7	Microspheres	28
4.3.8	Expandable microspheres	29
4.3.9	Cellulose fillers	30
4.4	Surface Modification	30
4.4.1	Particle geometry	30
4.4.2	Coating	31
4.5	Nano-technology	32
4.5.1	Processing nano-composites	32
4.6	Commercial Trends	35

Chapter 5 Modifying Specific Properties: Mechanical Properties – Reinforcements

		37
5.1	Fibres: The Basic Properties	39
5.2	Types of Reinforcing Fibre	40
5.2.1	Aramid fibres	40
5.2.2	Carbon or graphite fibres	41
5.2.3	Glass fibre	43
	5.2.3.1 E-CR glass	45
	5.2.3.2 Other developments	46
	5.2.3.3 Forms of glass fibre	47
	5.2.3.4 Chopped/milled products	47
	5.2.4 Polyester fibre	48
	5.2.5 Polyethylene fibre	48
	5.2.6 Hybrid fibres	49
5.3	Other Fibres	49
	5.3.1 Asbestos fibre	49
	5.3.2 Boron fibre	49
	5.3.3 Nylon fibre	49
5.4	Natural Fibres	50
5.5	Forms of Reinforcement	51
5.6	Long-fibre Reinforcement	51
5.7	New Developments	53
	5.7.1 Polyurethane/long fibres	54
	5.7.2 ABS/long fibres	54
	5.7.3 Shaped fibres	54
5.8	Commercial Trends	55

Chapter 6	Modifying Specific Properties: Appearance – Colorants, Pigments, Dyes, Special Effects	57
6.1	Main Types of Pigment and Colorant	58
6.1.1	Mixed metal oxides	58
6.1.2	Dyes	58
6.1.3	Liquid colours	59
6.2	Addition of Colorants	60
6.3	Replacement of Cadmium	61
6.4	Pigments for Special Effects	62
6.4.1	Aluminium pigments	63
6.4.2	Pearlescents	63
6.4.3	Light interference pigments	63
6.4.4	Fluorescents	64
6.4.5	Thermochromic and photochromic pigments	64
6.4.5.1	'Intelligent' heat protection for food products	65
6.4.5.2	High-performance dyes for CD manufacture	65
6.4.5.3	Solar heat	65
6.5	Laser Marking	66
6.6	Pigment Dispersants	66
6.7	Multi-functional Systems	67
6.8	Pigments for Engineering Plastics	67
6.9	The Effect of Pigments on Dimensions	68
6.10	Colorants for Food and Medicals	69
6.11	Recent Developments	69
6.11.1	Colour strength	69
6.11.2	Weathering	69
6.11.3	Natural effects	70
6.11.4	New forms of pigment	70
6.11.5	Surface treatment	70
6.11.6	New pigment chemistry	70
6.12	Market Trends	71
Chapter 7	Modifying Specific Properties: Appearance – Black and White Pigmentation	73
7.1	Types of White Pigment	73
7.1.1	Titanium dioxide	73
7.1.1.1	Surface treatments	74
7.1.1.2	Titanium dioxide grades	76
7.1.1.3	Opacity and tinting strength	76
7.1.1.4	Colour	78
7.1.2	Zinc sulphide	78
7.1.3	Other white pigments and extenders	80
7.1.3.1	Aluminium silicates	80
7.1.3.2	Barium sulphate ('blanc fixe')	80

	7.1.3.3	Calcium silicate	80
	7.1.3.4	Magnesium silicate	81
	7.1.4	White masterbatch	82
	7.1.5	New developments	82
7.2		Black Pigments	84
	7.2.1	Types of carbon black	84
	7.2.1.1	Thermal oxidative decomposition processes	85
	7.2.1.2	Thermal decomposition processes	86
	7.2.1.3	Effect of particle size and structure on properties of carbon blacks	86
	7.2.1.4	Testing for properties: structure – effect and determination	87
	7.2.2	Other black pigments	89
	7.2.3	Black masterbatch	90
	7.2.4	Recent developments	91
7.3		Commercial Trends: Titanium Dioxide	92
7.4		Commercial Trends: Carbon Black	92

Chapter 8 Modifying Specific Properties: Resistance to Heat – Heat Stabilizers

			93
8.1		How They Work	93
8.2		Antioxidants	95
	8.2.1	Primary antioxidants	95
	8.2.2	Secondary antioxidants	96
8.3		Blends	97
8.4		Replacement of Heavy Metals	97
	8.4.1	Organotins	98
8.5		Effect of Silica on the Activity of Stabilizers	99
8.6		Benzoxazolone Derivatives for PVC	100
8.7		New Chemistry for Stabilizers	100
	8.7.1	Lactone chemistry	100
	8.7.2	Vitamin E	102
8.8		Recent Developments	103
	8.8.1	Pipes and fittings	103
	8.8.2	Foamed pipe	104
	8.8.3	Cable insulation	104
	8.8.4	Medical products	104
8.9		Other Stabilizers	105
8.10		Commercial Trends	105

Chapter 9 Modifying Specific Properties: Resistance to Light – UV Stabilizers

			107
9.1		How They Work	107
9.2		UV Screening Pigments	108
9.3		Absorbers	109
9.4		Energy Transfer Agents/Quenchers	109

9.5	Scavengers: Hindered Amine Light Stabilizers	109
9.6	Synergists with HALS	110
9.7	Polymeric Stabilizers	111
9.8	Blends	111
9.9	Replacement of Heavy Metals	111
9.10	Selection of Antioxidants for Use with UV Stabilizers	112
9.11	Concentrates, Masterbatches	113
9.12	New Chemistry	113
9.13	Recent Developments	113
Chapter 10	Modifying Specific Properties: Flammability – Flame Retardants	115
10.1	How They Work	115
10.2	Summary of FR additives	116
10.2.1	Reactive FRs	118
10.2.2	Additive FRs	118
10.2.2.1	Inorganics	118
10.3	Halogenated Compounds	120
10.3.1	Chlorinated compounds	121
10.3.2	Brominated compounds	122
10.4	Other Flame Retardants	123
10.4.1	Melamine cyanurate (MC)	123
10.4.2	Zinc borate	124
10.4.3	Zinc hydroxystannate (ZHS) and zinc stannate (ZS)	125
10.4.4	Zinc sulphide	125
10.4.5	Metal hydrates	125
10.5	Phosphorus	126
10.6	Intumescent Flame Retardants	127
10.7	Halogen-free Systems	128
10.7.1	Wire and cable compounds	129
10.8	Combinations of Flame Retardants	130
10.9	Synergistic Reactions	132
10.10	Health and the Environment	135
10.11	Recycling	136
10.12	New Developments	137
10.13	Nano-composites	138
10.14	Commercial Trends	139
Chapter 11	Modifying Specific Properties: Conductivity – Antistatic/Conductive Additives	141
11.1	Classification of Antistatic Additives	143
11.2	Conductive Additives	143
11.3	ESD (Electrostatic Discharge) Compounds	144
11.4	EMI (Electromagnetic Interference) Compounds	144
11.5	Metallic Additives	144
11.6	Coated Polymers	147

11.7	Intrinsically Conductive Materials	148
11.8	Moulded Circuitry	148
11.9	Recent Developments	149
Chapter 12	Modifying Processing Characteristics: Curing and Cross-linking	151
12.1	The Curing Process	151
12.2	Terminology	152
12.3	Curing Agents, Accelerators	152
12.4	Inhibitors	153
12.5	Curing with Accelerators	154
12.6	Curing without Accelerators	154
12.7	Selecting a Curing System	155
12.8	Curing Agents for Epoxy Systems	157
12.9	Cure Promoters	160
12.10	UV Cure Initiators	160
12.11	New Developments	160
12.12	Thermoplastics Cross-linking	162
12.13	Commercial Trends	164
Chapter 13	Modifying Processing Characteristics: Coupling, Compatibilizing Agents	167
13.1	New Developments	168
Chapter 14	Modifying Processing Characteristics: Plasticizers	169
14.1	The Function of Plasticizers	169
14.2	Main Types of Plasticizers	170
14.2.1	Phthalates	170
14.2.2	Sebacates and adipates	171
14.2.3	Fatty acid esters	171
14.2.4	Oligomeric/polymeric plasticizers	172
14.2.5	Epoxyes	173
14.3	Extenders and Secondary Plasticizers	173
14.4	Health and Safety of Plasticizers	173
14.5	Reducing the Level of Plasticizers	174
14.6	Recent Developments	175
14.7	Commercial Trends	175
Chapter 15	Modifying Processing Characteristics: Blowing Agents	177
15.1	The Function of Blowing Agents	177
15.2	Physical Blowing Agents	178
15.3	Chemical Blowing Agents (CBAs)	179
15.4	Structural Foams	180
15.4.1	In-house gas generation	181
15.4.2	Nucleating agents	181
15.4.3	Dispersion agents	181
15.5	Syntactic Structural Foam	181

15.6	Replacement of CFCs	182
15.6.1	Flexible foams	183
15.6.2	Rigid foams	183
15.6.3	Pentane	184
15.6.4	Expanded polystyrene	185
15.6.5	Economics of CFC replacement	186
15.6.6	Testing the insulation value of blowing agents	186
15.7	New Developments	186
15.7.1	Liquid carbon dioxide	187

Chapter 16 Modifying Processing Characteristics: Modifiers and Processing Aids

		189
16.1	Impact Modification	189
16.1.1	Impact modifiers for PVC	190
16.1.1.1	MBS modifiers	190
16.1.1.2	ABS modifiers	190
16.1.1.3	Acrylic modifiers	191
16.2	Elastomer Modification	192
16.2.1	Acrylic rubber	193
16.2.2	Styrenics	193
16.2.3	Polyolefins	194
16.2.4	Polybutene	195
16.3	Dimer Acids	195
16.4	Calcium Carbonate	196
16.5	Modification of CPEE Polymers	196
16.6	Modification of PMMA with Silicon and Phosphorus	197
16.7	Impact Modifiers for Thermosetting Resins	197
16.8	Processing Aids	198
16.8.1	Low-temperature flexibility	200
16.9	Clarifying/Nucleating Agents	200
16.10	Fluoropolymers	202
16.11	New Developments	203
16.11.1	Core-shell rubbers	203
16.11.2	Silicones	204
16.11.3	Modification of engineering thermoplastics	204

Chapter 17 Modifying Processing Characteristics: Lubricants, Mould Release Agents, Anti-slip and Anti-blocking

		205
17.1	Lubricants for Performance Improvement	205
17.2	Lubricants as Processing Aids	206
17.2.1	Metallic stearates	207
17.2.2	Hydrocarbons	207
17.2.3	Fatty acid amides and esters	208
17.2.5	Polyolefin waxes	210
17.2.6	Polyamides	210
17.2.7	Fluoropolymers	211

17.2.8	Silicones	212
17.2.9	Boron nitride	213
17.3	Combination and Modification	213
17.4	Release Agents for Thermosets	214
17.5	Anti-blocking, Anti-slip Additives	216
17.6	New Developments	216
Chapter 18	Other Types of Additive: Miscellaneous Additives	219
18.1	Anti-bacterials and Biocides	219
18.1.1	Anti-allergy agent	221
18.2	Degradation Additives	221
18.3	Shrinkage Modifiers, Low-profile Additives	222
18.4	Improved Barrier Properties	222
18.4.1	Gas barrier coating	223
18.4.2	Resorcinol additives	223
18.4.3	Plasma technology	224
18.4.4	Oxygen absorption in food packaging	224
18.5	Hard Coatings	225
18.6	Thermal Insulation	225
18.7	Fragrance	226
18.8	PVC Matting Agent	226
18.9	Anti-fogging	226
18.10	Acoustic Insulation	227
18.11	Surfactants, Foam Control Additives	228
18.12	Mould Treatment Agents	229
Chapter 19	Other Types of Additive: Additives for Rubber	231
19.1	Guidance on Safety	233
19.2	New Developments	233
19.2.1	Silica	233
Chapter 20	Other Types of Additive: Additives for Recycling	237
20.1	Stabilizing, Re-stabilizing	237
20.2	Stabilizers	238
20.3	Improvement of Properties	239
20.3.1	Fibres/compatibilizers/impact modifiers	239
20.4	Desiccants	239
20.5	PE/PVC Compatibilizing	240
20.6	Melt Flow/Viscosity Modification	240
20.7	Additives for Identification of Plastics	241
20.8	Equipment for Recycling	244
Chapter 21	Background Information: Equipment – Mixing, Compounding, and Dosing	245
21.1	Incorporation of Additives	245
21.2	Mixing Thermosets	246

21.3	Mixing Thermoplastics	247
21.3.1	Dry mixers	247
21.3.2	Calendering	248
21.3.3	Extrusion compounding	248
21.3.4	Compounding mineral fillers	249
21.3.5	Fine talc masterbatch	249
21.3.6	Single- and twin-screw extruders	250
21.3.7	Adjustable screw geometry	251
21.4	Colour Dosing	252
21.5	Recent Developments	253
Chapter 22	Background Information: Health and Safety	257
22.1	Hazards by Additive	257
22.1.1	Carbon black	257
22.1.2	Titanium dioxide	258
22.1.3	Flame retardants	259
22.1.4	Glass fibre	259
22.1.5	Styrene monomer	259
22.1.6	Isocyanates	260
22.2	Hazards During Production, Storage, and Transportation (Workers)	260
22.2.1	Fire/explosion	261
22.2.2	Emissions	261
22.2.3	Skin/body contact	261
22.2.4	Dust	262
22.3	Hazards During Use (Direct Consumer and General Public)	262
22.3.1	Toxicity – food contact	263
22.3.2	Flame retardants	263
22.3.3	Plasticizers	264
22.4	Hazards During Disposal (Workers and General Public)	266
22.4.1	Landfill – heavy metals	266
22.4.2	Incineration	267
22.5	Health and Safety at the Workplace: Some Guidelines	267
22.5.1	Reduction of emissions at the workplace	268
22.6	New Developments: Solvents	268
Chapter 23	Background Information: Legislation and Testing	269
23.1	Blowing Agents	269
23.2	Flame Retardants	269
23.2.1	Halogenated and brominated flame retardants	271
23.3	Heavy Metals/Cadmium Pigments	271
23.4	Plasticizers	272
23.5	Food Packaging	273
23.6	Migration Levels	274

23.7	Moves to Establish a Threshold of Regulatory Concern (TRC)	276
23.7.1	US history	276
23.7.2	European history	276
23.8	The User's Viewpoint	277
23.9	Medical Products and Packaging	277
23.10	Waste and Recycling	277
23.10.1	Packaging	278
23.10.2	Electrical and electronics	278
23.10.3	Automobiles	279
23.11	Physical Testing	279
23.11.1	Mechanical tests	280
23.11.1.1	Tensile strength and modulus	280
23.11.1.2	Flexural strength and modulus (ISO 178 and ISO 3597)	280
23.11.1.3	Compressive strength (ISO 3604)	280
23.11.1.4	Shear strength	281
23.11.1.5	Impact strength	281
23.11.2	Thermal testing	282
23.11.2.1	Heat stability	282
23.11.2.2	Light stability	283
23.11.3	Electrical properties	283
23.11.3.1	Surface and volume resistivity	283
23.11.3.2	Surface resistivity	283
23.11.3.3	Electrostatic discharge	284
23.11.3.4	Static decay	284
23.11.4	Flammability	284
23.11.5	Heat release	286
23.11.6	Ease of ignition	286
23.11.6.1	Calorific value: ISO 1716 – calorific value of materials	286
23.11.6.2	Flame spread	286
23.11.7	Smoke tests	287
23.11.7.1	AS 1530: Part 3 – test for early fire hazard properties of materials	288
23.11.7.2	DIN 4102 Part 1 – B1 – Brandschacht test	288
23.11.7.3	VDE 0472 Part 804	288
23.11.7.4	FAR Part 25: Federal Aviation Regulations for materials used in aircraft	288
23.11.8	Fire tests for building materials	288
23.11.9	Combustibility	289
23.11.10	Floor covering	290

23.11.11	New developments	292
23.11.12	Analysis	292
23.11.13	Surface quality tests	292
23.11.13.1	Barcol hardness test	292
23.11.13.2	Acetone sensitivity	293
23.11.13.3	Surface analysis	293
23.11.14	Colour testing	293
23.11.14.1	Colour stability	294
23.12	Database	294
Appendix A: Conversion Tables		295
Appendix B		299
	Technical Terms	299
	Standards and Testing Institutions	302
	Recommended Books and Journals	303
	Manufacturers' handbooks	303
	Journals covering additives for plastics and rubber	304
Appendix C: Standard Abbreviations for Plastics and Elastomers		307
Appendix D: Trade Names		311
Appendix E: Directories		327
	Directory of Suppliers	327
	Industry Associations and Federations	364
Data Sheets		369
	Fillers and extenders	369
	Reinforcements, fibrous and microspheres	386
	Pigments, colorants, whites, blacks	392
	Antioxidants and stabilizers: heat and light	399
	Flame retardants	405
	Antistatics and conductive additives	414
	Curing, cross-linking agents	417
	Property modifiers, processing aids	420
	Plasticizers	423
	Blowing Agents, Dispersants, Miscellaneous Additives	428
	Lubricants, release agents, slip/anti-block	430
Editorial Index		445
Index of Advertisers		471

CHAPTER 1

An Overview of Additives

From the very beginnings of the plastics industry, it has been necessary to add materials to a basic polymer resin in order, at least, to make it processable. It has also been clear that additive materials are necessary to modify a resin, to improve properties that are desirable, and to eliminate or mitigate properties that are undesirable. In developing additive systems, the plastics industry has learnt much from the earlier experience of the rubber industry, but the pace of development responding to market needs has produced research in completely new fields, developing additive systems using new chemistry.

While the plastics industry is a major user of additives, it is not the only one. Additives overall can be classified as follows:

Table 1.1 Types and uses of additives

Type	Main applications
Additives	Products, normally used in small quantities, which enhance the value of materials such as plastics, paints, colour prints, and lubricants, by improving their processability, performance, and appearance during manufacture and in use.
Antimicrobials	Substances that prevent the growth of microbes and give consumer products such as soaps and toothpastes a medicated property.
Coatings	The broad term for paints, inks, and lacquers. While often associated with decoration, coatings also protect surfaces from corrosion and damage.
Colours	Can be soluble dyes for textiles, leather, paper, or insoluble pigments for plastics, coatings, and printing inks.
Fine chemicals	Highly complex functional intermediates or ingredients for 'high-tech' applications; for example, in the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, and electronic industries.
Heat and light stabilizers	Additives that prevent the degradation of plastics and coatings under the effects of heat, oxygen, and light.
Optical brighteners	Chemicals which impart whiteness to textiles, detergents, paper, fibres, and plastics.

Type	Main applications
Photo/repro additives	Additives that, when irradiated with light, promote the hardening of printing inks, coatings, and adhesives, and chemically fix images used in electronic or graphic materials.
Pigments	Colorants that remain undissolved before, during, and after application: they are used to colour plastics, inks, paints, and synthetic fibres.
UV curing	Hardening of coatings and adhesives by means of ultraviolet light.
Water treatments	Help purify water for industrial and domestic applications. They also modify water as an agent for the processing of minerals and oils, and have a variety of properties to process water (for example, flocculants separate water from solid particles).

Source: Ciba Specialty Chemicals

For plastics, the range of additives is very large, involving the improvement of many properties:

Table 1.2 The main effect of additives on the properties of a compound

	Calcium carbonate, calcium silicate, powdered aluminium, or copper	Alumina, flint powder, carborundum, silica, molybdenum disulphide	Chopped glass	Mica, silica, powdered or flaked glass	Metallic fillers or alumina	Colloidal silica, bentonite clay
<i>Physical properties</i>						
Thermal conductivity	++	++	++	++	++	–
Heat deflection temperature	++	++	++	++	++	=
Abrasion resistance	=	++	++	++	–	–
Impact strength	–	–	++	–	++	=
Tensile strength	–	=	++	–	=	=
Flexural strength	–	=	++	–	=	=
Compressive strength	–	=	++	–	=	=
Dielectric constant	++	++	++	++	++	=
<i>Processing</i>						
Exotherm	–	–	–	–	–	–
Thixotropy	=	=	=	=	=	++
Machinability	++	–	–	–	++	++
Cost reduction	–	–	=	–	–	++

Key: – decreases;
 ++ increases;
 = essentially no effect.