

Preview

Omya Smartfill® opens new opportunities for the use of Polylactic Acid (PLA)

Speaker: Michael Walter,
Sales Manager
Technical Polymer Applications, Polymer Packaging
Omya GmbH



THINKING OF TOMORROW

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Abstract: Omya developed the Smartfill technology platform to improve the performance of Calcium Carbonate in polyesters and especially in Polylactic Acid. In Polyolefins and Polystyrene, the use of Calcium Carbonate is well known and addition rates of up to 40% are quite common.

However, in the case of PLA, using conventional Calcium Carbonate products has led to poor product performance as a result of hydrolysis during processing. For this reason, high loadings of Calcium Carbonate in PLA or PLA rich compounds have not been feasible or beneficial.

With the development of Omya Smartfill® technology the situation has changed. Products like Omya Smartfill® developed specifically for PLA applications demonstrate almost no hydrolysis when processed at high loading.

At the same time, the addition of Omya Smartfill® improves product stiffness, impact resistance, elongation, heat transfer, and it contributes to an overall reduction in formulation cost.

Omya is a leading global producer of industrial minerals – mainly fillers and pigments derived from calcium carbonate and dolomite – and a worldwide distributor of specialty chemicals.

The company provides a wealth of product solutions that contribute to its customers' competitiveness and productivity in mul-

multiple industries such as Construction, Printing & Writing, Technical Polymers, Packaging, Food, Personal & Home Care, Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Energy.

Founded in 1884 in Switzerland, Omya has a global presence extending to more than 175 locations in over 50 countries with 8,000 employees.

Committed to implementing the principals of sustainability at all company levels, Omya provides added value products and services from responsibly sourced materials to meet the essential needs of current and future generations.

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