

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Presents Novel Solid Silicone Rubber Grades with Low Coefficient of Sliding Friction

Munich, June 14, 2010 – WACKER, the Munich-based chemical company, will introduce at the 18th International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2010) novel solid silicone rubber grades that cure to elastomers of very low surface friction. The grades presented are the ELASTOSIL® R *plus* 4366 series for extrusion, the ELASTOSIL® R *plus* 4066 grades for moulding and SILPURAN® 8630/60, a high-purity silicone product developed specifically for medical applications. The low friction effect of these solid silicones is based on a special formulation concept that circumvents the drawbacks of traditional oil-exuding silicones. The new silicone products are ideal for applications in food and medical technology. K 2010 will take place from October 27 to November 3 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

The new solid silicone rubber grades are conducive to the production of molded parts and semi-finished products that have an intrinsically lubricious surface. Unlike with traditional oil-exuding silicones, no oily silicone film forms at the surface. At the same time, the elastomers are characterized by very high tear strength and good, well balanced mechanical properties overall.

This property profile makes the new solid silicone rubber grades attractive for many applications in which a rugged silicone elastomer with lubricious surface is desirable, but oil-exuding technical silicones cannot be used. This is particularly the case for silicones intended for medical devices or food contact.

Parts made from the novel silicone grades are simpler to install on account of their low coefficient of sliding friction. This renders the use of release agents such as talcum unnecessary and shortens assembly times. In many cases, assembly can be automated, e.g. the assembly of connecting hoses in medical devices.

The reduced sliding friction also has a positive impact on the end application. For example, the lubricious surface of tubes used for metering products can make it easier to apportion solid food ingredients. In medical technology, the silicone products can facilitate the development of new types of catheters and drains that are easier to use and which patients find more comfortable.

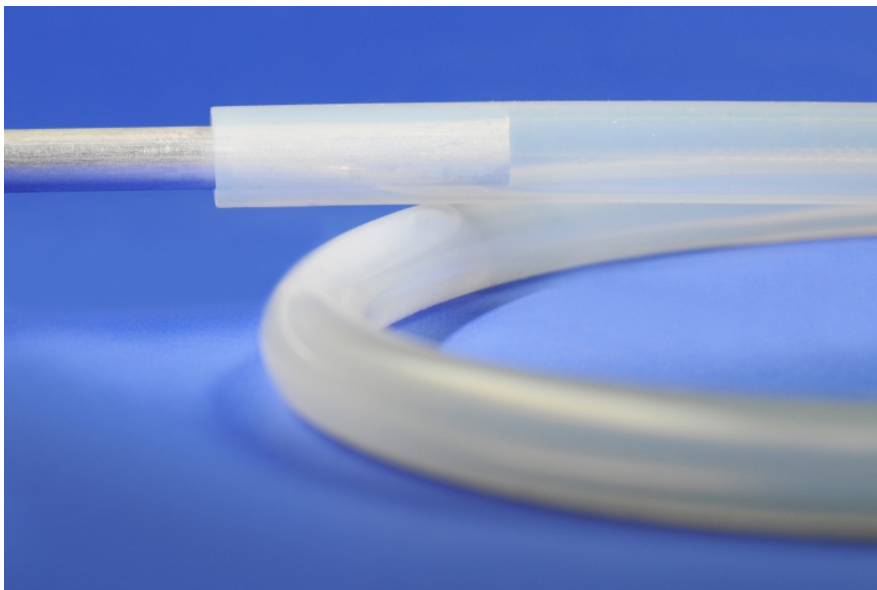
All of the novel solid silicone rubber grades are transparent and can therefore be dyed in any color. They cure by platinum-catalyzed addition. Both extrusion and compression molding grades are available. The extrusion grades are grouped together in the ELASTOSIL® R *plus* 4366 series while the molding grades are sold under the name ELASTOSIL® R *plus* 4066. The elastomers of both series comply with the food standards of the Federal German Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), the French Arrêté du 25 novembre 1992 and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

SILPURAN® 8630/60: A Solid Silicone Developed Specifically for Medical Applications

Besides the aforementioned products, WACKER has developed a solid silicone rubber for extruded articles intended for the medical, pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Marketed under the name SILPURAN® 8630/60, it cures to a biocompatible elastomer. The product is certified to both ISO 10993-1 and USP (United States Pharmacopoeia) Class VI.

The manufacturing process for all SILPURAN® silicone products entails ultrafine filtration, visual inspection and packaging in antistatic materials. This ensures they meet the special purity requirements of the food and medical technology sectors.

Visit WACKER at K 2010 in Düsseldorf. You'll find us in Hall 06, Booth A10.



At K 2010, WACKER will unveil novel solid silicone rubber grades with greatly reduced surface friction. The grades are ideal for applications in food and medical technology. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

Note:

This photo is available for download at:

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 15,600 employees and annual sales of around €3.7 billion (2009). WACKER has 26 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS

Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries

Siltronic

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices