



Summaries of UK Patent Applications

Starch-Flocculated Compositions for Papermaking. GB 2223 038A. Filed 19 September 1989, published 28 March 1990. Applicant — Blue Circle Industries plc, London.

A flocculating paperfiller comprises starch particles and a flocculating agent (such as a polyacrylamide). Preflocculated filler may be made by adding such a mixture to an aqueous slurry of filler particles (e.g. calcium carbonate). During the drying stage of paper's manufacture, a starch solution is formed throughout the paper matrix and this solution strengthens the matrix.

Gel-Forming Polysaccharides. GB 2223 503A. Filed 3 September 1988, published 11 April 1990. Applicant — Agricultural and Food Research Council, Reading, UK.

A number of polysaccharides which can be extracted from *Rhizobium leguminosarum* species can be gelled in aqueous solution by cooling or by exposing to sufficient electrolyte. Such gels have many uses (e.g. food preparations).

Low-Dusting Powdery Alginate Dental Impression Materials. GB 2226 039A. Filed 15 November 1989, published 20 June 1990. Applicant — G-C Shika Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, Tokyo.

A low-dusting powdery alginate material for dental impressions consists of: (a) an alginate; (b) a gelling agent; (c) an agent for controlling gelation; (d) a filler; (e) at least one of an oxide, a fluoride and a hydroxide of a metal; and (f) lanolin (with or without one or more of its derivatives).

Polyvinyl Alcohol-Starch Film. GB 2227 245A. Filed 5 December 1989, published 25 July 1990. Applicant — Nippon Gohsei Kagaku Kogyo Kabushiki, Osaka-shi, Japan.

A polyvinyl alcohol-starch film is prepared from polyvinyl alcohol (of molar hydrolysis not less than 93%) and a starch, and with the film being at least uniaxially stretched. The present film has both excellent water resistance and excellent degradability.