



Summaries of UK Patent Applications

Method of Encapsulating Polymer Additives. GB 2237574A.

Filed 2 November 1990, published 8 May 1991.

Applicant — The Secretary of State for Defence, London.

Sodium alginate is used to micro-encapsulate polymer additives such as antioxidants. The micro-capsules are prepared by spraying an emulsion of the polymer additive and aqueous sodium alginate into a cross-linking bath consisting of an aqueous solution of a di- or multivalent metal salt.

This technique enables the available range of useful additives for polymers to be extended to molecules which are previously regarded as too volatile; it also gives better performance with conventional additives.

Programmed Gelation of Polymers Using Melamine Resins. GB 2237575A.

Filed 1 November 1990, published 8 May 1991.

Applicant — Mobil Oil Corporation, Virginia, USA.

Polymers including particularly xanthan gum and welan gum are gelled in two stages using rapid and delayed amino resin cross-linking agents. The process is used in enhanced oil recovery.

Norbixin Adducts. GB 2239020A.

Filed 23 October 1990, published 19 June 1991.

Applicant — Kalamazoo Holdings, Michigan, USA.

Stable complexes of norbixin with water-soluble or water dispersible branched-chain and cyclic polysaccharides are described. Preferred branched-chain polysaccharides are gum arabic and carboxymethyl cellulose and a unique adduct can be formed with cyclodextrins.

The complex is prepared by contacting the substrate and norbixin in an aqueous alkaline solution and

thereafter acidifying so as to yield complexed norbixin in a reddish or magenta form. The complex is used as a colourant in foods or drinks.

Caramel Composition for Dyeing Cigarette Paper: Purification of Caramel. GB 2239654A.

Filed 4 January 1991, published 10 July 1991.

Applicant — Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Louisville, USA.

The prime components of a dye for colouring cigarette paper brown are caramel as the brown colouring agent and a plasticizer to prevent the paper becoming brittle e.g. glycerine.

Caramel is purified by titrating with aqueous ethanol or by diafiltration.

Compositions for the Treatment of Poisoning Containing Dextran Derivatives. GB 2240272A.

Filed 23 January 1991, published 31 July 1991.

Applicant — M.L. Laboratories plc, London.

A dextrin derivative in which a proportion of the hydroxyl groups in the dextrin have been replaced by strongly acidic groups is useful in treatment of poisoning or drug overdose, particularly by compounds having basic groups. Dextrin sulphate is the preferred derivative for use in the treatment of paraquat poisoning.

Aerosil Carriers. GB 2240337A.

Filed 24 January 1991, published 31 July 1991.

Applicant — NRDC, London.

Pharmaceutical excipients useful in dry powder inhalants comprise particles having a rugosity (measured by air permeametry) of less than 1.75.

The preferred excipients are crystalline sugars such as lactose which may be prepared by controlled crystallisation from an aqueous medium.