



Food Packaging Adhesives Press Reporting in the UK – May 2010

A number of British newspapers reported last week (Monday May 24th 2010) on a paper written by the Spanish University of Zaragoza (UNIZAR) for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Journal of Materials Chemistry. The paper "*Partition and diffusion of volatile compounds from acrylic adhesives used for food packaging multilayers manufacturing*" described one small part of the results of a three-year study into determining whether migration modeling could be used to calculate possible migration of substances from the food package into food.

The 'MIGRESIVES' Project was an initiative from the European adhesives industry which received part funding from the EU Commission and aimed to develop a pragmatic, science based tool to support existing and future EU regulation for adhesives, used in food packaging.

This 3 million € project, involving 21 partners across 8 countries, has produced mathematical models for predicting migration and software which can be used by the entire food packaging supply chain. The conclusion of the research effort will be made publically available later this year. Interim findings suggest that the study has been highly successful and the tool for industry use will become available in the near future.

UNIZAR's contribution, as one of the Research Partners in MIGRESIVES, was to compare and validate the predicted results of the mathematical modelling software with analytical experiments on various food-packaging adhesives and packaging configurations. The findings must therefore be set in the context of this project. *The laboratory samples were made for scientific experiment only and were not representative of the concentration levels used in commercial adhesive formulations or food packaging.*

FEICA is investigating the reports in the British press, the paper in the RSC journal and evaluating the claims reported with its project partners and will issue a fuller response (within the next two weeks) once all the necessary scientific facts have been collected.

● Background

This paper was issued to a number of journalists in February 2010.

The Royal Society of Chemistry of UK published in May 2010 the paper an abstract of which can be found on Internet:

http://www.rsc.org/delivery/ArticleLinking/DisplayHTMLArticleforfree.cfm?JournalCode=JM&Year=2010&ManuscriptID=c0jm00514b&lss=Advance_Article.



FEICA, the European Adhesive & Sealant Manufacturing Association is a multinational association representing the European Adhesive and Sealant Industry. With the support of 14 national associations and over 20 direct members, FEICA coordinates, represents and advocates the common interests of our industry throughout Europe. In this regard, FEICA aims at establishing a constructive dialogue with legislators in order to act as a reliable partner to resolve issues affecting the European Adhesive and Sealant Industry.

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