

BENEFITS OF STRUCTURAL FOAM RESIN FOR METAL REPLACEMENT

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT





INDUSTRY Patient Testing

KEY CHALLENGES

Meeting the need for more economical material solutions without sacrificing performance

PRODUCT

Large medical equipment components

SOLUTIONS

NORYL[™] and LEXAN[™] structural foam resins for metal replacement

CHALLENGES

Metal replacement is a growing trend in the medical device industry for a number of reasons:

- Metal can limit the design freedom needed to create next-generation applications
- Parts made with metal are heavy which can increase shipping costs as well as carbon fuel emissions
- Metal frequently requires costly secondary operations, such as machining and painting

Coupled with concerns about rising healthcare costs and stronger global competition, OEMs are calling for new material technologies to help control costs and provide greater design flexibility.

SOLUTION

Compared to metal, SABIC's NORYL[™] and LEXAN[™] structural foam molded materials can deliver far greater design freedom and up to 50 percent weight reduction. While virtually eliminating common secondary operations, such as machining and acid treatment before painting, these products can also help reduce system costs by up to 30 percent.

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CHEMISTRY THAT MATTERS

SOLUTION (Continued)

NORYL and LEXAN structural foam materials can also provide better performance, aesthetics and design flexibility compared to traditional injection molded resins. Structural foam components for large medical equipment such as imaging and anesthesia devices, can have reduced flowability issues, sink marks and warpage.

NORYL structural foam resin is a non-halogenated flame-retardant material that features a lower density and better flow than LEXAN structural foam resin. It provides excellent dimensional stability, including low creep and water absorption, and excellent chemical resistance.

LEXAN structural foam resin provides higher heat resistance and impact strength than the NORYL material, and can achieve UL-94 VO compliance at lower thicknesses.

The two materials address the requirements of different components and can be used together to maximize metal replacement opportunities. For instance, with its lower density and high dimensional stability, NORYL structural foam resin is a potential material for equipment cover panels and housings, while LEXAN structural foam resin can be considered for machine bases and structural supports due to its exceptional durability.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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