

BIOCHEM show case

Maintain the benefits of cork in shoe manufacture while reducing demand for the material

Problem

Cork is a natural product that has been used in shoe manufacture for hundreds of years. As a material it has excellent energy absorbing properties and is lightweight. Cork is however a scarce material and can be inconsistent in supply.

Technical solution

Huntsman Polyurethane has developed a new soiling solution combining the properties of cork with high performance polyurethane (a thermoplastic). This compound, known as TPU-cork, is said to be ideal in a wide range of footwear from casual shoes and sandals to insoles and orthopaedic footwear. The material comprises granulated cork compounded into TPU powder to create a pellet that footwear manufacturers can mix with different soft TPUs and use on standard injection moulding machines.

Benefits

- Reduces demand for natural material
- Improved properties
- Reduced material intensity

Additional information

Huntsman

Website

http://www.huntsman.com/portal/page/portal/polyurethanes/Media%20Library/a_MC1CD1F5AB7BB1738E040EBCD2B6B01F1/Products_MC1CD1F5AB8081738E040EBCD2B6B01F1/files/pu_review_02.pdf