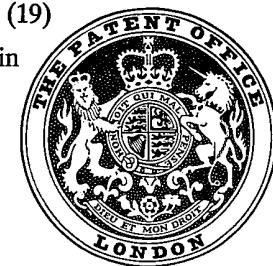


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(54) POLYVINYL HALIDE COMPOSITIONS

(71) We, UNIROYAL, INC., a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, one of the United States of America, of 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a Patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

5 Smoke-retardant plasticized polyvinyl halide polymer compositions containing zinc oxide as the smoke retardant are disclosed.

Zinc oxide has previously been used with polyvinyl chloride resins as a stabilizer (U.S.P. 3,446,765), as a pigment (U.S.P. 2,682,484), and as a stabilizer for blowing agent promoters (U.S.P. 3,041,193).

10 Synthetic materials undergoing forced combustion emit smoke and toxic gases which are dangerous fire hazards because they impair escape, produce injury, limit survival and hamper fire fighting efforts. The latest statistics indicate that about half of the fatalities from accidental fires are caused by smoke rather than by heat or actual burning, thus 15 emphasizing the need for the development of synthetic organic materials with as minimal smoke generating properties as possible. This is especially true for such applications as linings of aircraft, watercraft, motor vehicles, and house interiors, as well as for furniture and the like.

20 Under forced combustion, polyvinyl halide compositions are known to emit large amounts of black smoke and compositions which contain plasticizers, such as dioctyl phthalate, emit even more smoke than the unplasticized counterparts. Flame retardants such as the oxides of tin, lead, magnesium, manganese, tellurium, titanium, copper, chromium, aluminum, vanadium and tungsten are of no value as smoke retardants in polyvinyl halides. Indeed, antimony oxide, which is widely used as a flame retarder in 25 polyvinyl halide compositions, may often increase the generation of smoke upon forced combustion.

25 According to the present invention there is provided a smoke-retardant composition comprising a polymer formed from one or more monomers, at least one of which is a halogen containing monomer, a plasticizer therefor in an amount of from 20 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer, and from 2 to 30 parts by weight of zinc oxide per 100 parts by weight of said polymer. Preferably the or a monomer is a vinyl halide, more preferably vinyl chloride. Preferably the zinc oxide is present in from 2 to 12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.

30 Preferably, the plasticizer is a phthalate, a phosphate, a trimellitate or a mixture thereof, 35 more preferably a mixture of a dialkyl phthalate and an alkyl trimellitate.

35 Preferably, the composition additionally contains up to 30 parts by weight of antimony oxide (Sb_2O_3).

40 Preferably, the composition further includes up to 60 parts by weight of calcium carbonate, alumina trihydrate or magnesium oxide.

45 The invention provides compositions with a markedly reduced tendency to smoke during combustion - a much desired safety feature. Accordingly, this invention results in an improvement to the safety characteristics in materials utilized in constructions.

Polymers which may be used in this invention include homopolymers, copolymers, and polymer mixtures. Exemplary of applicable resins are:

1. Homopolymers, such as polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl bromide, polyvinyl fluoride,

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polyvinylidene chloride and polydichlorostyrene;

2. Copolymers, such as vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride-vinyl alcohol, vinylidene chloride-vinyl chloride, vinyl chloride-diethyl maleate, and vinyl chloride and an ester of an unsaturated alcohol and an unsaturated acid; and

5 3. Mixtures, such as polyvinyl chloride and polydichlorostyrene; polyvinyl chloride and vinyl acetate-vinyl chloride copolymer; and polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, and a copolymer of vinyl chloride-diethylmaleate.

The resins can be treated with the smoke retardant additives in any convenient manner. In some instances, smoke retardancy can be achieved by treating one or more surfaces of a plastic article with the additive-containing resin composition such that a treated surface is coated, i.e. overlaid or padded, with the additive composition. In like manner, textile fabrics of all types and contructions can be overlaid with a layer or thin skin of the additive composition.

10 Suitable plasticizers for the above types of resins, especially for polyvinyl chloride itself, are generally used in the range of 20 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weights of polyvinyl halide, preferably 30 to 100 parts, and include high boiling esters, such as bis(2-ethylhexyl) adipate, bis(2-ethylhexyl) azelate, diethylene glycol dibenzoate, dipropylene glycol dibenzoate, tri-n-butyl citrate, acetyl tri-n-butyl citrate, epoxidized soybean oil, 2-ethylhexyl epoxy tallate, diethylene glycol dipelargonate, methyl phthalyl ethyl glycolate, butyl phthalyl butyl glycolate, bis(2-ethylhexyl) isophthalate, butyl oleate, tris(2-ethylhexyl) phosphate, tributoxyethyl phosphate, cresyl diphenyl phosphate, tricresyl phosphate, 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate, butyl octyl phthalate, di-n-octyl phthalate, diisooctyl phthalate, bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, n-octyl n-decyl phthalate, isoctyl isodecyl phthalate, diisodecyl phthalate, ditridecyl phthalate, diphenyl phthalate, isodecyl benzyl phthalate, adipic acid polyester (mol. wt. 6000), adipic acid polyester (mol. wt. 2200), azelaic acid polyester (mol. wt. 1500), sebacic acid polyester (mol. wt. 800), methyl ricinoleate, n-butyl acetylricinoleate, bis(2-ethylhexyl)sebacate, butyl acetoxystearate, alkyl sulfonic acid ester of phenol and cresol and tri(2-ethylhexyl) trimellitate.

15 Other suitable plasticizers include chlorinated (54% chlorine) biphenyl, hydrogenated terphenyls, polyalkyl-naphthalenes, chlorinated (24-70% chlorine) paraffin, N-cyclohexyl p-toluenesulfonamide, and copolymers of a conjugated diolefin having less than 7 carbon atoms, such as butadiene, with a copolymerizable monomer such as acrylonitrile or methyl isopropenyl ketone.

20 For minimum smoke generation, it has been found that a particularly effective plasticizer is a mixture of a phthalate-type plasticizer and a trimellitate plasticizer. A blend of these two plasticizers in the weight ratio of phthalate to trimellitate of about 6/1 to about 1/1 produces a synergistic interaction when combined with zinc oxide smoke retardant and antimony trioxide flame retardant.

25 In general, improved flame retardance can be provided to compositions of this invention by incorporating therein metallic compounds wherein the metal is antimony, arsenic or bismuth in an amount of from about 1 to 30% by weight of the said polymeric composition. Antimony oxide is the compound that is preferred for use in the present invention. However, many other antimony compounds are suitable. Suitable antimony compounds include the sulfides of antimony, salts of the alkali metals of Group I of the Periodic Table, antimony salts of organic acids and their pentavalent derivatives and the esters of antimonious acids and their pentavalent derivatives. It is convenient to use sodium antimonite or potassium antimonite when it is desired to use an alkali metal salt of the antimony for compositions of this invention. U.S. Patent 2,996,528 discloses suitable antimony salts of organic acids and their pentavalent derivatives. Compounds this class

30 include antimony butyrate, antimony valerate, antimony caproate, antimony heptylate, antimony caprylate, antimony pelargonate, antimony caprate, antimony cinnamate, antimony anisate, and their pentavalent dihalide derivatives. Likewise, the esters of antimonious acids and their pentavalent derivatives are disclosed in U.S. Patent 2,993,924 such as tris(n-octyl)antimonite, tris(2-ethylhexyl)antimonite, tribenzyl antimonite, tris(beta-chloroethyl)antimonite, tris(beta-chloropropyl) antimonite, tri(beta-chlorobutyl) antimonite, and their pentavalent dihalide derivatives. Still another suitable organic antimony compounds are the cyclic antimonites such as trimethylol propane antimonite, pentaerythritol antimonite and glycerol antimonite. The corresponding arsenic and bismuth compounds

35 can also be employed, in particular the oxides of arsenic and bismuth.

40 Other compounding ingredients may be used in the polyvinyl halide compositions of this invention including light and heat stabilizers, waxes, pigments, blowing agents, other flame retardants, and fillers such as carbon black, silica, barytes, clay, wood flour, magnesium oxide, calcium carbonate, aluminum trihydrate and the like. The preferred filler is calcium carbonate.

45 The prior art shows that there is usually a direct relationship between the smoke

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retardancy achievable and the amount of smoke retardant employed, usually a greater amount of smoke retardant will provide a greater amount of smoke retardancy, all other factors remaining the same. In some instances, there is a practical upper limit on the amount of smoke retardant used. This upper limit is based on secondary factors such as cost, ease of blending or interference with some other desirable property of the substrate, for example. In the particular case of this invention, it has been found, unexpectedly that the expected direct relationship between smoke retardancy and amount of smoke retardant does not prevail. In the case of zinc oxide plus a blend of a phthalate plasticizer and a trimellitate plasticizer at a total plasticizer content of about 70 phr., the smoke generation decreases rapidly as the amount of zinc oxide increases from one part to about 7 parts per 100 parts of polyvinyl chloride and then, unexpectedly, the smoke generation increases as the amount of zinc oxide increases from about 10 parts to 30 parts of polyvinyl chloride. Thus, the preferred amount of zinc oxide is about 2 to 30 parts per 100 parts of polyvinyl halide and the most preferred amount, for minimal smoke generation is 2 to 12 parts per 100 parts of polyvinyl halide.

The formulations of this invention can be used in any applications where plasticized polyvinyl halides are acceptable, including, but not limited to, coated fabrics, wire and cable insulation and jacketing, wall-covering and the like. Examples of suitable fibrous backing materials for coated applications are cotton fabrics, rayon fabric, felt, paper, polyester fabric and blends of the preceding. The fabric may be coated by calendering, by cast coating, by plastisol coating, by roller coating or by other methods which are well known in the art.

In the practice of this invention, the zinc oxide smoke retardant, antimony compound flame retardant and other compounding ingredients are blended into the resin by any appropriate blending or mixing technique available in the art.

For the examples below, all of the compositions were prepared as follows, unless otherwise noted: The components were mixed first by hand and then for 10 minutes on a two-roller electrically heated differential mill maintained at a temperature of 150°C. The homogeneous mixture was then compression molded in a 30 ton hydraulic press for 10 minutes at 160°C under full pressure. A 3" x 6" x .020" mold was used. In order to test the smoke generation of the various compositions, test specimens 3" x 3" x about .022" thick were cut from the sheets prepared by compression molding the fluxed compositions as indicated above. Each specimen was placed an aluminum foil cut to size to permit overlapping of the specimen face on all four sides. The wrapped specimen was placed in a holder and burned in the Aminco NBS smoke chamber according to the directions supplied and in accordance with NBS Technical Note 708, of December 1971. The amount of smoke was measured by a photomultiplier. Specific optical density was calculated and then corrected for the soot remaining on the lens at the end of the test. Measurement is made of the attenuation of a light beam by smoke accumulating within a closed chamber due to the flaming combustion. Results are expressed in terms of specific optical density, which is derived from a geometrical factor and the measured optical density (absorbance). This is the single measurement most characteristics of the "concentration of smoke". The photometric scale used to measure smoke by this test method is similar to the optical density scale for human vision.

Compositions without zinc oxide present give a corrected maximum specific optical density in the range of 400 or more. In comparison 10 parts of zinc oxide reduced this number to less than about 200. In the NBS test, the smaller the number, the less smoke. It is to be noted that most values for the maximum specific optical density of a composition are the average of measurements made on two or more test specimens of each composition. In general, two compositions are regarded as having different smoke generating properties if the difference in the maximum specific optical densities is greater than 10.

Further details of the reduction in smoke generation are shown by the following examples wherein all compositions are given in parts by weight for 100 parts of polyvinyl chloride resin. All compositions contained 1.8 parts of a barium-cadmium-zinc stabilizer, 2.7 parts of epoxidized soybean oil, and 0.2 parts stearic acid unless otherwise noted.

Example 1

A composition containing 100 parts polyvinyl chloride (Marvinol® 22 of Uniroyal, Inc.), 70 parts by weight dioctylphthalate plasticizer (DOP), 15 parts by weight calcium carbonate filler, 10 parts by weight antimony trioxide (Sb₂O₃) and 10 parts by weight zinc oxide was hand mixed and then milled on a two roll mill for 10 minutes. The composition was compression molded to about .022" thickness as described earlier. Two samples each 3" square were then cut from the sheet and tested for smoke generation in the Aminco NBS smoke chamber using the flaming test.

The above procedure was then repeated except omitting the zinc oxide.

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The average maximum specific optical densities for the two compositions were:
 With Zinc Oxide 176
 Without Zinc Oxide 374

5 *Example II*

The procedure of Example I was repeated utilizing different plasticizers. The compositions and smoke generating results are summarized in Table I below.

In the Table, the plasticizers are given by trademark name and are the following:

10 *Phthalate Type*

Santicizer (Trade Mark) 711 = mixed C₇-C₁₁ alkyl phthalate
 PX-316 = mixed alkyl phthalate, higher percent linear than Santicizer 711

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15 *Phosphate Type*

Santicizer 141 = 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate
 Santicizer 148 = isodecyl diphenyl phosphate

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20 *Trimellitate Type*

Santicizer 79TM = mixed (C₇-C₉) alkyl trimellitate

20 The results in Table I clearly show that the incorporation of 10 parts by weight zinc oxide dramatically reduced the amount of smoke generation of the compositions which contained antimony trioxide flame retardant irrespective of the plasticizer.

20

25 *Composition*

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
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Polyvinyl Chloride

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Zinc Oxide

0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Santicizer 711

60	70	60					
----	----	----	--	--	--	--	--

PX-316

		60					
--	--	----	--	--	--	--	--

Santicizer 141

			60				
--	--	--	----	--	--	--	--

Santicizer 148

				60			
--	--	--	--	----	--	--	--

Santicizer 79TM

					80		
--	--	--	--	--	----	--	--

Calcium Carbonate

30	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Antimony Trioxide

10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

35 Maximum Specific Optical Density

378	167	160	160	162	162	195	
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Example III

40 The procedure of Example II was repeated utilizing a variety of fillers to show that although there are differences in the absolute amount of smoke generated by a particular composition depending upon the filler and its amount, zinc oxide acts as a smoke retardant in all cases. Maximum smoke suppression was obtained when the filler was calcium carbonate. The compositions and results are shown in Table II.

40

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TABLE II

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Composition

	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>P</i>
--	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Polyvinyl chloride

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Zinc oxide

0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

50 Magnesium oxide

		15							
--	--	----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Calcium carbonate

30	15		15	20	30				
----	----	--	----	----	----	--	--	--	--

Alumina trihydrate

			15	20	30				
--	--	--	----	----	----	--	--	--	--

Santicizer 711

60	60	60							
----	----	----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DOP

			70	70	70	70	70	70	70
--	--	--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

55 Antimony trioxide

10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Maximum specific optical density

378	160	163	176	185	172	225	204	246	
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

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60 *Example IV*

60 The procedure of Example I was repeated to determine the effect of including antimony trioxide (Sb₂O₃) on the smoke generation of polyvinyl chloride compositions. With the mixed alkyl phthalate plasticizer (PX-316) identified in Example II and the filler combination used in these compositions, there was a synergism between zinc oxide and antimony trioxide with regard to smoke suppression.

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The compositions and results are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

	Composition	<i>Q</i> *	<i>R</i>	<i>S</i>	
5	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	5
	Zinc oxide	10	10	0	
	PX-316	60	60	60	
10	Calcium carbonate	15	15	15	
	Antimony trioxide	0	10	10	10
	Maximum specific optical density	223	160	349	

*A tin stabilizer (Thermolite (Trade Mark) 31 - an organotin mercaptide from M&T Chemicals Corp.), 2phr, was used in place of the epoxidized soybean oil and the Ba/Cd/Zn stabilizer. 15

Example V

The procedure of Example I was repeated to demonstrate the relationship between zinc oxide concentration and smoke suppression. It is to be noted that the effect of zinc oxide on reducing the smoke generation is complex in showing initially a decrease in the generation of smoke with increasing amount of zinc oxide and then, quite unexpectedly, showing an increase in smoke generation above an optimum amount - namely, about 5 to 12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of polyvinyl chloride for a composition containing about 70phr of plasticizer. The compositions and results are shown in Table IV. 20 25

TABLE IV

	Composition	<i>T</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	
30	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	30
	Zinc oxide	0	1	3	5	10	20	30	
	Santicizer 711	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
	Santicizer 79TM	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
35	Calcium carbonate	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
	Antimony	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	35
	Maximum specific optical density	333	241	234	142	137	176	192	

Example VI

This example shows that numerous other zinc compounds are either ineffective as smoke retardants for polyvinyl chloride compositions, or decidedly inferior to zinc oxide.

Test sheets were prepared according to the procedure of Example I from the following basic composition:

45	Polyvinyl chloride	100							45
	Santicizer 711		50						
	Santicizer 79TM			20					
	Calcium carbonate				15				
50	Antimony trioxide					10			50
	Zinc compound						10		

The results for the various zinc compounds tested were:

	Compound	Maximum Specific Optical Density	
55	AA Zinc oxide	137	55
	AB Zinc sulfate	241	
	AC Zinc sulfide	318	
	AD Zinc borate	207	
60	AE Zinc nitrate	208	60
	AF None	333	

Example VII

The procedure of Example I was repeated to demonstrate the synergistic effect of a blend of a phthalate type plasticizer and a trimellitate plasticizer on smoke generation in a

formulation containing an optimum amount of zinc oxide as a smoke retardant and antimony trioxide as a flame retardant. The observed synergism operates at a weight ratio of phthalate plasticizer to trimellitate plasticizer of about 6/1 to about 1/1.

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TABLE V

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	<i>Composition</i>	<i>AG</i>	<i>AH</i>	<i>AI</i>	<i>AJ</i>	<i>AK</i>	
	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	100	100	
10	Zinc oxide	10	10	10	10	10	
	Santicizer 711	70	60	50	38	0	
	Santicizer 79TM	0	10	20	38	80	10
	Calcium carbonate	15	15	15	15	15	
	Antimony oxide	10	10	10	10	10	
15	Maximum specific optical density	176	138	137	141	195	15

Example VIII

Coated fabrics were prepared by mixing a coating compound on a two-roll mill, as in Example I and then by calendering the compound onto a 2.5 oz/yd² polyester-cotton knit fabric, by means of standard techniques. A coating thickness of .012" was used, at a temperature of 150°C.

The following compositions were coated onto the polyester-cotton fabric:

		<i>AL</i>	<i>AM*</i>	
25	Polyvinyl	100	100	25
	Santicizer 711	50	50	
	Santicizer 79TM	20	20	
30	Calcium carbonate	15	15	30
	Antimony oxide	10	10	
	Zinc oxide	0	10	
	Maximum specific optical density	165	95	

35 *Thermolite 31 (2phr) was used in place of the Ba/Cd/Zn stabilizer. 35

Example IX

40 Using the procedure of Example I, the following compositions were mixed and tested to demonstrate that the synergism between zinc oxide and trimellitate plasticizer persists over a range of plasticizer concentrations.

The compositions and results are shown in Table VI below:

	<i>Compositions</i>	<i>AN</i>	<i>AO</i>	
45	Polyvinyl chloride*	100	100	45
	Zinc oxide	10	10	
50	Santicizer 711	40	28	
	Santicizer 79TM	0	12	50
	CaCO ₃	30	30	
	Sb ₂ O ₃	3	3	
55	Maximum specific optical density	153	116	55

60 *The polyvinyl chloride was stabilized with 5 phr Tribase XL (modified lead sulfate, NL Industries). Ross Wax 145, (a petroleum wax) 0.5phr, and Plastiflow (Trade Mark) POP, (a modified oxidized polyethylene) 0.2phr, were used as lubricants. 60

Example X

65 Using the procedure of Example I, the following compositions were mixed and tested to demonstrate that the optimum amount of zinc oxide shown in Example V decreases as the amount of plasticizer is decreased in the plasticized polyvinyl chloride composition.

65 The compositions and results are shown in Table VII below. 65

The results of Table VII indicate that:

a. At the 20 phr plasticizer level the optimum amount of zinc oxide would appear to be around 0.5 to 2 phr;
 5 b. At the 30 phr plasticizer level the optimum amount of zinc oxide would appear to be around 2.0 phr;
 c. At the 40 phr plasticizer level the optimum amount of zinc oxide would appear to be around 5.0 phr;
 10 d. At the 50 phr plasticizer level the optimum amount of zinc oxide would appear to be around 10 phr; and
 e. At the 70 phr plasticizer level the optimum amount of zinc oxide would appear to be around 10 phr.

TABLE VII

		AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW	AX	AY	AZ	
	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
20	DOP	20	20	20	20	20	30	30	30	40	40	40	
	Thermolite 31	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-	-	
	Tribase XL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	5	
25	Epoxidized soybean oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ba/Cd/Zn stabilizer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Calcium carbonate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	30	30	30	
30	Antimony trioxide	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	Stearic acid	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	
	Calcium stearate	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	-	-	-	
	Ross Wax 145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	
	Plastiflow POP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2	
	Zinc oxide	0	0.5	1	2	3	0	1	2	0	1	3	
	Maximum specific optical density	286	160	170	167	185	370	256	238	340	188	167	

TABLE VII (continued)

		BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI	
	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
40	DOP	40	40	40	50	50	50	50	50	50	
	Thermolite 31	-	-	-	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
	Tribase XL	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Epoxidized soybean oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
45	Ba/Cd/Zn stabilizer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Calcium carbonate	30	30	30	15	15	15	15	15	15	
	Antimony trioxide	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	Stearic acid	-	-	-	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	
	Calcium stearate	-	-	-	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	
	Ross Wax 145	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
50	Plastiflow POP	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Zinc Oxide	5	10	20	0	0.5	1	2	5	10	
	Maximum specific optical density	146	153	147	321	233	196	207	200	163	

TABLE VII (continued)

	<i>Composition</i>	<i>BJ</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BL</i>	<i>BM</i>	<i>BN</i>	<i>BO</i>	
5	Polyvinyl chloride	100	100	100	100	100	100	5
	DOP	70	70	70	70	70	70	
	Thermolite 31	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Tribase XL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Epoxidized soybean oil	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	
10	Ba/Cd/Zn stabilizer	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10
	Calcium carbonate	15	15	15	15	15	15	
	Antimony trioxide	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Stearic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
	Calcium stearate	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15	Ross Wax 145	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
	Plastiflow POP	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Zinc oxide	0	1	5	10	20	30	
	Maximum specific optical density	374	281	222	176	204	209	
								20
<i>Example XI</i>								
Using the procedure of Example VIII, coated fabrics were prepared by first mixing a coating compound on a two-roll mill as in Example I and then by calendering the compound onto a 4.0 oz./yd. ² cotton knit fabric by means of standard techniques. A coating thickness of 0.012" was applied at a temperature of 150°C.								
The following compositions were coated onto the cotton fabric and tested:								
30	<i>Composition</i>				<i>BP</i>		<i>BQ</i>	
	Polyvinyl chloride				100		100	30
	Santicizer 711				60		50	
	Santicizer 79TM				0		20	
	Calcium carbonate				15		15	
	Antimony trioxide				10		10	
35	Zinc oxide				10		10	35
	Maximum specific optical density				122		89	

40 The above example demonstrates the synergistic effect of a blend of a phthalate type plasticizer and a trimellitate plasticizer on smoke generation in a formulation containing an optimum amount of zinc oxide as a smoke retardant, calcium carbonate as a filler and antimony trioxide as a flame retardant.

45 U.K. Patent Specification No. 1,163,278 describes a process for heat stabilising a polymer and/or copolymer of vinyl chloride by incorporating into the polymer or copolymer a stabilising agent containing zinc oxide and organoacetamide. We make no claim to such a process or to a composition made thereby.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A smoke-retardant composition comprising a polymer formed from one or more monomers, at least one of which is a halogen-containing monomer plasticizer therefor in an amount of from 20 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer, and from 2 to 30 parts by weight of zinc oxide per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the or a monomer is a vinyl halide.
3. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the vinyl halide is vinyl chloride.
4. A composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the zinc oxide is present in from 2 to 12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.
5. A composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the plasticizer is a phthalate, a phosphate, a trimellitate or a mixture thereof.
6. A composition according to any of the preceding claims and additionally containing up to 30 parts by weight of antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃).
7. A composition according to any of the preceding claims and additionally containing up to 60 parts by weight of calcium carbonate.
8. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 6 and additionally containing up to 60 parts by weight of alumina trihydrate.
9. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 6 and additionally containing up to 60 parts by weight of magnesium oxide.

10. A composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the plasticizer is a mixture of a dialkyl phthalate and an alkyl trimellitate.

11. A composition according to claim 1 and substantially as herein described.

5 12. A composition according to claim 1 and substantially as described in any of the specific Examples.

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