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# DESCRIPTION

## TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to metalworking generally and more specifically to laminating metal strips and preparing metal containers therefrom. The present disclosure also relates to non-metal containers, such as glass bottles.

## BACKGROUND

[0002] Certain metal products, such as aluminum beverage cans, may require a protective layer between the metal and its contents. For example, beverage cans often must provide sufficient protection between the metal of the beverage can and the beverage contained therein to avoid damage to the metal from harsh beverages, such as sodas and colas, as well as to avoid undesirable effects to the beverage, such as discoloration or change in taste.

[0003] Methods of providing a liner in a seam of a metal container include spraying a compound liner onto a curl of a metal container end. The compound liner then forms an edge seal when the metal container is sealed (e.g., when a can is seamed). Problems of current methods include cost, compound placement (e.g., product spoilage due to misaligned spray guns and overspray allowing the product to contact the metal), curing of the compound, presence of solvents, incorporating chlorine-containing polymers (e.g., polyvinyl chloride), equipment maintenance, and high energy consumption.

[0004] The objective of the present invention is to provide a container and a method for preparing a container, which address the above-mentioned problems.

[0005] WO 98/34743 A1 relates to can ends and to the attachment of can ends to a can body by means of a double seam, disclosing the preamble of claim 1 and claim 10, respectively.

[0006] GB 2 242 159 A relates to a method for producing a copolyester resin film laminated metal sheet having heat resistance.

[0007] EP 1 097 809 A1 discloses a polyester film used for preventing corrosion of metal containers for food, a film-laminated metal plate having the film laminated on the metal plate, and to a metal container obtained by forming the film-laminated metal plate.

[0008] GB 2 064 468 A discloses a metal container, such as an aerosol can, which has at least one seam formed by two overlapping metal edges, wherein at least one of the edges has a resilient polymeric layer, which preferably is polypropylene, bonded to the metal.

**[0009]** US 2015/0 056 390 A1 discloses a surface-treated aluminum plate, which comprises a conversion-coated layer on at least one side of the plate. The surface-treated aluminum plate is adapted to adhere to organic resin coatings and can be used as a material for producing cans.

**[0010]** The objective of the present invention is solved by a container according to claim 1 and a method according to claim 10.

## **SUMMARY**

**[0011]** Covered embodiments of the invention are defined by the claims, not this summary. This summary is a high-level overview of various aspects of the invention and introduces some of the concepts that are further described in the Detailed Description section below. This summary is not intended to identify key or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used in isolation to determine the scope of the claimed subject matter. The subject matter should be understood by reference to appropriate portions of the entire specification, any or all drawings, and each claim.

**[0012]** Disclosed herein is a container, including a body having a sealable opening, a product facing body side, and a consumer facing body side; and an end closure including a product facing closure side and a consumer facing closure side, wherein the sealable opening is configured to receive the end closure, wherein the product facing closure side comprises a laminated film, and wherein the laminated film on the product facing closure side contacts the product facing body side providing an end. In some cases, the container can be a beverage can, a glass bottle, a food storage can, an aerosol can, or a chemical storage can. In some aspects, the container can be a metal container comprising aluminum, an aluminum alloy, magnesium, a magnesium-based material, titanium, a titanium-based material, copper, a copper-based material, steel, a steel-based material, bronze, a bronze-based material, brass, a brass-based material, or any combination thereof.

**[0013]** In certain aspects, the body includes a spray on liner, a laminated liner, a chemical vapor deposited liner, a physical vapor deposited liner, an applicator applied liner (e.g., a brush-on liner or a swab-on liner), or any combination thereof. Additionally, the end closure can be an easy open closure, a peel off closure, a beverage closure, a penny lever closure, a sanitary closure, an aerosol valve cap closure, a ring pull closure, a resealable closure, a bottle closure, or any combination thereof. As such, the end closure can be configured to engage the sealable opening. In some non-limiting examples, the laminated film can be a natural polymer, a synthetic polymer, or any combination thereof. In some cases, the end closure liner is up to 40 microns thick (e.g., the end closure liner is from 4 microns to 22 microns thick, from 6 microns thick to 500 microns thick, or from 8 microns thick to 15 microns thick). Additionally, the end closure liner can be resistant to materials having a pH of from 1 to 14, and can provide a product shelf life of up to four years.

**[0014]** Also described herein is a method for preparing a container having an end closure liner, including providing a body comprising a sealable opening, a product facing body side, and a consumer facing body side; providing an end closure stock, wherein the end closure stock comprises a product facing closure side, and a consumer facing closure side; laminating the product facing closure side of the end closure stock with a polymer film; forming an end closure from the end closure stock; and sealing the body with the end closure to provide a sealed container.

**[0015]** In some cases, the polymer film comprises a polyester film, e.g., a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film. As such, laminating the product facing closure side of the end closure stock with a polymer film includes laminating a polyethylene terephthalate film to the product facing closure side of the end closure stock. In some cases, laminating the product facing closure side of the end closure stock with a polymer film includes heating the polymer film to a temperature of at least 200 °C, contacting the product facing closure side of the end closure stock with the polymer film, and maintaining the polymer film at the temperature of at least 200 °C for 1 second to 30 seconds. According to the invention, the method further includes annealing the sealed container, wherein annealing the sealed container includes raising a temperature of the polymer film for a duration sufficient to melt the polymer film into a surface texture of the sealed container. For example, annealing the sealed container can include raising a temperature of the polymer film to at least 230 °C. In some cases, annealing the sealed container bonds the polymer film of the body to the polymer film of the end closure.

**[0016]** In some examples, forming the end closure comprises forming an easy open closure, a peel off closure, a beverage closure, a penny lever closure, a sanitary closure, an aerosol valve cap closure, a ring pull closure, a resealable closure, a bottle rolled-on pilfer proof (ROPP) closure, or any combination thereof. In certain aspects, sealing the body with the end closure comprises contacting the polymer film with the body and providing an air-tight closure.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

### **[0017]**

Figure 1 is a schematic depicting a metal container sealing configuration as described herein.

Figure 2 is a schematic depicting a sealed metal container configuration as described herein.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**[0018]** Disclosed herein are improved end closures for containers (e.g., metal and glass containers) and methods for preparing the same. The end closures described herein address

the problems associated with existing containers and their preparation methods. For example, end closures for containers described herein can be prepared at a lower cost with lower energy consumption than existing containers. In addition, the methods for preparing the end closures do not suffer from compound application issues, such as misalignment and overspray, because the end closures described herein include a liner that is applied without the need for spraying. Further, the end closures described herein for use on the metal container are continuous (i.e., covering the entirety of an end closure) and are sustainable.

**[0019]** The container includes a body portion and the end closure. The end closure includes a laminated polymer film attached to the product side of the end closure. When the container is sealed (e.g., seamed), the laminated polymer film attached to the product side of the end closure contacts the product side of the body (or, in some examples, a coating provided thereon), providing an end closure liner.

### **Definitions and Descriptions**

**[0020]** In this description, reference is made to alloys identified by aluminum industry designations, such as "series" or "5xxx." For an understanding of the number designation system most commonly used in naming and identifying aluminum and its alloys, see "International Alloy Designations and Chemical Composition Limits for Wrought Aluminum and Wrought Aluminum Alloys" or "Registration Record of Aluminum Association Alloy Designations and Chemical Compositions Limits for Aluminum Alloys in the Form of Castings and Ingot," both published by The Aluminum Association.

**[0021]** Aluminum alloys are described herein in terms of their elemental composition in weight percentage (wt. %) based on the total weight of the alloy. In certain examples of each alloy, the remainder is aluminum, with a maximum wt. % of 0.15 % for the sum of the impurities.

**[0022]** Reference is made in this application to alloy temper or condition. For an understanding of the alloy temper descriptions most commonly used, see "American National Standards (ANSI) H35 on Alloy and Temper Designation Systems." An F condition or temper refers to an aluminum alloy as fabricated. An O condition or temper refers to an aluminum alloy after annealing. An Hxx condition or temper, also referred to herein as an H temper, refers to an aluminum alloy after cold rolling with or without thermal treatment (e.g., annealing). Suitable H tempers include HX1, HX2, HX3 HX4, HX5, HX6, HX7, HX8, or HX9 tempers. For example, the aluminum alloy can be cold rolled to result in a possible H19 temper. In a further example, the aluminum alloy can be cold rolled and annealed to result in a possible H23 temper.

**[0023]** As used herein, terms such as "cast metal article," "cast article," and the like are interchangeable and refer to a product produced by direct chill casting (including direct chill co-casting) or semi-continuous casting, continuous casting (including, for example, by use of a twin belt caster, a twin roll caster, a block caster, or any other continuous caster), electromagnetic casting, hot top casting, or any other casting method.

**[0024]** As used herein, a plate generally has a thickness of greater than about 15 mm. For example, a plate may refer to an aluminum product having a thickness of greater than about 15 mm, greater than about 20 mm, greater than about 25 mm, greater than about 30 mm, greater than about 35 mm, greater than about 40 mm, greater than about 45 mm, greater than about 50 mm, greater than about 100 mm, or up to about 200 mm.

**[0025]** As used herein, a shate (also referred to as a sheet plate) generally has a thickness of from about 4 mm to about 15 mm. For example, a shate may have a thickness of about 4 mm, about 5 mm, about 6 mm, about 7 mm, about 8 mm, about 9 mm, about 10 mm, about 11 mm, about 12 mm, about 13 mm, about 14 mm, or about 15 mm.

**[0026]** As used herein, a sheet generally refers to an aluminum product having a thickness of less than about 4 mm. For example, a sheet may have a thickness of less than about 4 mm, less than about 3 mm, less than about 2 mm, less than about 1 mm, less than about 0.5 mm, or less than about 0.3 mm (e.g., about 0.2 mm).

**[0027]** As used herein, the meaning of "a," "an," or "the" includes singular and plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

**[0028]** As used herein, the meaning of "room temperature" can include a temperature of from about 15 °C to about 30 °C, for example about 15 °C, about 16 °C, about 17 °C, about 18 °C, about 19 °C, about 20 °C, about 21 °C, about 22 °C, about 23 °C, about 24 °C, about 25 °C, about 26 °C, about 27 °C, about 28 °C, about 29 °C, or about 30 °C.

**[0029]** All ranges disclosed herein are to be understood to encompass any and all endpoints, and any and all subranges subsumed therein. For example, a stated range of "1 to 10" should be considered to include any and all subranges between (and inclusive of) the minimum value of 1 and the maximum value of 10; that is, all subranges beginning with a minimum value of 1 or more, e.g. 1 to 6.1, and ending with a maximum value of 10 or less, e.g., 5.5 to 10.

**[0030]** As used herein, the term "polymer" is inclusive of homopolymers and copolymers. Homopolymer refers to a polymer derived from a single polymerizable monomer. Copolymer refers to a polymer derived from two or more polymerizable monomers.

### **Containers**

**[0031]** Described herein is a metal or glass container, including a body (e.g., a metal container body or a glass bottle body) having a sealable opening, a product facing body side (e.g., an inside), and a consumer facing body side (e.g., an outside). The metal or glass container further includes an end closure having a product facing closure side and a consumer facing closure side. The sealable opening is configured to receive the end closure, and likewise, the end closure is configured to engage the sealable opening.

**[0032]** The metal container can be prepared from any suitable metal article. In some examples, the metal container includes aluminum, an aluminum alloy, magnesium, a magnesium-based material, titanium, a titanium-based material, copper, a copper-based material, steel, a steel-based material, bronze, a bronze-based material, brass, a brass-based material, a composite, a sheet used in composites, or any other suitable metal or combination of materials. The metal article may include monolithic materials, as well as non-monolithic materials such as roll-bonded materials, clad materials, composite materials (such as, but not limited to, carbon fiber-containing materials), or various other materials. In some examples, the metal article used to prepare the metal container can be a metal coil, a metal strip, a metal plate, a metal sheet, a metal billet, a metal ingot, or the like. In some cases, the methods described herein can be applied to a non-metal article.

**[0033]** In some cases, the metal article for use in preparing the metal container is an aluminum alloy, such as a 1xxx series aluminum alloy, a 3xxx series aluminum alloy, or a 5xxx series aluminum alloy. By way of non-limiting example, exemplary 1xxx series aluminum alloys can include AA1100, AA1100A, AA1200, AA1200A, AA1300, AA1110, AA1120, AA1230, AA1230A, AA1235, AA1435, AA1145, AA1345, AA1445, AA1150, AA1350, AA1350A, AA1450, AA1370, AA1275, AA1185, AA1285, AA1385, AA1188, AA1190, AA1290, AA1193, AA1198, and AA1199.

**[0034]** By way of non-limiting example, exemplary 3xxx series aluminum alloys can include AA3002, AA3102, AA3003, AA3103, AA3103A, AA3103B, AA3203, AA3403, AA3004, AA3004A, AA3104, AA3204, AA3304, AA3005, AA3005A, AA3105, AA3105A, AA3105B, AA3007, AA3107, AA3207, AA3207A, AA3307, AA3009, AA3010, AA3110, AA3011, AA3012, AA3012A, AA3013, AA3014, AA3015, AA3016, AA3017, AA3019, AA3020, AA3021, AA3025, AA3026, AA3030, AA3130, and AA3065.

**[0035]** Non-limiting exemplary 5xxx series aluminum alloys can include AA5005, AA5005A, AA5205, AA5305, AA5505, AA5605, AA5006, AA5106, AA5010, AA5110, AA5110A, AA5210, AA5310, AA5016, AA5017, AA5018, AA5018A, AA5019, AA5019A, AA5119, AA5119A, AA5021, AA5022, AA5023, AA5024, AA5026, AA5027, AA5028, AA5040, AA5140, AA5041, AA5042, AA5043, AA5049, AA5149, AA5249, AA5349, AA5449, AA5449A, AA5050, AA5050A, AA5050C, AA5150, AA5051, AA5051A, AA5151, AA5251, AA5251A, AA5351, AA5451, AA5052, AA5252, AA5352, AA5154, AA5154A, AA5154B, AA5154C, AA5254, AA5354, AA5454, AA5554, AA5654, AA5654A, AA5754, AA5854, AA5954, AA5056, AA5356, AA5356A, AA5456, AA5456A, AA5456B, AA5556, AA5556A, AA5556B, AA5556C, AA5257, AA5457, AA5557, AA5657, AA5058, AA5059, AA5070, AA5180, AA5180A, AA5082, AA5182, AA5083, AA5183, AA5183A, AA5283, AA5283A, AA5283B, AA5383, AA5483, AA5086, AA5186, AA5087, AA5187, and AA5088.

### ***Container Closures***

**[0036]** In some non-limiting examples, the end closure described herein is an aluminum can

end stock (CES) product. CES as used herein refers to an aluminum alloy formed to a shape to serve as a closure for an aluminum can. In some cases, the closure may include a scored orifice that can be broken by a consumer to form an opening in the can end to retrieve any product stored within the can. In some non-limiting examples, the end closure can be an easy open closure (e.g., a ring pull closure), a peel off closure (e.g., a thin foil closure), a beverage closure or seam (e.g., a double seam), a penny lever closure (e.g., a drum closure, or a paint can closure), a sanitary closure (e.g., a closure opened by cutting with, for example, a can opener), an aerosol valve cap closure, a ring pull closure, any suitable container end closure, or any combination thereof. In some cases, the closure can be a resealable closure. For example, the resealable closure can be a threaded closure (e.g., a twist-off cap), a bottle rolled-on pilfer proof closure, a clamp closure, a hinged closure, a snap-on closure, or any combination thereof.

### ***Container Bodies***

**[0037]** In some non-limiting examples, the metal or glass container can have any suitable body shape, including a cylinder, a cube, a cuboid, a sphere, a cone, a tetrahedron, a pyramid, any other suitable three-dimensional (3-D) shape, or any combination thereof. Accordingly, the CES product can be formed into any shape suitable to form a closure for the container body. For example, the closure for the container body can be a disc (e.g., to seal a cylinder), a square (e.g., to seal a cube), a rectangle (e.g., to seal a cuboid), a hemisphere (e.g., to seal a sphere), a cone top (e.g., to seal a cone), a tetrahedron top (e.g., to seal a tetrahedron), a pyramid top (e.g., to seal a pyramid), any suitable closure that is complementary to a body (e.g., a closure that completes the shape of the body when joined together), or any combination thereof.

**[0038]** The container can be a beverage can (e.g., a soda can, a water can, an alcoholic beverage can, any pressurized beverage can, or any non-pressurized beverage can), a glass bottle (e.g., a water bottle, a soda bottle, an alcoholic beverage bottle, a chemical storage bottle, or the like), a food storage can (e.g., a canned vegetable can, a canned meat can, a sardine can, a pet food can, or an emergency provisions can), an aerosol can (e.g., a cooking spray can, a hairspray can, a lubricant can, or a whipped product can), a chemical storage can (e.g., a weak acid storage can, a weak base storage can, a solvent storage can, or any chemical suitable for use with a polymer film liner, such as a chemical that does not degrade the polymer film), any suitable metal container, or any combination thereof.

### ***Container Liners***

**[0039]** A barrier is needed to prevent the product stored within the can from touching, for example, an aluminum alloy of an aluminum can. Additionally, the barrier needs to extend into a seam created when sealing the metal container (e.g., a seam created about the openable

end of an aluminum beverage can), such that the risk of exposing the product to the aluminum alloy is significantly reduced. The barrier can function to prevent a release of carbon dioxide (e.g., when the metal container contains carbonated beverages) and/or nitrogen gases (e.g., when the metal container contains nitrogen infused beverages) from the metal container. The barrier can also prevent oxygen from entering the metal container. In some non-limiting examples, the metal container body has a product facing side (e.g., an interior facing side, or the inside) having a coating disposed thereon.

**[0040]** As described herein, an end closure created from a CES product described above has a product facing side having a polymer film laminated thereon. As such, the metal container body is configured to receive the end closure. Additionally, the end closure is configured to engage the metal container body. For example, in a seaming configuration 100, as shown in Figure 1, the metal container body 110 can have a lip 120, and the end closure 130 can have a protruding edge, for example, a curl 140 configured to wrap around the lip 120. Wrapping the curl 140 around the lip 120 in a seaming step provides a closure (e.g., a seam of an aluminum beverage can).

**[0041]** In a comparative example, a compound, as described above, is sprayed into the curl 140 prior to the seaming step to provide the barrier described above. Spraying the compound into the curl 140 can result in the problems described above, including high cost, compound placement issues (e.g., product spoilage due to misaligned spray guns and overspray allowing the product to contact the metal, and/or allowing gases to escape the container), energy and economic costs associated with curing the compound, presence of volatile organic compounds (e.g., solvents), using chlorine-containing polymers (e.g., polyvinyl chloride), and the energy and economic costs associated with equipment maintenance.

**[0042]** As described herein, in the example of a CES product having a polymer film laminated thereon, a product side of the container body 150 is configured to contact the laminated polymer film on a product side of the end closure 160. In some examples, the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure 160 is configured to contact the product side of the container body 150. For example, the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure 160 can extend to the curl 140 such that any portion of the curl 140 contacting the lip 120 contains the laminated polymer film. Thus, sealing the container with the end closure 130 having the laminated polymer film on the product facing side of the end closure 160 further provides an end closure liner about a seam 200, as shown in Figure 2. In the example of Figure 2, the end closure 130 and metal container body 110 were subjected to a seaming process providing the seam 200. The curl 140 was wrapped about the lip 120 and the curl 140 and lip 120 were compressed to provide the seam 200.

**[0043]** In some examples, the polymer film can include a natural polymer or a synthetic polymer. In some non-limiting examples, the polymer film can be prepared from a homopolymer or a copolymer. Suitable homopolymers include polyesters (e.g., polyethylene terephthalate (PET)), epoxies, polyurethanes, polyvinyls, polyacrylics, polyamides, polyolefins, and silicones. In some cases, the polyesters can be hot melt polyesters. In some cases, the

polymer film can include copolymers. Suitable copolymers as described herein include block copolymers, random copolymers, graft copolymers, copolymer blends, statistical copolymers, periodic copolymers, alternating copolymers, star copolymers, starblock copolymers, and/or any combinations thereof. The copolymers can be configured as head-to-head copolymers and/or as head-to-tail copolymers. The copolymers can have any suitable structure, or be any suitable isomer thereof (e.g., cis isomers or trans isomers).

**[0044]** Optionally, the polymer film can be a polyester film. In some cases, the polyester film can be a hot melt polyester film. Optionally, the polymer film can be a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film. In some examples, the PET film includes a polymer derived from ethylene glycol, terephthalic acid, or a terephthalate-containing compound, and optionally one or more additional comonomers. The one or more additional comonomers can be used to tailor the properties of the film, such as the melting temperature. Exemplary comonomers for use as the additional comonomers can include isophthalic acid, butylene diol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, phthalate, 1,8-naphthalenedicarboxylate, and 1,8-anthracenedicarboxylate, to name a few. Optionally, the polymer film includes a polyethylene naphthalate film.

**[0045]** Suitable polymers for use as the polymer film can have a weight average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of the copolymers between about 10,000 grams per mole (g/mol) and about 500,000 g/mol. For example, the  $M_w$  can be from about 20,000 g/mol to about 400,000 g/mol; from about 30,000 g/mol to about 300,000 g/mol; or from about 40,000 g/mol to about 100,000 g/mol, or any value in between. For example, the  $M_w$  can be 10,000 g/mol, 20,000 g/mol, 30,000 g/mol, 40,000 g/mol, 50,000 g/mol, 60,000 g/mol, 70,000 g/mol, 80,000 g/mol, 90,000 g/mol, 100,000 g/mol, 110,000 g/mol, 120,000 g/mol, 130,000 g/mol, 140,000 g/mol, 150,000 g/mol, 160,000 g/mol, 170,000 g/mol, 180,000 g/mol, 190,000 g/mol, 200,000 g/mol, 210,000 g/mol, 220,000 g/mol, 230,000 g/mol, 240,000 g/mol, 250,000 g/mol, 260,000 g/mol, 270,000 g/mol, 280,000 g/mol, 290,000 g/mol, 300,000 g/mol, 310,000 g/mol, 320,000 g/mol, 330,000 g/mol, 340,000 g/mol, 350,000 g/mol, 360,000 g/mol, 370,000 g/mol, 380,000 g/mol, 390,000 g/mol, 400,000 g/mol, 410,000 g/mol, 420,000 g/mol, 430,000 g/mol, 440,000 g/mol, 450,000 g/mol, 460,000 g/mol, 470,000 g/mol, 480,000 g/mol, 490,000 g/mol, or 500,000 g/mol.

**[0046]** In certain aspects, the polymer film can have a thickness up to about 500 microns ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) (e.g., from about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 35  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 6  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 22  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 9  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 18  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 12  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 7  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 21  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 8  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 9  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 19  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 18  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 11  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 17  $\mu\text{m}$ , from about 12  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 16  $\mu\text{m}$ , or from about 13  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 15  $\mu\text{m}$ ). For example, the polymer film can have a thickness of about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 4  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 6  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 11  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 12  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 13  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 14  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 16  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 17  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 18  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 19  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 21  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 22  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 23  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 24  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 26  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 27  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 28  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 29  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 31  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 32  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 33  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 34  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 35  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 36  $\mu\text{m}$ ,



about 308  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 309  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 310  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 311  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 312  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 313  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 314  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 315  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 316  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 317  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 318  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 319  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 320  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 321  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 322  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 323  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 324  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 325  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 326  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 327  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 328  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 329  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 330  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 331  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 332  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 333  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 334  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 335  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 336  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 337  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 338  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 339  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 340  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 341  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 342  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 343  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 344  $\mu\text{m}$ , 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about 493  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 494  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 495  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 496  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 497  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 498  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 499  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or anywhere in between.

**[0047]** In some non-limiting examples, the end closure liner is resistant to (e.g., does not degrade in the presence of) nitrogen gas, carbon dioxide, acidic materials, alkaline materials, solvents, corrosive materials, or materials having a pH of from about 1 to about 14 (e.g., from about 2 to about 13, from about 3 to about 12, from about 4 to about 11, from about 5 to about 10, from about 6 to about 9, or from about 7 to about 8). For example, the end closure liner is resistant to materials having a pH of about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or anywhere in between. In some cases, the end closure liner is resistant to alcoholic liquids (e.g., alcoholic beverages, solvents, or the like). For example, the end closure liner is resistant to alcoholic liquids containing up to about 50 percent by volume (vol. %) alcohol (e.g., from about 1 to about 4 vol. % to about 40 vol. %, from about 6 vol. % to about 50 vol. %, from about 8 vol.

% to about 40 vol. %, from about 10 vol. % to about 35 vol. %, from about 12 vol. % to about 25 vol. %, or from about 15 vol. % to about 20 vol. %). For example, the end closure liner is resistant to alcoholic liquids containing an amount of alcohol of about 1 vol. %, 2 vol. %, 3 vol. %, 4 vol. %, 5 vol. %, 6 vol. %, 7 vol. %, 8 vol. %, 9 vol. %, 10 vol. %, 11 vol. %, 12 vol. %, 13 vol. %, 14 vol. %, 15 vol. %, 16 vol. %, 17 vol. %, 18 vol. %, 19 vol. %, 20 vol. %, 21 vol. %, 22 vol. %, 23 vol. %, 24 vol. %, 25 vol. %, 26 vol. %, 27 vol. %, 28 vol. %, 29 vol. %, 30 vol. %, 31 vol. %, 32 vol. %, 33 vol. %, 34 vol. %, 35 vol. %, 36 vol. %, 37 vol. %, 38 vol. %, 39 vol. %, 40 vol. %, 41 vol. %, 42 vol. %, 43 vol. %, 44 vol. %, 45 vol. %, 46 vol. %, 47 vol. %, 48 vol. %, 49 vol. %, or 50 vol. %.

**[0048]** In certain aspects, the end closure liner provides a product shelf life of up to about four years (e.g., up to about 6 months, up to about 12 months, up to about 18 months, up to about 24 months, up to about 36 months, or up to about 48 months). For example, the end closure liner as described herein provides a product shelf life of up to about 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 13 months, 14 months, 15 months, 16 months, 17 months, 18 months, 19 months, 20 months, 21 months, 22 months, 23 months, 24 months, 25 months, 26 months, 27 months, 28 months, 29 months, 30 months, 31 months, 32 months, 33 months, 34 months, 35 months, 36 months, 37 months, 38 months, 39 months, 40 months, 41 months, 42 months, 43 months, 44 months, 45 months, 46 months, 47 months, or 48 months. In some cases, the end closure liner is suitable for products that are consumed as soon as accessible or shortly thereafter (e.g., products having a shelf life of less than 1 month, such as 0 months).

### **Process for Making**

**[0049]** In some non-limiting examples, a laminated end closure can be produced using a process as described herein. The process can be performed on one or more sides of the end closure to result in an end closure that is advantageously laminated on at least a product facing side. As described herein, in some cases the end closure can include a product-facing side that is laminated using the process disclosed herein and a consumer-facing side that is lacquered using standard lacquering techniques. The process can include the steps of (1) providing a metal container body (e.g., a metal container body having a product facing body side coated with a protective layer, such as a spray on coating, a laminated film, a chemical vapor deposited liner, a physical vapor deposited liner, an applicator applied liner, or any combination thereof), (2) providing an end closure stock, wherein the end closure stock comprises a product facing closure side, and a consumer facing closure side, (3) laminating the product facing closure side of the end closure stock with a polymer film, (4) forming an end closure from the end closure stock, and (5) sealing the body with the end closure to provide a sealed metal container. In certain examples, the process provides an air-tight closure for the metal container (e.g., a closure having an air leak rate of less than about  $10^{-6}$  millibar-liters per second (mbar l/s), less than about  $10^{-5}$  mbar l/s, less than about  $10^{-4}$  mbar l/s, less than about  $10^{-3}$  mbar l/s, less than about  $10^{-2}$  mbar l/s, less than about  $10^{-1}$  mbar l/s, or anywhere in

between).

### ***Cleaning***

**[0050]** In some aspects, the process can include cleaning the end closure stock before coating. In some cases, the end closure stock is cleaned with an acid treatment. For example, the cleaning process can include an acid treatment comprising sulfuric acid ( $H_2SO_4$ ), hydrofluoric acid (HF), phosphoric acid ( $H_3PO_4$ ), nitric acid ( $HNO_3$ ), hydrochloric acid (HCl), hydrobromic acid (HBr), perchloric acid ( $HClO_4$ ), hydroiodic acid (HI), boric acid ( $H_3BO_3$ ), and/or any combination thereof. In some cases, the end closure stock is cleaned with an alkaline (i.e., a base) treatment. For example, the cleaning process can include an alkaline treatment comprising sodium hydroxide (NaOH), potassium hydroxide (KOH), calcium hydroxide ( $Ca(OH)_2$ ), or any combination thereof. In some cases, the end closure stock is cleaned with an alkaline organic compound (i.e., an organic base) treatment. For example, the cleaning process can include an organic base treatment comprising barium tert-butoxide ( $C_8H_{18}BaO_2$ ), choline hydroxide ( $C_5H_{15}NO_2$ ), diethylamine ( $C_4H_{11}N$ ), dimethylamine ( $C_2H_7N$ ), ethylamine ( $C_2H_7N$ ), methylamine ( $CH_5N$ ), piperidine ( $C_5H_{11}N$ ), and/or any combination thereof. This cleaning treatment can reduce and/or remove any aluminum oxide or hydroxide layers on the surface of the end closure stock (e.g., an aluminum alloy strip).

### ***Optional Pretreating***

**[0051]** Optionally, the process can include pre-treating the end closure stock with a conversion layer. In some cases, this conversion layer can include compounds of trivalent chromium (Cr(III)) and phosphates. In some cases, this conversion layer can include compounds of titanium and zirconium (Ti/Zr). This optional conversion layer can provide enhanced adhesion, low blushing after pasteurization, and resistance to corrosion when exposed to acids, such as acetic acid or citric acid. In some cases, the end closure stock can include one or more optional conversion layers located on the product side (e.g., an interior-facing side) and/or the consumer side (e.g., an exterior-facing side).

**[0052]** Optionally, the process can further include applying an adhesion promoter to the end closure stock. The adhesion promoter can provide enhanced adhesion in optional downstream coating steps. Adhesion promoters suitable for use in this process include silane-based chemistries, titanium/zirconium (Ti/Zr) based chemistries, and polymer-based chemistries. The adhesion promoter can be applied by dip coating, bar coating, roll coating, spin coating, spray coating, screen coating, drop coating, or using any other suitable coating technique. If the end closure stock is pre-treated with a conversion layer, the end closure stock pre-treated with the conversion layer can be further coated with the adhesion promoter as described above.

### ***Laminating***

**[0053]** In some examples, the process further includes a step of laminating the end closure stock optionally coated with the adhesion promoter and optionally pre-treated with the conversion layer. In some cases, the end closure stock is not pre-treated with the adhesion promoter and/or the conversion layer. The laminating step can include heating a polymer film to a temperature such that the polymer film is soft and tacky, applying the heated polymer film to at least a product facing side of the end closure stock, and heating the combined end closure stock and polymer film, optionally to an annealing temperature such that the polymer film can be at least partially viscous and wet the product facing side of the end closure stock. In some examples, the polymer film can include polyesters, epoxies, polyurethanes, polyvinyls, polyacrylics, polyamides, polyolefins, and silicones. For example, the polymer film can be polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Optionally, the polymer film can be a monolayer, or can consist of multiple layers of different polymers with or without various fillers and additives (e.g., colorants). In some cases, the polymer film can be PET that includes additional comonomers (e.g., isophthalic acid).

**[0054]** In some cases, the end closure stock and/or polymer film can be heated to temperature such that the polymer film can be at least partially viscous and wet the product facing side of the end closure stock, which can improve film adhesion sufficiently to provide increased performance. For example, the end closure stock can be heated such that when the polymer film contacts the end closure stock, heat is transferred to the polymer film, thus heating the polymer film. In some cases, the polymer film is heated prior to contacting the end closure stock such that it is at least partially viscous prior to contacting the end closure stock. In certain aspects, the end closure stock and polymer film are both heated prior to contacting the polymer film to the end closure stock.

**[0055]** Laminating at temperatures near or above the melting temperature of the polymer film allows the film to flow into the topography of the end closure stock (i.e., the polymer film wets the end closure stock), including any optional conversion layer(s) and/or optional adhesion promoters. Thus, adhesion between the end closure stock and the polymer film is improved through mechanical bonding, van der Waals forces, polar-polar interactions, or any suitable mechanism initiated by intimate contact between the end closure stock, optional conversion layer and/or optional adhesion promoter layer, and the polymer film to be laminated onto the end closure stock. In some examples, the end closure stock and/or polymer film is heated to a temperature of at least 200 °C (e.g., from about 200 °C to about 280 °C) after the polymer film is applied. For example, the end closure stock can be heated to a temperature from about 210 °C to about 280 °C, from about 215 °C to about 280 °C, from about 220 °C to about 275 °C, from about 225 °C to about 270 °C, from about 230 °C to about 265 °C, from about 235 °C to about 275 °C, from about 240 °C to about 270 °C, from about 245 °C to about 265 °C, or from about 250 °C to about 260 °C. For example, the end closure stock can be heated to about 200 °C, 201 °C, 202 °C, 203 °C, 204 °C, 205 °C, 206 °C, 207 °C, 208 °C, 209 °C, 210 °C, 211 °C, 212 °C, 213 °C, 214 °C, 215 °C, 216 °C, 217 °C, 218 °C, 219 °C, 220 °C, 221 °C, 222 °C, 223

°C, 224 °C, 225 °C, 226 °C, 227 °C, 228 °C, 229 °C, 230 °C, 231 °C, 232 °C, 233 °C, 234 °C, 235 °C, 236 °C, 237 °C, 238 °C, 239 °C, 240 °C, 241 °C, 242 °C, 243 °C, 244 °C, 245 °C, 246 °C, 247 °C, 248 °C, 249 °C, 250 °C, 251 °C, 252 °C, 253 °C, 254 °C, 255 °C, 256 °C, 257 °C, 258 °C, 259 °C, 260 °C, 261 °C, 262 °C, 263 °C, 264 °C, 265 °C, 266 °C, 267 °C, 268 °C, 269 °C, 270 °C, 271 °C, 272 °C, 273 °C, 274 °C, 275 °C, 276 °C, 277 °C, 278 °C, 279 °C, or 280 °C.

**[0056]** After heating, the end closure stock and/or polymer film can be maintained at the temperature of at least 200 °C to about 280 °C for about 1 second to about 30 seconds (e.g., from about 5 seconds to about 25 seconds, from about 10 seconds to about 20 seconds, from about 5 seconds to about 30 seconds, or from about 10 seconds to about 30 seconds). For example, the end closure stock and/or polymer film can be maintained at the temperature of at least 200 °C to about 280 °C for about 1 second, about 2 seconds, about 3 seconds, about 4 seconds, about 5 seconds, about 6 seconds, about 7 seconds, about 8 seconds, about 9 seconds, about 10 seconds, about 11 seconds, about 12 seconds, about 13 seconds, about 14 seconds, about 15 seconds, about 16 seconds, about 17 seconds, about 18 seconds, about 19 seconds, about 20 seconds, about 21 seconds, about 22 seconds, about 23 seconds, about 24 seconds, about 25 seconds, about 26 seconds, about 27 seconds, about 28 seconds, about 29 seconds, or about 30 seconds.

**[0057]** In some non-limiting examples, the laminated end closure stock is passed directly from a lamination process into an annealing process (e.g., into an annealing furnace). In some cases, the laminated end closure stock is passed directly from a lamination process into a lacquer application system and then into an annealing process (e.g., into an annealing furnace).

### ***Forming and Sealing***

**[0058]** In some cases, the end closure stock can be formed into any suitable shape closure. For example, the end closure stock can be formed into an easy open closure (e.g., a ring pull closure), a peel off closure (e.g., a thin foil closure), a beverage closure, a penny lever closure (e.g., a drum closure, or a paint can closure), a sanitary closure (e.g., a closure opened by cutting with, for example, a can opener), an aerosol valve cap closure, a resealable closure, a bottle rolled-on pilfer proof closure, any suitable container end closure, or any combination thereof, providing a laminated end closure.

**[0059]** In some examples, the laminated end closure is attached to a previously prepared container body (e.g., a previously formed and coated container body). Attaching the end closure encloses the product within the container. As described herein, the container body is configured to receive the end closure, wherein a product side of the container body contacts the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure, thus providing the end closure liner.

**[0060]** The sealed container is annealed to bond the laminated polymer film on the product side of the container body to the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure. For example, the end closure can be laminated with a lower melting point polymer film (e.g., a polyamide film having a melting point of about 140 °C), and the sealed container can be heated to an annealing temperature (e.g., 130 °C in the present example) such that the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure can at least partially flow and bond to a coating on the product facing side of the container body. Bonding the laminated polymer film on the product side of the end closure to, for example, a laminated polymer film on the product side of the container body provides the end closure liner described herein.

**[0061]** The foregoing description of the embodiments, including illustrated embodiments, has been presented only for the purpose of illustration and description and is not intended to be exhaustive or limiting to the precise forms disclosed. Numerous modifications, adaptations, and uses thereof will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

## **REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

Cited references

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**Patentkrav**

1. Beholder, der omfatter:

en krop (110), der omfatter en forseglelig åbning, en produktvendt kropside (150) og en forbrugervendt kropside; og

en endelukning (130), der omfatter en produktvendt lukningsside (160) og en forbrugervendt lukningsside,

hvor den forseglelige åbning er konfigureret til at modtage endelukningen (130),

hvor den produktvendte lukningsside (160) omfatter en lamineret film, og

hvor den laminerede film på den produktvendte lukningsside (160) berører den produktvendte kropside (150), hvilket tilvejebringer et endelukningsdæklag,

hvor den laminerede film er en polymerfilm,

hvor kroppen (110) er forseget med endelukningen (130) med henblik på at tilvejebringe en forseget beholder,

kendetegnet ved, at den forseglede beholder er blevet annealet, hvor annealing af den forseglede beholder omfatter, at en temperatur af polymerfilmen hæves i en varighed, der er tilstrækkelig til at indsmelte polymerfilmen i en overfladetekstur af den forseglede beholder.

2. Beholder ifølge krav 1, hvor beholderen omfatter en drikkevaredåse, en flaske, en fødevareropbevaringsdåse, en aerosoldåse eller en kemikalieopbevaringsdåse, og hvor beholderen fortrinsvis yderligere er en metalbeholder, der omfatter aluminium, en aluminiumslegering, magnesium, et magnesiumbaseret materiale, titan, et titanbaseret materiale, kobber, et kobberbaseret materiale, stål, et stålbaseret materiale, bronze, et bronzebaseret materiale, messing, et messingbaseret materiale eller en hvilken som helst kombination deraf.

3. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-2, hvor kroppen (110) omfatter et påsprøjtligt dæklag, et lamineret dæklag, et kemisk damp-afsat dæklag, et fysisk damp-afsat dæklag, et applikatorpåført dæklag eller en hvilken som helst kombination deraf.

4. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-3, hvor endelukningen (130) omfatter en letoplukkelig lukning, en aftrækningslukning, en drikkevarelukning, en

"penny lever"-lukning, en sanitær lukning, en aerosolventilhættelukning, en aftrækningsringlukning, en genforseglelig lukning, en påvalset flasketyverisikringslukning eller en hvilken som helst kombination deraf.

5. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-4, hvor endelukningen (130) er konfigureret til at gå i indgreb med den forseglelige åbning.

6. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-5, hvor den laminerede film omfatter en naturlig polymer, en syntetisk polymer eller en hvilken som helst kombination deraf.

7. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-6, hvor endelukningsdæklaget er op til 500 mikrometer tykt, hvor endelukningsdæklaget fortrinsvis er fra 6 mikrometer tykt til 40 mikrometer tykt, mere fortrinsvis fra 8 mikrometer tykt til 15 mikrometer tykt.

8. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-7, hvor endelukningsdæklaget er modstandsdygtigt over for materialer med en pH-værdi på fra 1 til 14.

9. Beholder ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-8, hvor beholderen tilvejebringer en produktholdbarhedstid på op til fire år.

10. Fremgangsmåde til fremstilling af en beholder med et endelukningsdæklag, hvilken fremgangsmåde omfatter:

tilvejebringelse af en krop (110), der omfatter en forseglelig åbning, en produktvendt kropsside (150) og en forbrugervendt kropsside;

tilvejebringelse af et endelukningsmateriale, hvor endelukningsmaterialet omfatter en produktvendt lukningsside (160) og en forbrugervendt lukningsside;

laminering af den produktvendte lukningsside af endelukningsmaterialet med en polymerfilm;

dannelse af en endelukning (130) ud fra endelukningsmaterialet; og

forsegling af kroppen (110) med endelukningen (130) med henblik på at tilvejebringe en forseglet beholder,

kendetegnet ved, at fremgangsmåden yderligere omfatter:

annealing af den forseglede beholder, hvor annealing af den forseglede beholder

omfatter, at en temperatur af polymerfilmen hæves i en varighed, der er tilstrækkelig til at indsmelte polymerfilmen i en overfladetekstur af den forseglede beholder.

11. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 10, hvor polymerfilmen omfatter en polyesterfilm, hvor polyesterfilmen fortrinsvis omfatter en polyethylenterephthalat-(PET)-film.

12. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 10 eller 11, hvor laminering af den produktvendte lukningsside (160) af endelukningsmaterialet med polymerfilmen omfatter, at:  
polymerfilmen opvarmes til en temperatur på mindst 200 °C;  
den produktvendte lukningsside (160) af endelukningsmaterialet bringes i kontakt med polymerfilmen; og  
polymerfilmen opretholdes ved temperaturen på mindst 200 °C i 1 sekund til 30 sekunder.

13. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 10-12, hvor dannelse af endelukningen (130) ud fra endelukningsmaterialet omfatter dannelse af en letoplukkelig lukning, en aftrækningslukning, en drikkevarelukning, en "penny lever"-lukning, en sanitær lukning, en aerosolventilhættelukning, en aftrækningsringlukning, en genforseglelig lukning, en påvalset flasketyverisikringslukning eller en hvilken som helst kombination deraf.

14. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 10-13, hvor forsegling af kroppen (110) med endelukningen (130) omfatter, at polymerfilmen bringes i kontakt med kroppen (110), hvor det, at polymerfilmen bringes i kontakt med kroppen (110), fortrinsvis tilvejebringer en lufttæt lukning.

# DRAWINGS

