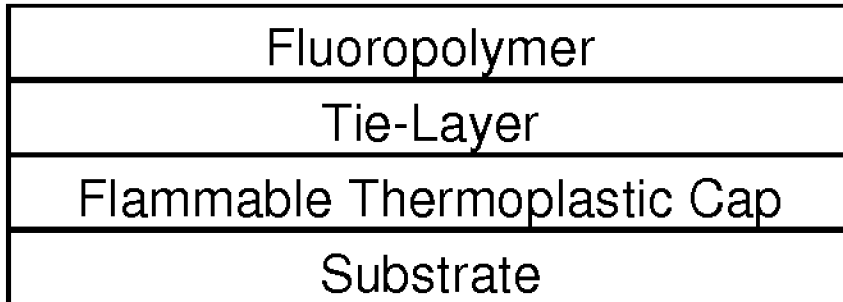




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2014/03/14  
 (87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2014/09/25  
 (45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2021/02/23  
 (85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2015/09/04  
 (86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 2014/027085  
 (87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2014/152218  
 (30) Priorités/Priorities: 2013/03/15 (US61/786,752);  
 2013/11/08 (US61/901,550); 2013/11/08 (US61/901,556)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B32B 27/08* (2006.01),  
*B32B 27/30* (2006.01), *B32B 37/02* (2006.01)  
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(54) Titre : COMPOSITE MULTICOUCHE  
 (54) Title: MULTILAYER COMPOSITE



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The invention relates to multilayer composites having improved weathering properties without reducing flame retardation properties. The composites have a fluoropolymer layer over a thermoplastic layer. The multilayer composite may be a fluoropolymer layer directly over a relatively flammable substrate or non-flammable substrate (like PVC), or it may be a fluoropolymer layer over a relatively flammable cap layer, over a substrate (that is flammable or non-flammable). The composite is formed using coating, coextrusion and/or lamination techniques. The multilayer composite is especially useful in articles having surfaces that are used in a relatively horizontal position, including decking, railings, roofing and window profiles. The composites provide improved weathering for the substrate without a reduction in flame-resistance, when compared to the substrate without the outer fluoropolymer layer. The multi-layer composite also provides enhanced chemical resistance, hardness, scratch and mar, and water resistance.

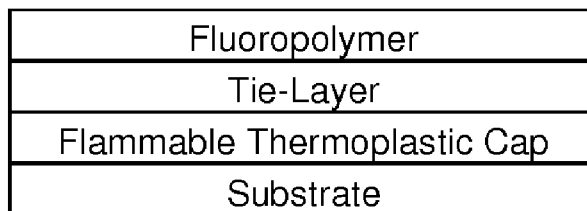
(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2014/152218 A2**(43) International Publication Date  
25 September 2014 (25.09.2014)

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**  
*B32B 27/30* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**  
PCT/US2014/027085
- (22) **International Filing Date:**  
14 March 2014 (14.03.2014)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**  
61/786,752 15 March 2013 (15.03.2013) US  
61/901,556 8 November 2013 (08.11.2013) US  
61/901,550 8 November 2013 (08.11.2013) US
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- (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**  
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) **Title:** MULTILAYER COMPOSITE

## FIGURE 4



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to multilayer composites having improved weathering properties without reducing flame retardation properties. The composites have a fluoropolymer layer over a thermoplastic layer. The multilayer composite may be a fluoropolymer layer directly over a relatively flammable substrate or non-flammable substrate (like PVC), or it may be a fluoropolymer layer over a relatively flammable cap layer, over a substrate (that is flammable or non-flammable). The composite is formed using coating, coextrusion and/or lamination techniques. The multilayer composite is especially useful in articles having surfaces that are used in a relatively horizontal position, including decking, railings, roofing and window profiles. The composites provide improved weathering for the substrate without a reduction in flame-resistance, when compared to the substrate without the outer fluoropolymer layer. The multi-layer composite also provides enhanced chemical resistance, hardness, scratch and mar, and water resistance.



WO 2014/152218 A2

## MULTILAYER COMPOSITE

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to multilayer composites having improved weathering  
5 properties without reducing flame retardation properties. The composites have a  
fluoropolymer layer over a thermoplastic layer. The multilayer composite may be a  
fluoropolymer layer directly over a relatively flammable substrate or non-flammable  
substrate (like PVC), or it may be a fluoropolymer layer over a relatively flammable  
10 cap layer, over a substrate (that is flammable or non-flammable). The composite is  
formed using coating, coextrusion and/or lamination techniques. The multilayer  
composite is especially useful in articles having surfaces that are used in a relatively  
horizontal position, including decking, railings, roofing and window profiles. The  
composites provide improved weathering for the substrate without a reduction in  
15 flame-resistance, when compared to the substrate without the outer fluoropolymer  
layer. The multi-layer composite also provides enhanced chemical resistance,  
hardness, scratch and mar, and water resistance.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 Many structural plastics exhibit attractive mechanical properties when  
extruded, molded, or formed into various articles of manufacture. Such articles  
include, for example, bathtubs, shower stalls, counters, appliance housings and liners,  
building materials, doors, windows, siding, decking, railings and shutters, lawn and  
garden applications, marine applications pool application, and storage facilities.  
25 Although these structural plastics are strong, tough and relatively inexpensive, the  
properties of their exposed surfaces are less than ideal. That is, the surfaces of the  
structural plastics are degraded by light; they can be easily scratched, and can be  
eroded by common solvents.

Consequently, it has become a practice in the industry to apply another  
30 resinous material over the structural plastic to protect the underlying structural  
material and provide a surface that can withstand abuse associated with the use  
environment. Such surfacing materials are called "capstocks".

The capstock generally is much thinner than the structural plastic, typically  
being about 5 to about 25% of the total thickness of the multilayer structure  
35 comprising the capstock and structural plastic plies. For example, the thickness of the

capstock can be about 0.05 to about 2.5 mm, whereas the thickness of the structural plastic ply can be about 1.0 to about 50 mm, and preferably 2.5 to 30 mm.

One issue with most of the capstocks currently used, such as acrylics and styrenics, is that they are relatively flammable. For instance, these capstock materials decrease the flame retardancy of substrates based on polyvinyl chloride (PVC). There is a desire to maintain the weather-resistant properties of the capstock, while improving its flame retardancy.

Flame retardant compounds for use in thermoplastics are well known. Most of these involve iodine and/or bromine compounds, such as aliphatic and aromatic bromine compounds, as for styrenic resins as described in US 2012-0184638, or a compound based on phosphorous, or antimony. The problem with these flame retardants is that they tend to have toxicity issues, and with the recommended usage levels of 5-30 weight percent, these flame retardants adversely effect the physical properties (such as tensile strength) of the polymer.

US 8,129,455 describes a flame retardant ASA used at 15-30 wt percent, and made up of 20-80 percent graphite, 20-80 percent of a phosphorous flame retardant, and 0.1 to 2% of a perfluorinated polyolefin.

Fluoropolymers, and in particular polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) polymers, are known to provide excellent resistance to weathering, chemical, and water. PVDF films are used to protect surfaces, such as photovoltaic modules, such as those described in US 2010/0175742 and US 2012/0073632.

Fluoropolymers have been added to acrylic polymer matrices to improve weatherability, adhesion to fluoropolymers and impact resistance (US 6,811,859, US2008-0293837, US 2008-0032101, US 7,947,781).

A blend of 5-60% fluoropolymer blended into thermoplastic capstocks to improve flame retardancy of a composite capstock over a substrate, is described in US application number 61/786752.

A coextrudable composite film having a PVDF layer over a layer that is a blend of PVDF, an acrylic and an acrylic elastomer are described in US 6,811,859. This film can be used as a protective layer over a substrate.

Transparent multi-layer films that will not stress-whiten having a layer of PVDF over PMMA layer are disclosed in US '604.

Multi-layer laminates of PVDF, an acrylic, and a thermoplastic formed by co-extrusion and having no discrete layers are described in US 4,415,519 and US 4,317,860.

Surprisingly it has been found that a weatherable, flame-retardant composite  
5 can be formed with a fluoropolymer layer as an outer layer. In one embodiment a relatively flammable capstock layer is placed over a substrate to improve weatherability, and a fluoropolymer layer is placed over the capstock layer to provide a flame resistant composite. In addition to excellent weathering resistance and flame-resistance, the composite of the invention has improvements in water resistance,  
10 chemical resistance, and appearance.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a weatherable multilayer composite comprising:

- a) an outer fluoropolymer layer
- 15 b) a thermoplastic substrate layer.

The invention further relates to a weatherable multilayer composite having, in order, an outer fluoropolymer layer, a middle flammable layer and a thermoplastic substrate layer.

The invention also relates to articles formed from the weatherable, flame-resistant composite, and to a process for forming the articles.  
20

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1-7 represent several of the possible configurations of the multi-layer  
25 composites of the invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a weatherable, flame-retardant, multi-layer structure having a fluoropolymer outer layer over a substrate layer. In a preferred embodiment,  
30 the fluoropolymer layer is placed over a flammable thermoplastic layer that is placed as a cap layer over a substrate. The invention further relates to methods for forming the multilayer composite structure, and articles formed from this composite.

As used herein, “weatherable” is a measurable characteristic known to one skilled in the art that shows how well a material or product performs during exposure  
35 to outdoor weather conditions, such as ultraviolet light, rain, snow, high and low

temperatures, humidity, environmental pollution, acidity in the air, and the like. A weatherable material desirably exhibits little or no adverse effects (e.g., discoloration, disintegration, wear) due to prolonged exposure to the environment.

### Fluoropolymer

5           The fluoropolymer layer will be the outer layer of the composite, the layer exposed to the environment, and in particular the layer that is exposed directly to solar radiation. This layer is relatively thin – within the range of 0.01 mm to 0.2 mm, preferably from 0.02 mm to 0.1 mm in thickness, and more preferably from 0.025 mm to 0.08. The fluoropolymer layer may be a fluoropolymer coating, monolayer film, or  
10           multilayer fluoropolymer film. The fluoropolymer layer contains at least 61 weight percent of fluoropolymer, preferably at least 75 weight percent fluoropolymer, more preferably at least 90 weight percent fluoropolymer, and most preferably greater than 95 weight percent and even 100 weight percent fluoropolymer, as the polymeric component. Blends of two or more fluoropolymers are anticipated in the invention.  
15           Other polymer that are compatible with the fluoropolymer, may optionally be present at low levels, preferably at less than 30 weight percent, more preferably at less than 20 weight percent and even more preferably at less than 15 weight percent.

          Useful fluoropolymers include, but are not limited to polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), terpolymers of ethylene with  
20           tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene (EFEP), terpolymers of tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene-vinyl fluoride (THV), copolymers of vinyl fluoride, and blends of PVDF with functionalized or unfunctionalized polymethyl methacrylate polymers and copolymers. The fluoropolymers may be functionalized or unfunctionalized, and could be homopolymers or copolymers – preferably  
25           copolymers with other fluorine monomers including vinyl fluoride; vinylidene fluoride (VDF); trifluoroethylene (VF3); chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE); 1,2-difluoroethylene; tetrafluoro ethylene (TFE); hexafluoropropylene (HFP); perfluoro(alkyl vinyl) ethers, such as perfluoro(methyl vinyl) ether (PMVE), perfluoro(ethyl vinyl) ether (PEVE) and perfluoro(propyl vinyl) ether (PPVE);  
30           perfluoro(1,3-dioxole); perfluoro(2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxole) (PDD), and blends thereof. Homopolymers of PVDF and PVDF copolymers containing at least 70 weight percent VDF units, and the remaining monomer units being other fluoromonomers.

In one embodiment of the invention, the fluoropolymer is a copolymer of vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropylene (HFP), having from 1 to 30 weight percent of HFP.

5 The fluoropolymer outer layer may be a monolayer, or else a multilayer structure that is used for added strength (especially a 2, 3, or 4 layer film) or for improved adhesion to the intermediate cap layer. In a multi-layer fluoropolymer film, the compositions of the layers may be the same or different.

10 If the fluoropolymer is in the form of a monolayer or multilayer film, the surface of the film that will be in contact with the adjacent intermediate cap layer can be surface treated to improve adhesion to the intermediate cap layer. Any method known in the art to increase the surface energy of this surface can be used including but not limited to corona, plasma, flame, e-beam, sodium etching, or chemical treatment.

15 In the case where the fluoropolymer layer is placed directly onto the substrate layer, as in the case of a fluoropolymer layer directly in contact with a PVC substrate, either the fluoropolymer layer must be surface treated, or else a tie layer or adhesive layer is required in order for the fluoropolymer and PVC layers to adhere. Further, for proper weathering and UV protection in a composite of a fluoropolymer over a PVC, either the fluoropolymer layer or the tie layer must be pigmented to block UV  
20 light from reaching the PVC. In a preferred embodiment, the tie layer or adhesive layer is pigmented. In one embodiment, the tie layer contains less than 25 weight percent of acrylic polymer.

### **Substrate**

25 The substrate layer of the multi-layer composite is a thermoplastic. The substrate layer would be in the range of 1.0 to 50 mm, and preferably 2.5 to 30 mm in thickness.

Thermoplastics useful in the present invention, include but not limited to acrylic polymers, styrenic polymers, polyolefins, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polycarbonate (PC), polyurethane (PU), or mixtures thereof.

30 Styrenic polymers, as used herein, include but are not limited to, polystyrene, high-impact polystyrene (HIPS), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, acrylonitrile-styrene-acrylate (ASA) copolymers, styrene acrylonitrile (SAN) copolymers, methacrylate-acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (MABS) copolymers,

styrene-butadiene copolymers (SB), styrene-butadiene-styrene block (SBS) copolymers and their partially or fully hydrogenated derivatives, styrene-isoprene copolymers styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers and their partially or fully hydrogenated derivatives, styrene-(meth)acrylate copolymers such as styrene-  
5 methyl methacrylate copolymers (S/MMA), and mixtures thereof. A preferred styrenic polymer is ASA. Styrenic copolymers of the invention have a styrene monomer content of at least 10 percent by weight, preferably at least 25 percent by weight.

Acrylic polymers, as used herein, include but are not limited to,  
10 homopolymers, copolymers and terpolymers comprising alkyl methacrylates.

The alkyl methacrylate monomer is preferably methyl methacrylate, which may make up from 60 to 100 of the monomer mixture. 0 to 40 percent of other acrylate, methacrylate, and/or other vinyl monomers may also be present in the monomer mixture. Other methacrylate, acrylate, and other vinyl monomers useful in  
15 the monomer mixture include, but are not limited to methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate and ethyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate and butyl methacrylate, iso-octyl methacrylate and acrylate, lauryl acrylate and lauryl methacrylate, stearyl acrylate and stearyl methacrylate, isobornyl acrylate and methacrylate, methoxy ethyl acrylate and methacrylate, 2-ethoxy ethyl acrylate and methacrylate, dimethylamino ethyl acrylate  
20 and methacrylate monomers, styrene and its derivatives. Alkyl (meth) acrylic acids such as (meth)acrylic acid and acrylic acid can be useful for the monomer mixture. Small levels of multifunctional monomers as crosslinking agents may also be used. A preferred acrylic polymer is a copolymer of methyl methacrylate and 2 – 16 percent of one or more C<sub>1-4</sub> acrylates.

25 Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) substrate polymers include polyvinyl chloride, chlorinated PVC, foamed or expanded PVC, filled PVC, including PVC or expanded PVC filled at 0.1 to 80 weight percent with fillers, including but not limited to cellulosic fibers, calcium carbonate, rosin, limestone, aluminum trihydrate, quartz, and silica.

30 The thermoplastic polymers of the invention can be manufactured by any means known in the art, including emulsion polymerization, solution polymerization, and suspension polymerization. In one embodiment, the thermoplastic matrix has a weight average molecular weight of between 50,000 and 500,000 g/mol, and preferably from 75,000 and 150,000 g/mol, as measured by gel permeation

chromatography (GPC). The molecular weight distribution of the thermoplastic matrix may be monomodal, or multimodal with a polydispersity index greater than 1.5.

Especially preferred thermoplastics for the matrix polymer are styrenic  
5 polymers (including SAN, ABS, MABS, ASA, HIPS), acrylic polymers and PVC.

It is also anticipated that the invention will also work with thermoset plastic matrices, though they are often not as useful as substrates in many applications.

### **Intermediate thermoplastic layer**

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a thermoplastic intermediate layer  
10 (also called a cap layer or capstock layer) is provided between the fluoropolymer outer layer, and the substrate layer. The intermediate layer is selected to provide additional protection to the multi-layer composite, such as weatherability, UV resistance, barrier layer properties, adhesion, other physical and mechanical property improvements, or for aesthetics. The intermediate layer could consist of multiple  
15 layers of the same or different compositions, and could be flammable or non-flammable,

In one embodiment the intermediate may be a flammable thermoplastic material. Preferred intermediate layers include acrylic polymers, styrenic polymers, polycarbonates, polyolefins, as described above for the substrate layer, and blends of  
20 these polymers with other thermoplastics. Especially preferred are acrylic and styrenic intermediate layers.

In one preferred embodiment, the intermediate layer is an acrylic polymer. An especially preferred acrylic polymer is a homopolymer or copolymer having at least 70 weight percent methyl methacrylate units. An acrylic layer provides excellent  
25 weatherability and appearance to the substrate, but adds to the flammability of the composite. However, an acrylic layer may essentially form an effective cap layer for improved properties, when covered by the thin fluoropolymer layer providing the needed flame-retardancy.

The acrylic intermediate layer may include impact modifiers at from 20 – 60  
30 weight percent based on the acrylic matrix. Useful impact modifiers include linear block copolymers, and preferably core shell polymers, as known in the art. Hard-core, core-shell impact modifiers are especially preferred.

The acrylic polymer may also be an alloy of the acrylic polymer with a compatible polymer, such as polyvinylidene fluoride, or a bio polymer, including, but not limited to polylactic acid (PLA).

In another preferred embodiment, the intermediate layer contains a styrenic polymer preferably an ASA copolymer, and more preferably an ASA/PVC alloy.

In one embodiment, the intermediate layer is a foamed polymer, having a density reduction of at least 5% based on the un-foamed polymer.

The intermediate layer can have a thickness of from 0.05 to 2.5 mm, preferably from greater than 0.1 mm to 2.0 mm thick, and more preferably from greater than 0.2 to 1.5 mm thick.

Advantageously, the intermediate layer is pigmented, to provide color to the multi-layer composite.

### **Other layers**

The fluoropolymer layer, intermediate layer and substrate layers of the multi-layer composite, may each, independently, consist of one or more layers.

Additionally, tie layers or adhesive layers may optionally be used between layers.

When a tie layer or adhesive layer is present, it may further contain additives, including but not limited to, impact modifiers, UV stabilizers and absorbers, pigments, and fillers.

### **Additives**

While the fluoropolymer layer provides the composite with good flame-retardancy, small amounts of other flame retardants (above 0.0001 weight percent) may also be blended into the composite. Preferably other flame retardants are used at a level below 20 weight percent, preferably below 10 weight percent, more preferably below 5 weight percent, and even more preferably below 3 weight percent are used, based on the total weight of polymer (matrix polymer and fluoropolymer).

Useful flame retardants include, but are not limited to compounds of tungstate, molybdate, silicate, phosphorous, bromine, and iodine.

The composite of the present invention may also contain, in one or more layers, one or more typical additives for polymer compositions used in usual effective amounts, including but not limited to impact modifiers (both core-shell and linear block copolymers), stabilizers, plasticizers, fillers, coloring agents, pigments,

antioxidants, antistatic agents, surfactants, toner, refractive index matching additives, additives with specific light diffraction, light absorbing, or light reflection characteristics, dispersing aids, radiation stabilizers such as poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), butyl lactate, and carboxylic acids such as lactic acid, oxalic acid, and acetic acid, light modification additives, such as polymeric or inorganic spherical particles with a particle size between 0.5 microns and 1,000 microns.

### **Process for forming composite**

The composite structure may be formed in many different ways, including one or more coatings, laminations and co extrusions.

10 The components of each layer are blended together, typically as powders and/or pellets, then melt-blended in an extruder, in the case of an extruded or coextruded layer(s).

In the case of a two-layer structure, the fluoropolymer layer and the substrate layer can be co-extruded, or the layers can be formed separately, then laminated. The fluoropolymer may also be formed into a film or sheet and then laminated or insert-molded over one or more sides of a substrate. The fluoropolymer layer could also be applied to the substrate, as a coating, including in-line as described in US 8,071,176. The final multi-layer structure, comprising the substrate and flame-retardant layer(s), may be directly extruded in a profile shape (such as for decking, posts, railing, window profiles), or can be extruded in a sheet form and then be thermoformed into a final shape.

For an article made of the multi-layer sheet having a thin fluoropolymer layer, an intermediate layer, and a substrate layer, the composite; any combination of co-extrusion and/or lamination or coating may be used.

25 In a preferred embodiment, a coextrusion of the intermediate layer over the substrate layer can be produced, followed by the lamination or coating of the thin fluoropolymer layer onto the intermediate layer. This allows for a thicker intermediate layer, and a thinner fluoropolymer layer than is practical in a co-extrusion. Film lamination is also less capital intensive than a three-layer coextrusion.

### **30 Use**

The composite compositions of the invention are useful in forming articles requiring flame retardancy. Non-limiting examples of articles using the composition

of the invention are shown in Figures 1-7. When tested in an ASTM E84 flame retardancy test, the composite with the fluoropolymer would be expected to achieve rating at least one letter grade higher compared to a similar composition without the fluoropolymer layer. Preferably the multi-layer composite of the invention will  
 5 achieve an ASTM E84 rating of at least a Class B, and most preferably a rating of Class A. Articles made with the composition of the invention also have excellent water resistance and appearance.

The composites of the invention, when tested by UL-94 flame test should obtain a UL-94 rating of at least one Class higher (V0, V1, V2) than a multi-layer  
 10 structure of the same composition but without the fluoropolymer layer.

The multi-layer composite of the invention is especially useful for railings, decking, fencing, window profiles and roofing articles. The composite is especially useful for articles used in a relatively horizontal position. By “relatively horizontal”, as used herein, is meant that the article is used in the final application in a horizontal  
 15 position, or at an angle of less than 45° from horizontal.

## EXAMPLES

Comparative Example 1: The following comparative example was prepared by melt coextrusion:

20	Flammable Thermoplastic Capstock <sup>1</sup> Flame Retardant Substrate <sup>2</sup>
----	---

1. Solarkote-A<sup>®</sup> 200-101 acrylic capstock from Arkema, Inc.
2. PA-765 flame retardant ABS from Chimei

The coextrusion line was made up of a 1.25” Davis Standard main extruder for the substrate and a 1” Davis Standard satellite extruder. The polymer melts were  
 25 combined in a 12” wide dual manifold sheet die. The ABS substrate was about 110 mil in thickness and the Solarkote-A capstock was about 14 mil in thickness.

Example 2: The structure from example 1 was heat laminated with a 25 um thick fluoropolymer film by passing through two polishing rolls before the materials from Example 1 had time to solidify.

5

Fluoropolymer <sup>3</sup>
Flammable Thermoplastic Capstock
Flame Retardant Substrate

3. Kynar<sup>®</sup> 740 from Arkema, Inc.

10

Example 3: The structure from example 1 was heat laminated with a 50 um thick fluoropolymer film containing a tie-layer on one side by passing through two polishing rolls before the materials from Example 1 had time to solidify.

Fluoropolymer <sup>4</sup>
Tie-Layer <sup>4</sup>
Flammable Thermoplastic Capstock
Flame Retardant Substrate

15

4. Kynar<sup>®</sup> 502 CUH HC from Arkema, Inc. which is a multi-layer film having a fluoropolymer layer and an Adheflon<sup>®</sup> tie layer.

The flammability of comparative examples 1, and examples 2 and 3 were tested in accordance with UL-94 50W Vertical Burning Test. The following table summarizes the results:

	Flammability Classification
Comparative Example 1	V-1
Example 2	V-0
Example 3	V-0

20

This demonstrates the advantage of adding a fluoropolymer layer in reducing the overall flammability of a multilayer system.

## CLAIMS:

1. A weatherable multilayer composite comprising, in order:
  - a) an outer fluoropolymer layer having a thickness of from 0.01 to 0.2 mm, comprising at least 85 weight percent of a polyvinylidene fluoride homopolymer, or a polyvinylidene fluoride copolymer comprising at least 70 weight percent of vinylidene fluoride monomer units, and less than 15 weight percent of other compatible polymers;
  - b) an intermediate flammable thermoplastic polymer cap layer having a thickness of from 0.5 to 2.5 mm, selected from the group consisting of acrylic and styrenic polymers; and
  - c) a thermoplastic substrate layer having a thickness of from 1.0 to 50 mm.
2. The weatherable multilayer composite of claim 1, wherein said intermediate layer comprises a acrylonitrile-styrene-acrylate (ASA) copolymer.
3. The weatherable multilayer composite of claim 2, wherein said intermediate layer comprises an alloy of ASA and a polyvinyl chloride polymer.
4. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said fluoropolymer layer comprises two or more fluoropolymer layers, the layers having the same or different compositions.
5. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said copolymer comprises from 1 to 30 weight percent of hexafluoropropylene.
6. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of acrylic polymers, styrenic polymers, polyolefins, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polycarbonate (PC), polyurethane (PU), and mixtures thereof.

7. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said acrylic polymer is a polymethyl methacrylate homopolymer or a copolymer comprising at least 70 weight percent of methyl methacrylate units.
8. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said thermoplastic polymer layer is pigmented.
9. The weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said outer fluoropolymer layer comprises greater than 95 weight percent fluoropolymer.
10. The weatherable multilayer composite of claim 9, wherein said outer fluoropolymer layer comprises 100 weight percent fluoropolymer.
11. An article comprising the weatherable multilayer composite of any one of claims 1 to 10.
12. The article of claim 11, wherein said article is a railing, decking, fencing, window profile or roofing articles.
13. The article of claim 11 or 12, wherein said article obtains a UL-94 rating of at least one Class higher than a multi-layer structure of the same composition but without said fluoropolymer layer.
14. The article of any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said article obtains a UL-94 rating of V0.
15. A process for forming the article of any one of claims 11 to 14, comprising the steps of
  - a) extruding a substrate layer, or coextruding a substrate layer and a thermoplastic polymer layer,
  - b) separately forming a fluoropolymer film, and

c) laminating the fluoropolymer film to the extruded substrate layer or to the thermoplastic polymer layer side of said thermoplastic polymer/substrate coextrusion, to form a multilayer composite.

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FIGURE 1

Fluoropolymer Flammable Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 2

Fluoropolymer/Acrylic Flammable Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 3

Fluoropolymer Flame Retardant Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 4

Fluoropolymer Tie-Layer Flammable Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 5

Fluoropolymer/Acrylic Tie-Layer Flame Retardant Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 6

Fluoropolymer Tie-Layer Flame Retardant Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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FIGURE 7

Fluoropolymer/Acrylic Tie-Layer Flammable Thermoplastic Cap Substrate
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Fluoropolymer

Tie-Layer

Flammable Thermoplastic Cap

Substrate