ENVELOPE ADHESIVES WITH FLAVORS AND SCENTS

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ABSTRACT

An envelope adhesive, in an exemplary embodiment, includes a polymeric material, a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to the envelope adhesive material, and a fragrance corresponding to the flavor.
ENVELOPE ADHESIVES WITH FLAVORS AND SCENTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates generally to envelopes, and more particularly to envelopes containing an adhesive material that has a flavor and a corresponding fragrance.

[0002] Known envelopes include a seal flap having a moisture activated adhesive or glue for sealing the envelope. Users typically lick the glue to activate the glue. However, the glue of known envelopes typically have an unpleasant taste and/or smell.

[0003] Users have used wet rags or wet sponges to moisten the envelope glue to avoid having to lick the unpleasant tasting glue. Also, some envelope users have resorted to using moisture applicators that have been developed to moisten the glue on an envelope seal flap. However, these methods of envelope glue licking avoidance are typically messy and require clean-up of the envelope and/or the surface that the envelope was resting when the wet rag or moisture applicator was used. Another problem with messy moisture applicators and wet rags and sponges is the possibility of smearing the writing on the envelope, which typically includes the mailing address, because of excess water.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In one aspect, an envelope adhesive material is provided. The envelope adhesive includes a polymeric material, a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to the envelope adhesive material, and a fragrance corresponding to the flavor.

[0005] In another aspect, an envelope is provided. The envelope includes a seal flap and an adhesive covering at least a portion of the seal flap for sealing the envelope. The adhesive includes a polymeric material, a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to the envelope adhesive material, and a fragrance corresponding to the flavor.

[0006] In another aspect, a method of fabricating an envelope is provided. The method includes the steps of providing a substrate, forming an envelope blank from the substrate, the envelope blank comprising a front panel, a rear panel secured to the front panel, a seal flap secured to the front panel, and two side panels secured to opposing sides of the front panel, applying an adhesive gum to at least a portion of the seal flap, folding the rear panel, and securing the rear panel to the two side flaps. The adhesive gum includes a polymeric material, a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to the envelope adhesive material, and a fragrance corresponding to the flavor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 is a planar schematic illustration of an envelope in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0008] FIG. 2 is a planar schematic illustration of the envelope blank used for forming the envelope shown in FIG. 1.
natural of synthetic organic material that produces the desired scent or aroma. In one embodiment, essential oils are added to envelope adhesive 40 to produce the desired scent. To satisfy U.S. regulations, the materials used to form envelope adhesive 40 are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

[0014] To form envelope 10, envelope 12 is cut to the desired dimensions and fold lines 26, 30, 36, and 38 are formed in envelope blank 12. Envelope adhesive 40 is applied to peripheral portion 44 of inside surface 42 of seal flap 16. Rear panel 14 and side flaps 20 and 22 are folded into position and rear panel 14 is secured to side panels 20 and 22 with, for example, an adhesive. Seal flap is folded into place over rear panel 14 and envelope 10 is packaged for shipment.

[0015] While the invention has been described in terms of various specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An envelope adhesive material comprising:
   a polymeric material;
   a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to said envelope adhesive material; and
   a fragrance corresponding to said flavor.

2. An envelope adhesive in accordance with claim 1 wherein said flavor comprises at least one of popcorn flavor, chocolate flavor, cinnamon flavor, lemon flavor, orange flavor, peppermint flavor, pumpkin flavor, strawberry flavor, apple flavor, and vanilla flavor.

3. An envelope adhesive in accordance with claim 1 wherein said fragrance comprises at least one of popcorn fragrance, chocolate fragrance, cinnamon fragrance, lemon fragrance, orange fragrance, peppermint fragrance, pumpkin fragrance, strawberry fragrance, apple fragrance, and vanilla fragrance.

4. An envelope adhesive in accordance with claim 1 wherein said polymeric material comprises an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

5. An envelope comprising:
   a seal flap; and
   an adhesive covering at least a portion of said seal flap for sealing said envelope, said adhesive comprising:
   a polymeric material;
   a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to said envelope adhesive material; and
   a fragrance corresponding to said flavor.

6. An envelope in accordance with claim 5 wherein said flavor comprises at least one of popcorn flavor, chocolate flavor, cinnamon flavor, lemon flavor, orange flavor, peppermint flavor, pumpkin flavor, strawberry flavor, apple flavor, and vanilla flavor.

7. An envelope in accordance with claim 5 wherein said fragrance comprises at least one of popcorn fragrance, chocolate fragrance, cinnamon fragrance, lemon fragrance, orange fragrance, peppermint fragrance, pumpkin fragrance, strawberry fragrance, apple fragrance, and vanilla fragrance.

8. An envelope in accordance with claim 5 wherein said polymeric material comprises an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

9. An envelope comprising:
   a front panel;
   a rear panel;
   a seal flap; and
   an adhesive covering at least a portion of said seal flap for sealing said envelope, said adhesive comprising:
   a polymeric material;
   a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to said envelope adhesive material, said flavor comprises at least one of popcorn flavor, chocolate flavor, cinnamon flavor, lemon flavor, orange flavor, peppermint flavor, pumpkin flavor, strawberry flavor, apple flavor, and vanilla flavor; and
   a fragrance corresponding to said flavor.

10. An envelope in accordance with claim 9 wherein said flavor comprises at least one of popcorn fragrance, chocolate fragrance, cinnamon fragrance, lemon fragrance, orange fragrance, peppermint fragrance, pumpkin fragrance, strawberry fragrance, apple fragrance, and vanilla fragrance.

11. An envelope in accordance with claim 9 wherein said polymeric material comprises an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

12. A method of fabricating an envelope comprising:
   providing a substrate;
   forming an envelope blank from the substrate, the envelope blank comprising a front panel, a rear panel secured to the front panel, a seal flap secured to the front panel, and two side panels secured to opposing sides of the front panel;
   applying an adhesive gum to at least a portion of the seal flap;
   folding the rear panel; and
   securing the rear panel to the two side flaps;
   the adhesive gum comprising:
   a polymeric material;
   a flavor substance that produces a predetermined taste upon application of moisture to the envelope adhesive material; and
   a fragrance corresponding to the flavor.

13. An method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the flavor comprises at least one of popcorn flavor, chocolate flavor, cinnamon flavor, lemon flavor, orange flavor, peppermint flavor, pumpkin flavor, strawberry flavor, apple flavor, and vanilla flavor.

14. An method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the fragrance comprises at least one of popcorn fragrance, chocolate fragrance, cinnamon fragrance, lemon fragrance, orange fragrance, peppermint fragrance, pumpkin fragrance, strawberry fragrance, apple fragrance, and vanilla fragrance.

15. An method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the polymeric material comprises an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

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