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#### (57) Abstract

The present invention relates to poly urethane/urea-forming casting composition that can be cast and cured at temperatures between 15 and 35°C using a reaction mixture of (a) an isocyanate component or an isocyanate functional prepolymer having at least two isocyanate groups per molecule that contains or has been reacted with polytetramethylene glycol; (b) an aromatic amine curative; and (c) a phosphate ester having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C. The present invention further relates to a cast polyurethane and a process for curing a poly urethane/urea-forming composition.

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# THERMOSETTING POLY URETHANE/UREA-FORMING COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING SELECTED PLASTICIZERS

This invention relates to casting polyurethane and/or poly urethane/urea-forming products capable of room temperature curing. More particularly, the invention is drawn to liquid compositions containing isocyanate-functional prepolymers, an aromatic amine curative therefore and a selected non-volatile phosphate plasticizer. The selected poly urethane/urea-forming compositions produce, after room-temperature cure, non-sweating, non-distorting castings or boards with superior elasticity, toughness, tear strength and abrasion resistance.

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#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Aromatic polyisocyanates are well known and are widely used in the preparation of polyurethane and poly urethane/urea elastomers. These aromatic diisocyanates generally include compositions such as 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylene bis (phenylisocyanate) and the like. In the preparation of polyurethane and polyurethane/urea elastomers, the aromatic diisocyanates are reacted with a long chain (high molecular weight) polyol to produce a prepolymer containing free isocyanate groups which then may be chain extended with a short chain (low molecular weight) polyol or aromatic diamine to form a polyurethane or polyurethane/urea elastomer. Long chain, high molecular weight polyols, e.g. those having a molecular weight of above 250, are generally utilized to form the prepolymer and the chain extender is generally a short chain polyol, e.g.,  $C_2 - C_{10}$  polyol, or an aromatic diamine. The long chain, high molecular weight polyol provides flexibility and elastomeric properties to the resin, while the short chain polyol or aromatic diamine provides chain extension or cross-links and adds toughness and rigidity to the resulting elastomeric polymer.

A major problem with mononuclear aromatic diisocyanates, such as, toluene
diisocyanate, relates to the perceived health risks and their volatility. It is known that residual toluene diisocyanate (free toluene diisocyanate) in a prepolymer mixture can be

reduced by lowering the isocyanate/hydroxyl ratio of the prepolymer mixture. This modification, however, has a detrimental effect on processing when the prepolymer is chain extended (or cured), namely, the hardness build up rate decreases very significantly, which leads to an extended demolding time. The prepolymer viscosity also builds up to levels which prevent processability at ambient temperatures.

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It is also known that by incorporating 2,4 toluene diisocyanate dimer into a prepolymer mix, a low NCO/OH ratio can be used to obtain the desired low residual free toluene diisocyanate content while maintaining the desired hardness build up rate. Such a composition is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,077,371, which is incorporated herein by reference. The prepolymer's viscosity is measured at 100°C and cured at temperatures in excess of 100°C using 4,4′-methylene-bis(3-chloro)aniline. No phosphate ester plasticizers or room temperature curing are described or contemplated by the teachings in the '371 Patent. There is a need for a poly urethane/urea forming composition having a low free toluene diisocyanate content that is capable of being cast and cured at room temperatures.

Plasticizers are commonly used for polyurethane foaming compositions to modify the foam properties or ease processing as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,817,860. Examples of plasticizers set forth therein are dioctyl phthalate, diisooctyl phthalate, dimethyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, tributyl phosphate, triphenyl phosphate, cresyl diphenyl phosphate, halogenated biphenyls and aromatic oils.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,688,892 describes a waterproofing formulation based upon a cold setting polyurethane formulation using a selected aromatic diamine curative and plasticizers and a toluene disocyanate reacted with a polyoxypropylene or polyoxyethylene polyol. The plasticizer used therein is dioctyl phthalate.

Published European patent application 829,497 describes a polyurethane casting
composition based on an isocyanate or isocyanate-function prepolymer, selected aromatic
amine curative with a relatively low polarity and hydrocarbon oils as a plasticizer.

Many conventional plasticizers, however, are either too volatile, which leads to dimensional instability, or become physically incompatible after cure, or have insufficient viscosity reducing effect. The present invention overcomes these obstacles to produce a desired room temperature curable poly urethane/urea-forming product having a low free toluene diisocyanate content.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is, in one embodiment, drawn to a poly urethane/urea-forming casting composition that can be cast and cured at temperatures between 15 and 35°C using a reaction mixture of (a) an isocyanate component or an isocyanate functional prepolymer having at least two isocyanate groups per molecule that contains or has been reacted with polytetramethylene glycol, (b) an aromatic amine curative, and (c) a selected phosphate ester having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C. Component (a) is preferably a low free toluene diisocyanate prepolymer blend resulting from the reaction of 0.3 to 6.0 weight percent of a dimer of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate with 94 to 99.7% weight percent of an organic diisocyanate. Component (a) more preferably is a prepolymer blend that is a reaction mixture of an organic diisocyanate and polytetramethylene glycol. The casting composition can further include a polyether- and/or polyester polyol having a number average molecular weight of at least 250.

The aromatic amine curative is preferably selected from the group consisting of diethyl toluene diamine, tertiary butyl toluene diamine, dimethylthiotoluene diamine, and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenylthio)ethane.

The phosphate ester is preferably represented by formula (I)

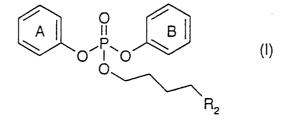
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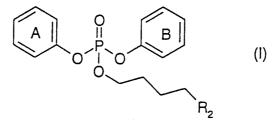
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wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or unsubstituted or alkyl-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkyl, and aromatic rings A and B independently of one another can have one or more alkyl substitutions; More preferably, component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.

- 5 The present invention, in a further embodiment, is drawn to a cast polyurethane obtainable by a process comprising reacting (a) an isocyanate component or an isocyanate functional prepolymer having at least two isocyanate groups per molecule that contains or has been reacted with polytetramethylene glycol, (b) an aromatic amine curative, and (c) a phosphate ester having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C. Component (a) is preferably a low free toluene diisocyanate prepolymer blend resulting from the reaction of 10 0.3 to 6.0 weight percent of a dimer of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate with 94 to 99.7% weight percent of an organic diisocyanate. Component (a) can be a prepolymer blend resulting from a reaction mixture of an organic diisocyanate and polytetramethylene glycol. The aromatic amine curative used to obtain cast polyurethane is selected from the group 15 consisting of diethyl toluene diamine, tertiary butyl toluene diamine, dimethylthiotoluene diamine, and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenylthio)ethane. The reactants for obtaining the desired cast polyurethane can further include a polyether- and/or polyester polyol having a number average molecular weight of at least 250.
- 20 The phosphate ester used for this process can preferably be represented by formulae (I):



wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or unsubstituted or alkyl-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkyl, and aromatic rings A and B independently of one another can have one or more alkyl substitutions. More preferably, component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.

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The present invention is drawn to a still further embodiment of a process for curing a poly urethane/urea-forming composition comprising contacting said poly urethane/urea-

forming composition at a temperature between 15 and 35°C with (a) an aromatic amine curative having at least two primary amine groups, and (b) a plasticizer having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C with said poly urethane/urea-forming composition.

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#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The isocyanate used in this invention is an isocyanate having an average functionality of two or more isocyanate groups per molecule. Examples of suitable diisocyanates are 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 4,4-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, mixtures of diphenylmethane diisocyanate, paraphenyldiisocyanate, isophoronediisocyanate, 4,4'-methylene-bis(cyclohexylisocyanate), naphthalene diisocyanate and hexamethylene diisocyanate and chain extended prepolymer blends. An alkylene diamine or diol can be reacted with an excess of the isocyanate component to produce such a chain extended prepolymer blends.

In a preferred embodiment, a low-free toluene diisocyanate prepolymer is made by reacting an organic diisocyanate and the dimer of toluene diisocyanate with high molecular weight aliphatic polyester or polyether polyols to produce a prepolymer having a toluene diisocyanate content below 0.4% by weight. Optionally, a mixture of a low molecular weight polyol (number average molecular weight less than 250) and a high molecular weight polyol (number average molecular weight of at least 250) can also be reacted with the diisocyanate and the dimer of toluene diisocyanate.

Representative toluene diisocyanates include the two main isomers, 2,4- and 2,6-diisocyanate and optionally, a small amount of the ortho isomers, the 2,3- and 3,4-isomers. Commercially, toluene diisocyanate is found as a 65:35, 80:20 or 99:1 isomer mix of the 2,4- and 2,6-isomer by weight and optionally from 0-5% by weight of the ortho isomers. An isomer mix is preferred within a range of from about 65-100% of the 2,4-isomer and the balance (0-35%) being essentially the 2,6-isomer. The most preferred range of the 2,6-isomer is 0-5%.

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The 2,4-toluene diisocyanate dimer can be added to the selected organic diisocyanate(s) in an amount ranging up to the dimer's solubility limit at about 80°C to form an isocyanate blend. Preferably the dimer is present at about 0.3% to about 6.0% by weight of the isocyanate blend, that is, the mixture of the toluene diisocyanate dimer and the selected organic diisocyanate(s). More preferably about 0.5 to 4.0% by weight of dimer is present in the isocyanate blend.

High molecular weight polyols, particularly polyether polyols or polyester polyols having a number average molecular weight of at least 250, can be used to prepare the prepolymer of the instant invention. Polyols having a number average molecular weight of about 650 to 3000 are preferred, with polyols having number average molecular weights of 1000 being the most preferred. The number average molecular weight of the high molecular weight polyol can be as high as 10,000 or as low as 250. Preferred polyether polyols are polyalkyleneether polyols represented by the general formula  $HO(RO)_nH$ , wherein R is an alkylene radical and n is an integer large enough that the polyether polyol has a number average molecular weight of at least 250. These polyalkyleneether polyols are well-known components of polyurethane products and can be prepared by the polymerization of cyclic ethers such as alkylene oxides and glycols, dihydroxyethers, and the like by known methods. A particularly preferred high molecular weight polyol is polytetramethylene glycol.

Polyester polyols are prepared by reaction of dibasic acids (usually adipic acid but other components such as sebacic or phthalic acid may be present) with diols such as ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,4-butylene glycol and diethylene glycol, etc., where linear polymer segments are required, or include units of higher functionality such as glycerol, trimethylol propane, pentaerythritol, sorbitol, etc., if chain branching or ultimate crosslinking is sought. Some polyester polyols also employ caprolactone and dimerized unsaturated fatty acids in their manufacture. Another type of polyester which is of interest is that obtained by the addition polymerization of  $\varepsilon$ -caprolactone in the presence of an initiator. Other polyols that can be used are those that have at least two hydroxyl

groups and whose basic backbone is obtained by polymerization or copolymerization of such monomers as butadiene and isoprene monomers.

The initial polyol portion for making a prepolymer blend of the instant invention can be combination of high molecular weight polyol, as previously described, and a low molecular weight polyol. An aliphatic glycol is the preferred low molecular weight polyol. Suitable aliphatic polyols are ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, and the like. The most preferred low molecular weight polyol is 1,4-butanediol. In general, the weight of the low molecular weight polyol should be no more than 20% of the combination of high molecular weight polyol and low molecular weight polyol. The preferred range is 0 to 15% of the combination; more preferred is 0-8%.

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The prepolymers are prepared by dissolving 2,4-toluene diisocyanate dimer in any conventional diisocyanate, adding the polyol or initial polyol blend, maintaining the temperature at from room temperature to temperatures as high as 150°C for sufficient time to react all of the available hydroxyl groups. Preferred reaction temperatures are 50°C to 100°C; more preferred temperatures are 50°C to 85°C. The product is poured into containers under a nitrogen flush and stored at room temperature. A particularly preferred prepolymer is commercially available from Uniroyal Corporation under the tradename Adiprene® LF 750D.

An alternate method to manufacture the necessary prepolymer is to generate the dimer of toluene diisocyanate in situ. A dimerization catalyst, such as one of the trialkyl phosphines or other conventional materials, is added to toluene diisocyanate prior to adding the polyols. Another alternative is to generate the dimer in the diisocyanate by heating to the dimerization temperature without use of a catalyst.

The stoichiometric ratio of isocyanato groups to hydroxyl groups in the reactants should preferably be from 1.3/1 to 1.9/1 although somewhat lower and higher ratios are permissible. When the ratio is much lower, the molecular weight of the isocyanato

terminated polyurethane becomes so large that the viscosity of the mass makes mixing of chain extenders into the prepolymer relatively more difficult. At the other extreme, a ratio of 2 isocyanato groups to one hydroxyl group is the theoretical ratio for the end-capping of a polyalkyleneether or ester polyol with a diisocyanate. An excess approaching the 2/1 ratio will result in high levels of free diisocyanate in the mixture. Therefore, the preferred range is 1.4/1 to 1.6/1.

The curative used with the prepolymer described above is an organic aromatic polyamine having two or more amine groups. The organic aromatic polyamine can be combined with polyether- and/or polyester-polyols described above to modify the final product or cure characteristics. Of course, known catalysts can be used in conjunction with the curative if necessary.

Examples of aromatic polyamine materials are: diethyl toluene diamine (DETDA), tertiary butyl toluene diamine (TBTDA), dimethylthiotoluene diamine (Ethacure™ 300) from Albermarle Corporation, trimethylene glycol di-p-aminobenzoate (Polacure™ 740) from Polaroid Corporation, and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenylthio)ethane (Cyanacure from American Cyanamid Company). The most preferred aromatic polyamine is dimethylthiotoluene diamine.

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The castable composition combines the isocyanate component and/or prepolymer blend and curative described above with a plasticizing agent having a vapor pressure at 25°C of less than 2000 mPa and/or an evaporation rate of <40% after 24hours at 87°C according to ASTM 1203-67. The preferred plasticizing agents are phosphate esters having a vapor pressure at 25°C of less than 2000 mPa.

Particularly preferred plasticizing agents are phosphate esters according to formulae (I) and

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
A & O & B \\
O & O & B \\
O & O & B
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_2
\end{array}$$
(I)

wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or unsubstituted or alkyl-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkyl, and aromatic rings A and B independently of one another can have one or more alkyl substitutions.

Representative compounds falling with formula (I) are pentyl diphenyl phosphate, hexyl diphenyl phosphate, heptyl diphenyl phosphate, octyl diphenyl phosphate, nonyl diphenyl phosphate and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl substituted compounds thereof, such as isodecyl diphenyl phosphate (Santicizer 148) and 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate (Santicizer 141, Solutia) and Santicizer 2148 (Solutia).

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The casting composition of the present invention is a mixture of the isocyanate component and/or isocyanate functional prepolymer blend, an aromatic amine curative, selected plasticizer(s) and optionally additional polyether- and/or polyester-polyol, and/or diisocyanate dimer. The mixture preferably contains about 40-80% by weight of an isocyanate functional prepolymer with an isocyanate content between 4 and 15% formed by the reaction of toluene diisocyanate with at least one polyol; 7-20% by weight of an aromatic polyamine; 6-30% by weight of a phosphate ester plasticizer having a vapor pressure at 25°C of less than 2000 mPa, and optionally, 0-20% by weight of uretdione diisocyanate (poly-HDI). In a more preferred embodiments, the isocyanate functional prepolymer blend has a low free toluene diisocyanate content by using the reaction products of 0.3 to 6.0 weight percent of a dimer of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate with 94 to 99.7% weight percent of an organic diisocyanate.

A wide variety of fillers, dyes, and pigments can be used in the formulations described above. Examples of suitable fillers are calcium carbonate, clays, talcs, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, and silica. The amount of filler usually is in the range of 0 to 800 parts per hundred by weight, depending on the application for which the formulation is intended.

Stabilizers known in the art can also be incorporated into the composition. The stabilizers may be for protection during the life of the finished product against, for example, oxygen, ozone, and ultra-violet radiation. Stabilizers can also be incorporated to protect against thermooxidative degradation during processing. Antioxidants and UV inhibitors that would otherwise interfere with the urethane curing process should be avoided. Preferred antioxidants are sterically hindered phenolic compounds. Stabilizers such as organic phosphites are also useful. Preferred UV inhibitors are benzotriazole compounds.

For curing these prepolymers, the number of -NH<sub>2</sub> groups in the aromatic diamine component should be approximately equal to the number of --NCO groups in the isocyanate component and/or prepolymer blend. A small variation is permissible but in general from about 80 to 110% of the stoichiometric equivalent should be used, preferably about 85 to 100%.

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The castable compositions described herein can be prepared by mixing the selected polyol(s) chain extenders with the isocyanate component and/or isocyanate functional preopolymer. The resulting chain extended product can then be used immediately or stored under a nitrogen blanket until such time that a casting is desired. The selected aromatic amine curative can be separately combined with the plasticizer and stored. Once a casting is desired, the chain extended product is combined with the aromatic amine curative and plasticizer and poured into a mould for curing and post-curing, if necessary.

Applications for cast elastomers include, potting and encapsulants, pipe seals, athletic surfaces, binders, drop hammer tools, prototype parts, foundry core boxes, pattern plates, bumping tools, working models for the ceramic industry and other moulded articles resulting cast mouldings. The present invention, therefore, further relates to moulded articles resulting from the formulations described herein. Preferably, the moulded article is free of any fiber reinforcing materials, such as carbon fibers, and yet exhibits a Shore D hardness in excess of about 45, more preferably in excess of about 50.

The following examples are illustrative of the present invention and are therefore not intended as a limitation on the scope thereof.

## Example 1

The following components are combined in a closed vessel at ambient pressure and temperature. The components are intimately mixed for a sufficient time to produce a homogenous mixture, at which time the physical properties are determined.

Components

ADIPRENE LF750D 76.86g

10 Isodecyl diphenyl phosphate

23.02g

**BYK A530** 

0.12g (degassing aid)

Dimethylthiotoluene diamine

17.00g

At 25°C viscosity of mixture is 3500 - 4000 mPas

15 Properties after curing at 25°C for 7days:

Shore D hardness (ISO 868)

50 - 53

Tensile strength (ISO527)

20 - 25 MPa

Elongation at break (ISO527)

150 - 200 %

#### 20 Example 2

The components identified below are combined analogously to the methods described in example 1 to produce a homogenous mixture.

ADIPRENE LF750D 53.80g

DESMODUR N3400 23.06g

25 Isodecyl diphenyl phosphate

**BYK A530** 

0.08g (a degassing aid)

Dimethylthiotoluene diamine

24g

23.06g

At 25°C viscosity of mixture is 1000 mPas

30 Properties after curing at 25°C for 7days:

Shore D hardness (ISO 868) 63 - 66

Tensile strength (ISO527)

25 - 30 MPa

Elongation at break (ISO527)

150 - 200 %

### Example 3

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Several plasticizers identified below were used in a mixture of 76.86 grams Adiprene LF750D, 0.1 grams BYK A530 and 17 grams dimethylthiotoluene diamine. The mixtures are then introduced into a mould and cast into either a 400x75x100 mm bar or a 100 mm diameter circle having a 5 to 10 mm thickness. The mixtures are allowed to cure at ambient conditions for 16 hours. The resulting cured bars are demoulded and left on a flat surface. Distortion is shown when the ends of the cured bars curl upwards within three days of demoulding. The results of various plasticizers are shown below:

Plasticizer	Amount (g)	Evaporation rate	Vapor pressure at 25°C (mm Hg)	Vapor pressure at 25°C (mPa)	Distortion of cured specimens
gamma- butyrolact one	15.37		0.3	40000	Yes
Butyl glycol acetate	15.37		0.3	40000	Yes
Dibasic ester	12.3		0.08	11000	Yes
Propylene carbonate	15.37		0.08	11000	Yes
Dibutyl phthalate	23.06	44	0.0063	840	Slight
Ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate	23.06	7.4	6x10 <sup>-</sup> 5	8	No
Isodecyl diphenyl phosphate	23.06	2.8	3x10 <sup>-8</sup>	4x10 <sup>-</sup> 3	No

Preferred embodiments of the present invention relating to novel poly urethane/ureaforming compositions and methods for using the same have been described above. Those skilled in the art having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing will recognize modifications and other embodiments. Therefore, it is understood that the invention is not limited to the specific embodiments disclosed herein, and that

modifications and other embodiments are intended to be within the scope of the appended claims.

#### We claim:

1. A poly urethane/urea-forming casting composition that can be cast and cured at temperatures between 15 and 35°C comprising a reaction mixture of (a) an isocyanate component or an isocyanate functional prepolymer having at least two isocyanate groups per molecule that contains or has been reacted with polytetramethylene glycol; (b) an aromatic amine curative; and (c) a phosphate ester ester having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C.

- 2. A casting composition according to claim 1 wherein component (a) is a low free toluene diisocyanate prepolymer blend resulting from the reaction of 0.3 to 6.0 weight percent of a dimer of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate with 94 to 99.7% weight percent of an organic diisocyanate.
- 3. A casting composition according to claim 2 wherein the reaction mixture comprises a prepolymer blend that is a reaction mixture of an organic disocyanate and polytetramethylene glycol.
- 4. A casting composition according to claim 1 wherein the aromatic amine curative is selected from the group consisting of diethyl toluene diamine, tertiary butyl toluene diamine, dimethylthiotoluene diamine, , and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenylthio)ethane.
- 5. A casting composition according to claim 4 wherein the aromatic amine curative is dimethylthiotoluene diamine.
- 6. A casting composition according to claim 5 further comprising a polyether- and/or polyester polyol having a number average molecular weight of at least 250.
- 7. A casting composition according to claim 1 wherein the phosphate ester (I)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
A & O & B \\
O & O & B \\
O & O & B
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
P & O & B \\
P & O & B \\
\hline
P & O & B
\end{array}$$

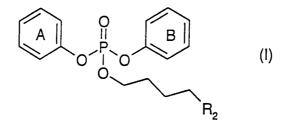
$$\begin{array}{c|c}
P & O & B \\
\hline
P & O &$$

wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or unsubstituted or alkyl-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkyl, and aromatic rings A and B independently of one another can have one or more alkyl substitutions.

- 8. A casting composition according to claim 1 wherein component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.
- 9. A casting composition according to claim 5 wherein component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.
- 10. A cast polyurethane obtainable by a process comprising reacting (a) an isocyanate component or an isocyanate functional prepolymer having at least two isocyanate groups per molecule that contains or has been reacted with polytetramethylene glycol; (b) an aromatic amine curative; and (c) a phosphate ester having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C.
- 11. A polyurethane casting according to claim 10 wherein component (a) is a low free toluene diisocyanate prepolymer blend resulting from the reaction of 0.3 to 6.0 weight percent of a dimer of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate with 94 to 99.7% weight percent of an organic diisocyanate.
- 12. A polyurethane casting according to claim 11 wherein component (a) is a prepolymer blend resulting from a reaction mixture of an organic diisocyanate and polytetramethylene glycol.

13. A polyurethane casting according to claim 10 wherein the aromatic amine curative is selected from the group consisting of diethyl toluene diamine, tertiary butyl toluene diamine, dimethylthiotoluene diamine, and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenylthio)ethane.

- 14. A polyurethane casting according to claim 13 wherein the aromatic amine curative is dimethylthiotoluene diamine.
- 15. A polyurethane casting according to claim 14 wherein the process further comprising combining a polyether- and/or polyester polyol having a number average molecular weight of at least 250 with components (a), (b) and (c).
- 16. A polyurethane casting according to claim 10 wherein the phosphate ester (I):



wherein  $R_2$  is hydrogen or unsubstituted or alkyl-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkyl, and aromatic rings A and B independently of one another can have one or more alkyl substitutions.

- 17. A polyurethane casting according to claim 10 wherein component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.
- 18. A polyurethane casting according to claim 14 wherein component (c) is isodecyl diphenyl phosphate.
- 19. A process for curing a poly urethane/urea-forming composition according to claim 1 comprising contacting said poly urethane/urea-forming composition at a temperature between 15 and 35°C with (a) an aromatic amine curative having at least two primary amine groups; and (b) a plasticizer having a vapor pressure of less than 2000 mPa at 25°C with said poly urethane/urea-forming composition.

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP 99/09616

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C08G18/48 C08G C08G18/10 C08K5/00 C08K5/521 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C08G C08K IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X DATABASE WPI 1,3,4,7, Section Ch, Week 199408 10,12, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; 13,16 Class A25, AN 1994-062111 XP002132421 & JP 06 016767 A (BANDO CHEM IND LTD), 25 January 1994 (1994-01-25) abstract 1,3,6, X US 3 980 606 A (WERNER BYRON H) 14 September 1976 (1976-09-14) 10,12, 15,19 column 5, line 8 - line 14; claim 1 7,16 Α P.X FR 2 764 893 A (GANGA ROLAND ALEXANDRE) 1,3-5, 24 December 1998 (1998-12-24) 10,12-14 P.A example 5 7,16 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. I X Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or s, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 02/05/2000 18 April 2000 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Angiolini, D

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