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Intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides and combined cold-and hot-gas seals

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Abstract

Coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides, obtained by coextruding an intumescent composition comprising a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins, sulfuric-acid-treated graphite, flame retardant, and an inorganic additive which forms an enamel or forms a ceramic, and a three-sided jacket, where appropriate in association with a chambered profile, comprising a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins, flame retardant, and, where appropriate, a color pigment, where the fire-protection strips may be designed either as a hot-gas seal or else as a combined cold- and hot-gas seal with spatially separated functions.

AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
STANDARD PATENT

Applicant(s):

INTUMEX BRANDSCHUTZPRODUKTE AG

Invention Title:

INTUMESCENT FIRE-PROTECTION STRIPS JACKETED ON THREE
SIDES AND COMBINED COLD- AND HOT-GAS SEALS

The following statement is a full description of this
invention, including the best method of performing it known to
me/us:

Intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides and combined cold- and hot-gas seals

5 The invention relates to intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides and to combined cold- and hot-gas seals, these being produced by coextrusion.

10 A very wide variety of intumescent strips is known, and an example of their uses is as a hot-gas seal for fire-protection doors or fire-protection windows. For example, WO 98/30654 gives a fairly general description of a halogen-free intumescent composition which comprises a carrier material and an intumescent component. The carrier materials used here are various halogen-free polymers capable of changing their shape
15 on exposure to heat. The intumescent component may be graphite or vermiculite, for example. This composition may also comprise one or more halogen-free flame retardants. The individual constituents are first mixed and then extruded as strips. Where appropriate, these strips may also be jacketed.
20 This jacket may be composed of a rigid or flexible plastic, and it comprises no other constituents. WO 98/30654 does not describe any trials or indicate the functionality of the strips claimed.

25 EP-A1-0 509 701 describes a fire-protection strip composed of an intumescent material, such as Palusol, jacketed by a rigid plastic, such as rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and the jacket here has a connection to a flexible seal part made from a flexible plastic, such as PVC or a flexible thermoplastic elastomer compatible with rigid PVC.

30 Another variant is known from EP-B1-0 745 751. According to EP-B1-0 745 751, 2 types of intumescent strips are produced. For example, a fully jacketed strip is produced by coextrusion of an elongate support with an inner cavity, preferably made from rigid PVC, and of an elongate insert made from a flexible
35 material which swells, the insert being extruded into the cavity of the support. The support here is extruded with a relatively high temperature, while the insert is extruded with a low temperature. The extruded components here first have to be rapidly passed through a cooled shaping apparatus and then

through another cooling apparatus. To obtain a fire-protection strip jacketed on three sides, the intumescent insert is extruded into the cavity of the support once the latter has been extruded.

5

It would be advantageous if at least preferred embodiments of the present invention provide new fire-protection strips which firstly have properties superior to those of the prior art, for example a higher expansion factor, a higher ignition
10 residue, and a higher blow-out time, and which secondly can be produced at various widths by simple coextrusion without complicated additional apparatus, such as cooling apparatus.

Unexpectedly, the inventors have found that it is possible to
15 achieve this by means of a strip jacketed on three sides, where both the jacket of these strips and their intumescent composition comprise specific thermoplastic elastomers which have very good qualities in relation to use with fillers, and where the intumescent composition of these strips comprises,
20 inter alia, a sulfuric-acid-treated graphite.

The present invention therefore provides coextruded, intumescent fire-prevention strips jacketed on three sides and comprising

- 25 a) an intumescent composition comprising
- a₁) a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins,
 - 30 a₂) sulfuric-acid-treated graphite,
 - a₃) flame retardant, and
 - a₄) an inorganic additive which forms an enamel or forms a ceramic,

and

- 35 b) a three-sided jacket, where appropriate in association with a chambered profile, comprising
- b₁) a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing

class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins,

b₂) flame retardant, and, where appropriate,

b₃) a color pigment,

5 and obtained by coextrusion of a) and b).

The flame retardants a₃) and b₂) used may be nitrogen-phosphorus compounds selected from the class consisting of melamine phosphates, guanidine phosphates, ammonium

10 hydrogenphosphates, ammonium polyphosphates, and trihydrazinophosphates, or may be ethylenediammonium phosphate, or may be hydroxides, such as magnesium hydroxide or aluminum hydroxide, or may be hydrates, such as alumina trihydrate, where the proportion of a₃) in the intumescent
15 composition a) is from 1 to 10% by weight, and the proportion of b₂) in the jacket is from 10 to 50% by weight.

The fire-protection strips of the invention are therefore comprised of an intumescent composition a), surrounded on
20 three sides by the jacket b).

Both the intumescent composition a) and the jacket comprise a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins.

25 The TPEs used preferably have a processing temperature of not more than 200°C.

Suitable TPEs are block copolymers of styrene type (TPE-S), such as styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers or styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers (e.g. Kraton D, from the company Shell Chemical), or styrene-ethylene-co-butadiene-styrene block copolymers (e.g. Kraton G from the company Shell Chemical), polyether-polyamide block copolymers (TPE-A), (e.g. Pebax from the company Atochem), polyurethane-polyether or -polyester block copolymers (TPE-U) (e.g. Elastollan from the company BASF), or polyether-polyester block copolymers (TPE-E) (e.g. Hytrel from the company DuPont).

Other suitable polymers are uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins (TPE-O). These are ethylene-octene copolymers prepared; for example, by metallocene catalysis (e.g. Engage from the company DuPont or Exact from the company DSM).

- 5 Where appropriate, conventional additives such as impact modifiers, coupling agents, antioxidants, etc. may be added to the TPE used. Examples of impact modifiers and coupling agents which may be used are those from the family of polyolefinic plastics grafted with a reactive maleic anhydride group (e.g.
- 10 Fusabond from the company DuPont), random copolymers having methacrylic acid functionality in a base skeleton of polyethylene (e.g. Surlyn from the company DuPont) or polymers based on a skeleton in which there is a random distribution of glycidyl methacrylate as reactive group together with ethylene

units and acrylate units (e.g. Elvaloy from the company DuPont). Preference is given here to polymers based on a skeleton in which there is a random distribution of glycidyl methacrylate as reactive group together with ethylene units and acrylate units.

Examples of antioxidants which may be used are compounds based on benzene-propionic acid derivatives, such as Irganox from the company Ciba-Geigy, or compounds based on phosphorus-containing bisdimethylethylphenyl derivatives, for example Irgafos from the company Ciba-Geigy.

A compatible polymer such as polyethylene (e.g. LLDPE) may also be added as a diluent to the appropriate TPE for reasons of cost. It is preferable for these additives to be added to the TPE-Os. The block copolymers are preferably used without additives, but it is possible to dilute a block by adding a suitable polymer. For example, polybutadiene or polystyrene may be added to a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer.

The proportion of TPE or, where appropriate, of TPE in combination with one of the abovementioned additives is from about 20 to about 80% by weight, preferably from 25 to 60% by weight, both in the intumescent composition a) and in the jacket.

The proportion of TPE in the jacket is preferably higher here than in the intumescent composition.

It is moreover preferable for the same TPE to be used for the intumescent composition a) and for the jacket b).

Besides the TPE (a_1), the intumescent composition a) also comprises a sulfuric-acid-treated vermicular graphite (S graphite) (a_2). The amount of S graphite is from 10 to 50% by weight, preferably from 20 to 45% by weight.

As third component a_3), the intumescent composition a) comprises a flame retardant. Preference is given to the use of halogen-free flame retardants. Particular preference is given to the use of nitrogen-phosphorus compounds, such as melamine phosphates, guanidine phosphates, ammonium hydrogenphosphates, trihydrazinophosphates, etc., in particular ammonium

polyphosphate or ethylenediammonium phosphate, or hydroxides, such as magnesium hydroxide or aluminum hydroxide.

The amount of flame retardant added here is from 1 to 10% by weight, preferably from 2 to 8% by weight.

5

In addition to these constituents, the intumescent composition a) also comprises an inorganic additive a₄) which forms an enamel or forms a ceramic. These may be neutral metal oxide compounds or neutral metal oxide mixtures, for example clay,
10 kaolin, zinc borate, calcium phosphate or feldspar, etc., or else a mixture made from acid oxides, such as silicon dioxide, boron oxide, phosphorus oxide, etc. with basic oxides, such as potassium oxide, sodium oxide, calcium oxide, aluminum oxide, zinc oxide, titanium oxide or magnesium oxide, etc. Component
15 a₄) may be composed of one or more inorganic additives.

The amount of component a₄) added here is from 5 to 30% by weight, preferably from 10 to 20% by weight.

It is important that the total amount of all of the components
20 does not exceed 100% by weight in the formulation of the intumescent composition.

Besides the TPE, the jacket b) likewise comprises a flame retardant b₂). The flame retardant used is again preferably
25 halogen-free. Suitable flame retardants are hydrates, such as alumina trihydrate, or the abovementioned nitrogen-phosphorus compounds, etc. The proportion of flame retardant in the jacket is from 10 to 50% by weight, preferably from 15 to 40% by weight.

30 Where appropriate, the jacket may also comprise a color pigment b₃). The amount of this added is from 0.5 to 5% by weight, preferably from 0.8 to 3% by weight.

35 In the jacket, too, it is important that the total amount of all of the components does not exceed 100% by weight.

The fire-protection strips of the invention may be used as a hot-gas seal, for example for fire-protection doors or fire-protection windows.

In one particular embodiment, the fire-protection strip of the invention has a structure such that it can function either as a hot-gas seal or else as a cold-gas seal. This combined cold- and hot-gas seal has spatially separated functions. The manner
5 of achieving this is that the jacket b) does not only surround three sides of the intumescent composition a) but also has a chambered profile which serves as cold-gas seal. These combined cold- and hot-gas seals are produced in one piece.

The fire-protection strips of the invention or the combined
10 cold- and hot-gas seal of the invention are obtained by coextruding the intumescent composition a) and the jacket b).

To produce the fire-protection strips of the invention by coextrusion, a coextrusion apparatus is used, composed of a twin-screw extruder for the intumescent mass a), of a single-
15 screw extruder for the jacket b), and of a coextrusion die which allows the production of strips of varying widths (composite head with conically oriented slot dies of various widths, where the width of the strips can be varied via the number of sections used in the head), and where appropriate of
20 a roller take-off for achieving particularly smooth surfaces and of a wind-up for the fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides. In producing the coextruded fire-protection strip of the invention it is not essential to use cooling devices such as those required in EP-B1-0 745 751.

25 In addition, unlike in EP-B1-0 745 751, the two extruders are at the same temperature.

The coextrusion die permits the production of strips of width from 10 to 60 mm and thickness from 1 to 5 mm, depending on the number of sections used in the head, enabling continuous
30 rolling of the fire-protection strips of the invention.

The invention also provides a process for producing coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strips of the invention which are jacketed on three sides, which comprises
35 extruding the jacket b) at a processing temperature of not more than 250°C, preferably not more than 200°C, by way of a single-screw extruder and simultaneously extruding the intumescent composition a) at a processing temperature of not more than 250°C, preferably not more than 200°C, into the

cavity of the jacket by way of a twin-screw extruder, and then using a suitable coextrusion die, composed of a composite head with conically oriented slot dies of various widths, to obtain coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides and having a width of from 10 to 60 mm and a thickness of from 1 to 5 mm, these being polished, where appropriate, by way of a roller take-off system and then wound up.

In the case of the combined cold- and hot-gas seals, the jacket is extruded in a suitable form which has a chambered profile suitable for cold-gas seals and has the cavity designed to receive the intumescent composition.

The resultant fire-protection strips of the invention or combined cold- and hot-gas seals of the invention have properties superior to those of the prior art, such as a higher expansion factor of at least 1:5, and up to 1:9, at 300°C, a higher ignition residue and a higher "blow-out time", and also a simpler method of production.

Example 1:

A fire-protection strip jacketed on three sides and with the following composition was produced:

Jacket b):

- component b₁) was composed of 39.8 parts of Engage 8480 uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefin (TPE-O) (from the company DuPont), 30 parts of Elvaloy NH impact modifier (from the company DuPont), 30 parts of Dowlex LLDPE polyethylene (from the company Dow), 0.1 part of Irganox 1010 antioxidant (from the company Ciba Geigy), and 0.1 part of Irgafos 168 antioxidant (from the company Ciba Geigy).

The proportion of component b₁) in the jacket was 60% by weight.

- component b₂): 39% by weight of ATH alumina trihydrate (Magnifin, from the company Martinswerk)
- component b₃): 1% by weight of Bayferrox 140 color pigment (from the company Bayer).

Intumescent composition a):

- component a₁): mixing specification as for b₁).

The proportion of component a_1) in the intumescent composition was 40% by weight.

- component a_2): 40% by weight of S graphite (from the company Kaisersberg)

5 • component a_3): 5% by weight of ammonium polyphosphate APP (Exolit AP 422, from the company Clariant)

- component a_4): 15% by weight of Clay 610 (from the company Bischitzky & Co)

10 The mixture for the intumescent composition was produced by separate meter into the Leistritz twin-screw extruder, the polymer being fed into zone 1 and the remaining mixture of powders into zone 5.

15 The mixture for the jacket was metered into a Brabender single-screw extruder. The temperature profile in the Brabender was 150°C (zone 1) to 180°C (zone 5), and that in the Leistritz extruder was 140°C (zone 1) to 180°C (zone 10).

20 The coextrusion die gave strips jacketed on three sides measuring 10 mm in width and 3.5 mm in thickness.

25 A comparative fire-prevention strip was produced from PVC. The jacketing was composed of 99% by weight of a flame-retardant plasticized PVC from the company Peng Mayer and Drössler (Madroplast 5330FS) and 1% by weight of Bayferrox 140 color pigment (from the company Bayer).

30 The intumescent composition was composed of 59% by weight of Madroplast 5330FS, 24% by weight of S graphite (from the company Kaisersberg), 7% by weight of Clay 601 (from the company Bischitzky & Co.), and 10% by weight of ammonium polyphosphate (Exolit AP 422, from the company Clariant). The mixture for the intumescent composition was produced by separate meter into the Leistritz extruder, the PVC pellets being fed into zone 1 and the remaining mixture of powders
35 into zone 5.

Another comparison used was a fire-protection strip likewise based on PVC and corresponding to the prior art of EP 0 745 751.

5 Mechanical properties and fire performance are given in Table 1.

Each of the strips measured 10 × 3.5 mm

Table 1:

10	Product	Example 1	Comparative Example	EP 0 745 751
	Start of expansion	200°C	200°C	210°C
	Expansion factor (at 300°C)	1:9	1:5	1:4.5
	Ignition residue % by weight at 1000°C	20	7	10
	Ignition residue % by weight at 450°C	>50	>35	>40
	Blow-out time	300 min	200 min	150 min

Examples 2-7:

15 6 further strips jacketed on three sides and measuring 20 mm in width and 2.1 mm in thickness were produced in a manner similar to that of Example 1.

The mixing specifications and properties are given in Tables 2 and 3.

The starting materials used were as follows:

20 Exact 0230: uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefin (TPE-O)
(from the company DSM)

Engage 8480: uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefin (TPE-O)
(from the company DuPont)

Elvalov 741CP: impact modifier (from the company DuPont)

Dowlex LLDPE: polyethylene (from the company Dow)

Kraton G7720: styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer (from the company Shell Chemical)

Pebax 2533SNO1: polyether-polyamide block copolymer (TPE-A)

5 (from the company Atochem)

Clay 610: from the company Bischitzky

Exolit AP 422: ammonium polyphosphate APP, from the company Clariant

Chalk, ATH (alumina trihydrate), S graphite, titanium dioxide

10

Table 2:

Starting materials Ex. 2 3 4 5 6 7
(% by weight)

a) Intumescent composition

a₁) Engage 8480	18					
Exact 0230				42.5	46.5	41
Elvaloy 741	13.5					
Dowex LLDPE	13.5					
Kraton G7720		37.5				
Pebax 2533SNO1			42.5			
a₂) S Graphite	35	40	40	40	35	40
a₃) Exolit APP 422	5	5	5	5	5	5
a₄) Clay 610	15	10	5	5	10	10
Chalk	/	7.5	7.5	7.5	/	/
TiO ₂					3.5	
Al(OH) ₃						4

b) Jacket for Ex. 2-7

15

b₁) Mixing specification identical with a₁), 80% by weight

b₂) 19% by weight of ATH

b₃) 1% by weight of Bayferrox 140

Table 3:

Properties	Ex. 2	3	4	5	6	7
Start Expansion (°C)	200	200	205	205	200	200
Expansion factor (at 300°C)	1:7	1:8	1:8	1:7	1:7	1:7
Ignition residue % by weight at 1000°C	18.7	17.7	17.4	17.5	16.5	17.0
Ignition residue % by weight at 450°C	>65	>60	>60	>60	>60	>65
Blow-out time (min)	200	250	300	250	250	300

5 It is to be understood that a reference herein to a prior art document does not constitute an admission that the document forms part of the common general knowledge in the art in Australia or in any other country.

10 In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising" is used in an inclusive sense, i.e. to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

15

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strip jacketed on three sides and comprising

a) an intumescent composition comprising

a₁) a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins,

a₂) sulfuric-acid-treated graphite,

a₃) flame retardant, and

a₄) an inorganic additive which forms an enamel or forms a ceramic,

and

b) a three-sided jacket, where appropriate in association with a chambered profile, comprising

b₁) a thermoplastic elastomer with a processing temperature of not more than 250°C selected from the class consisting of block copolymers and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins,

b₂) flame retardant, and, where appropriate,

b₃) a color pigment,

and obtained by coextrusion of a) and b).

2. A fire-protection strip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomers a₁) and b₁) used comprise block copolymers selected from the class consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers and styrene-ethylene-co-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, polyether-polyamide block copolymers, polyurethane-polyether or -polyester block copolymers, polyether-polyester block copolymers, and uncrosslinked thermoplastic polyolefins.

3. A fire-protection strip as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein conventional additives selected from the class consisting of impact modifiers, coupling agents, and antioxidants are added to the thermoplastic elastomers.

4. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the proportion of thermoplastic elastomers in the intumescent composition a) and in the jacket b) is from 20 to 80% by weight.

5

5. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the amount of sulfuric-acid-treated graphite is from 10 to 50% by weight.

10

6. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the flame retardants a₃) and b₂) used are nitrogen-phosphorus compounds selected from the class consisting of melamine phosphates, guanidine phosphates, ammonium hydrogenphosphates, ammonium polyphosphates, and trihydrazinophosphates, or are ethylenediammonium phosphate, or are hydroxides, or are hydrates, where the proportion of a₃) in the intumescent composition a) is from 1 to 10% by weight, and the proportion of b₂) in the jacket is from 10 to 50% by weight.

15

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7. A fire-protection strip as claimed in claim 6, wherein the flame retardant a₃) or b₂) is magnesium hydroxide or aluminum hydroxide.

25

8. A fire-protection strip as claimed in claim 6, wherein the flame retardant a₃) or b₂) is alumina trihydrate.

9. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the inorganic additive a₄) used which forms an enamel or

30

forms a ceramic comprises neutral metal oxide compounds or neutral metal oxide mixtures selected from the class consisting of clay, kaolin, zinc borate, and calcium phosphate, or feldspar, or is a mixture made from acidic oxides selected from the class consisting of silicon dioxide, boron oxide, and phosphorus oxide with basic oxides selected from the class consisting of potassium oxide, sodium oxide, calcium oxide, aluminum oxide, zinc oxide, titanium oxide, and magnesium oxide, the proportion of a₄) being from 5 to 30% by weight.

10. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, designed as a combined cold- and hot-gas seal with spatially separated functions, where the three-sided jacket b) has

been combined with a chambered profile which serves as cold-gas seal and has the same formulation as the jacket.

11. A fire-protection strip as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, which has an expansion factor of from 1:5 to 1:9 at 300°C.

12. A process for producing fire-protection strips as claimed in claim 1, which comprises extruding the jacket b) at a processing temperature of not more than 250°C by way of a single-screw extruder and simultaneously extruding the intumescent composition a) at a processing temperature of not more than 250°C into the cavity of the jacket by way of a twin-screw extruder, and then using a suitable coextrusion die, composed of a composite head with conically oriented slot dies of various widths, to obtain coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strips jacketed on three sides and having a width of from 10 to 60 mm and a thickness of from 1 to 5 mm, these being polished, where appropriate, by way of a roller take-off system and then wound up.

13. A coextruded, intumescent fire-protection strip substantially as herein described with reference to Examples 1 to 7 excluding the comparative or prior art strips.

14. A process for producing fire-protection strips substantially as herein described with reference to Example 1 excluding the process for preparing the comparative or prior art strips.

Dated this 19th day of May 2004

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