The present invention relates to a curtain coatable gas barrier coating composition comprising a polymer and a surfactant, wherein the polymer is selected from a group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof, wherein said polysaccharides are soluble or dispersible or suspendable in water and the surfactant is a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol. The present invention also relates to a method for providing a substrate with a gas barrier layer by means of the coating composition, and a coated substrate having at least one gas barrier layer obtained by coating the substrate with the coating composition. Further, the invention relates to a packaging material comprising a coated paperboard coated with the coating composition, and a liquid package comprising such a packaging material.
COATING COMPOSITION, A METHOD FOR COATING A SUBSTRATE, A COATED SUBSTRATE, A PACKAGING MATERIAL AND A LIQUID PACKAGE

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a coating composition comprising a polymer and a surfactant, wherein the polymer is selected from a group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof. In particular it relates to a gas barrier coating composition suitable for curtain coating. The present invention also relates to a method for providing a substrate with a gas barrier layer by means of the coating composition, coated substrate, a packaging material comprising a coated cardboard, and a liquid package comprising such a packaging material.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Curtain coating is a coating process in which a linear flow of a liquid coating composition is deposited on a surface of a moving substrate such as paper web. The coating composition forms a liquid sheet that fills freely before impinging onto the moving substrate that is to be coated.

[0003] Curtain coating is a technique well suited for coating a paper web with a liquid barrier layer, since the barrier substance must form a film that covers the surface entirely, or as close to entirely as possible. However, the curtain coating process is susceptible to certain defects, such as irregular heel formation, air entrainment and curtain instabilities that may result in a coated surface that displays smaller or bigger areas that lacks coating. In order to discover such defects in the coverage of the coating, which can be very small due to e.g. air bubbles in the liquid coating, a test may be made by applying a coloured test liquid onto the coated surface. Any defects will then appear as coloured areas or so called pinholes. For some applications it is particularly important that the coating does not contain any defects or at least very few defects, for example in the food industry and for liquid packages (i.e. packages containing liquids).

[0004] It is previously known that polysaccharides and polyvinyl alcohol are good barriers against gases. A coating comprising polysaccharides and/or polyvinyl alcohol deposited on a substrate is known to be suitable as a barrier against oxygen, odours, aromas, etc. in for example packaging material based on paperboard substrate.

[0005] In curtain coating a suitable dynamic surface tension, calculated from Mach-angle measurements in the falling curtain, is required in order for the free falling curtain of coating liquid to form a stable curtain and not to have defects in the form of holes. Typically, for Newtonian fluids, the coating liquid should have a dynamic surface tension of less than 40 mN/m to satisfy the criteria of a falling curtain without the formation of holes. However, polysaccharides and polyvinyl alcohol, which are non-Newtonian fluids do have a considerably higher surface tension which leads to an unstable curtain at low flow rates.

[0006] In order to reduce the surface tension of polyvinyl alcohol it has been proposed to add a surface active substance, a surfactant, to the polyvinyl alcohol, for example as described in EP 2182113, using a surfactant of the type Air Products EnviroGem AE03. However, it has been found that even though the stability of the curtain improved when using a surfactant, the barrier effect of the coating deteriorated, and to such a degree that it was not usable for producing liquid packages. As other examples, it has been proposed to add relatively large amounts of ethanol or similar alcohol to the polyvinyl alcohol, but this is however not a satisfying solution of the coating problem in the paper industry since it requires handling and recycling of resulting volatile organic compounds (VOC).

[0007] To summarise, in order to use curtain coating to obtain a barrier on a substrate, such as a polyvinyl alcohol or polysaccharide barrier on a fibre substrate, e.g. paperboard, it is necessary to use added substances that reduces the dynamic surface tension in order to have a stable process, but these substances will at the same time have a negative effect on the film formation and therefore the barrier will be defective.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] An object of the present invention is to provide an improved coating composition suitable for curtain coating, in particular for the above mentioned fields of application.

[0009] Another object is to obtain a coating that will result in a final product that is suitable for the food industry, that is free of any toxic or unhealthy substances, and which is safe to use. Moreover, when used in a packaging material, it must not contain any substances that can migrate into the food product or emit any smells or aromas when used in food or liquid packages.

[0010] The objects are achieved by the present invention.

[0011] According to a first aspect of the present invention is defined a curtain coatable gas barrier coating composition comprising a polymer and a surfactant, wherein the polymer is selected from a group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof, wherein said polysaccharides are soluble or dispersable or suspendable in water and the surfactant is a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol. This coating composition makes it possible to obtain a stable curtain with a low number of pinholes in the coating of a coated substrate, such as a fibre substrate, e.g. a paperboard. This coating provides good barrier qualities against gases, e.g. oxygen, aromas and odours.

[0012] Preferably, the polysaccharides may comprise starch, starch derivatives, MFC (micro fibrillar cellulose) and hemicellulose.

[0013] According to one embodiment of the present invention, the polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol alone or in a mixture with starch and/or starch derivative and/or MFC and/or hemicellulose.

[0014] According to another embodiment, the polymer comprises starch alone, or a starch derivative alone, or a mixture thereof, or either one in mixture with MFC and/or hemicellulose.

[0015] According to yet another embodiment, the polymer comprises MFC alone or hemicellulose alone, or a mixture thereof.

[0016] According to a further embodiment of the present invention, the surfactant may be a saturated iso-C13 alcohol. According to a further feature of this embodiment, the surfactant has the formula RO(CH2CH2O)2H, wherein R=iso-C8H17 and x is 8 or higher.

[0017] According to another embodiment of the present invention, the surfactant may be an alkyl polyethylene glycol ether based on C10-Guerbet alcohol, with a degree of ethoxylation of 7 or higher.

[0018] According to yet another embodiment of the present invention, the surfactant may be a saturated short-chain fatty acid.
alcohol. According to a further feature of this embodiment, the surfactant has the formula RO(CH₂CH₂O)ₓH, wherein R—a saturated short-chain alcohol and x is 5 or higher.

[0019] The coating composition may comprise a concentration of 0.05-2.0 weight % of non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol surfactant, preferably 0.1-1.0%, and more preferably 0.2-0.5 weight %, of the total weight of the bone dry coating composition.

[0020] The solid content of the composition may be 4-20%, preferably 7-15%, or 6-12%, or even 8-10%. The balance is water.

[0021] Further, the coating composition may comprise platey particles, for example it may comprise Montmorillonite clay in nano particle form. This has the advantage of improving the gas barrier function. The clay or other suitable platey or nano form additives may be added to the polyvinyl alcohol in an amount of 1-20% dry weight of the total dry weight of the composition, preferably 3-15% and more preferably 5-10%.

[0022] The coating composition may preferably comprise a weight percentage of approximately 80-99.5% of dry matter in the composition constituted by a polymer chosen as the main component, and the amount of additives to the main component, such as other polymers or platey particles and surfactant, have a weight percentage of approximately 0.05-20% of dry matter in the composition.

[0023] Preferably, the weight percentage of the polymer chosen as the main component is 85-98%, and the weight percentage of the additives is 2-15%. However, it should be emphasized that any combination of the mentioned substances, and in any weight proportions, is conceivable within the frame of the invention.

[0024] According to a second aspect of the invention is defined a method for providing a substrate with a gas barrier layer in at least one coating step, comprising application of a coating composition as defined in any one of the claims defining the coating composition, by curtain coating the substrate with the coating composition in at least one coating step.

[0025] Accordingly, the method may comprise only one coating step of applying a coating layer of the described composition of polyvinyl alcohol alone, or of any of the mentioned polysaccharides (starch, starch derivative, MFC, hemicelluloses) alone, or of mixtures thereof wherein polyvinyl alcohol is the main component or starch or starch derivative or MFC or hemicellulose is the main component. Any combination is foreseeable.

[0026] The method may further comprise a second step of applying a second coating layer with a composition chosen from all the above mentioned possibilities. Usually there will be a drying step after each coating step. The coating composition chosen for the first and second layer may be the same coating composition or different coating compositions.

[0027] Accordingly, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol and in a second step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol.

[0028] Alternatively, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition comprising a polysaccharide and in a second step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol.

[0029] In another alternative, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing a polysaccharide and in a second step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol.

[0030] In yet another alternative, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol and in a second step with a coating composition comprising a polysaccharide.

[0031] In still a further alternative, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, MFC, clay in nano particle form and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol, and curtain coating the substrate in a second step with a coating composition comprising starch or a starch derivative and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol. The opposite order of the coatings is also possible.

[0032] In another alternative, the method may comprise curtain coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, hemicellulose, clay in nano particle form and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol, and curtain coating the substrate in a second step with a coating composition comprising starch or a starch derivative and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol or vice versa.

[0033] Additional coating steps are of course also foreseeable, and any combination of layers of the same or different coating compositions, from the whole range of possible coating compositions, is possible. An example of an additional coating step is a pigment coating step, which may very well be made before coating with the gas barrier coating composition.

[0034] Further, the coating weight of at least one coating layer may be 0.4 g/m² or more and less than 7.0 g/m². The coating weight of the barrier layer may be 0.8 g/m² or more and less than 7.0 g/m², and preferably 1.2-4.0 g/m², and even more preferably 1.6-3.2 g/m².

[0035] According to one feature, the substrate may be a fibre substrate or a paper or a cardboard. However, it is conceivable to implement the invention on other substrates, without going beyond the scope of the invention.

[0036] According to a third aspect of the present invention is defined a coated substrate having at least one gas barrier layer obtained by coating a substrate with a coating composition as defined in any one of claims defining the coating composition.

[0037] The gas barrier layer may be a barrier against oxygen in particular, and gases including odours and/or aromas.

[0038] Further, the coated substrate may have a gas barrier layer that has a coating weight of 0.8 or more and less than 7.0 g/m² and preferably 1.2-4.0 g/m², and even more preferably 1.6-3.2 g/m².

[0039] In one embodiment, the coated substrate may be a cardboard comprising at least one fibre based layer coated with the coating composition. Alternatively, the substrate may be a paper or any other substrate requiring the concerned type of barrier.

[0040] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, is defined a packaging material comprising a coated cardboard as defined above, further comprising a layer of low density polyethylene on each side of the coated cardboard, and having an OTR value of less than 40 ml/m²·24 h·1 atm, or preferably even less than 10 ml/m²·24 h·1 atm. OTR stands for oxygen transmission rate and the instrument used for the measurement is Mocon Ox Tran 2/21.

[0041] According to a fifth aspect of the present invention is defined a liquid package made from a packaging material as defined above.

[0042] As mentioned before, typically, for Newtonian fluids, the coating liquid should have a dynamic surface tension
of less than 40 mN/m to satisfy the criteria of a falling curtain without the formation of holes. However, according to the present invention it has been advantageously found that polysaccharides and polyvinyl alcohol, which are non-Newtonian fluids, do not necessary need as low surface tension as Newtonian fluids due to their elasticity. There is then a need to obtain a good relationship between the flow rate and the surface tension and the non-Newtonian fluid characteristics. Some common concepts of curtain stability are the minimum flow which can be reached without rupture of the liquid curtain and the minimum flow at which the curtain heals itself to a completely defect free liquid curtain. In accordance with the present invention, it has surprisingly been found that the surface tension for polysaccharides and polyvinyl alcohol may have dynamic surface tension values of up to 50 mN/m, and still have a defect free operation even at very low flow rates such as lower than 4.0 litres/minute*meter.

Further features and advantages will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention and test examples.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be described in more detail, with reference being made to test examples and the enclosed schematic drawings illustrating different aspects and embodiments of the invention, given as examples only, and in which:

FIGS. 1a-1d shows schematically examples of a coated substrate according to the present invention, and

FIGS. 2a-2d shows schematically examples of a packaging material according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

During the search for a suitable surfactant and a suitable method, many different commercially available surfactants were tested that were alleged to be suitable for curtain coating. However, they were all found unsuitable since they all failed either in providing a stable curtain or in providing a sufficiently good barrier.

After having performed many tests it was surprisingly found a group of surfactants that managed to provide the desired result of a stable curtain and a high quality barrier with an acceptable low amount of pinholes. This group of surfactants was non-ionic ethoxylated alcohols, such as sold under the trade names of Lutensol ON and Lutensol TO, by BASF. In particular Lutensol ON50, Lutensol ON70 and Lutensol TO8 were found to provide the required results.

According to the product information supplied by BASF, the Lutensol ON types are non-ionic surfactants. They are alkyl polyethylene glycol ethers made from a saturated synthetic, short-chain fatty alcohol. They conform to the following formula: RO(CH₂CH₂O)xH, where

\[ x = 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 \text{ or } 11 \]

The numeric code in the product name usually indicates the degree of ethoxylation. The Lutensol ON types are manufactured by causing the fatty alcohol to react with ethylene oxide in stoichiometric proportions. The ethoxylation temperature is kept as low as possible. This, combined with the high purity of the feedstocks, ensures that high-performance products with low toxicity are obtained. According to additional information available from BASF, R may be iso-C10.

According to the product information supplied by BASF, the Lutensol TO types are non-ionic surfactants. They are made from a saturated iso-C13 alcohol. They conform to the following structural formula: RO(CH₂CH₂O)xH, where

\[ x = 3, 5, 6, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15 \text{ or } 20 \]

The numeric code in the product name indicates the degree of ethoxylation. The Lutensol TO types are manufactured by causing the iso-C13 oxo alcohol to react with ethylene oxide in stoichiometric proportions. The ethoxylation temperature is kept as low as possible. This, combined with the high purity of the feedstocks, ensures that high-performance products with low toxicity are obtained.

In the case of Lutensol ON50, x (the degree of ethoxylation) is 5, and in the case of Lutensol ON70, x is 7. A Lutensol ON having a lower molecular weight, Lutensol ON30 (x=3), was also tested but did not result in the desired effects.

In the case of Lutensol TO8, x is 8. Lutensol TO8 has a molecular weight of approximately 600 g/mol. Also for this group, a Lutensol TO having a lower molecular weight, Lutensol TO6 (x=6), was also tested but did not result in the desired effects.

The non-ionic ethoxylated alcohols having the desired effect are water soluble and provide relatively slow wetting. Lutensol ON30 and TO6, on the other hand, are not water soluble. Lutensol ON is water soluble for a degree of ethoxylation of 5 and above, while Lutensol TO is water soluble for a degree of ethoxylation of 8 and above.

Another such water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol is Lutensol XP. According to the product information supplied by BASF, the Lutensol XP types are branched non-ionic surfactants. They are alkyl polyethylene glycol ethers based on C10-Guerbet alcohol and ethylene oxide. The Lutensol® XP types are manufactured by reacting the C10-ol-alcohol with ethylene oxide in stoichiometric proportions. The numeric portion of the product name indicates the general degree of ethoxylation. The product is water soluble when the degree of ethoxylation is 7 or higher.

Tests with good and satisfying results were performed with a liquid coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, of which a solution was prepared according to the instructions on the particular product, and to which solution the concerned surfactant was added according to the following:

Concentration of surfactant (weight % of added surfactant as from package of the weight of the total bone dry composition): 0.05-2%; preferably 0.1-1.0% or even 0.2-0.5%; Solid content of the composition: 4-20%; preferably 7-15%, or even 8-10%.

The tests were made by depositing the liquid coating composition on a fibre based moving web in a curtain coating process. The web was paperboard.

Test results are listed in Table 1. The results in the table are measured on paperboard coated in a curtain coating process with two layers of the coating composition according to the invention, each layer being equal or not in coat weight to the other layer, totalling 2.0-5.0 g/m². In this table are also shown comparative tests performed with a coating comprising polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) alone and a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol and the by Cytec, USA, commercially available surfactant Aerosol OT75 comprising "Sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate", which did not result in a satisfying gas barrier.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coating composition</th>
<th>Coat weight g/m²</th>
<th>Visual observation</th>
<th>Curtain stability</th>
<th>KIT-number</th>
<th>Pinholes/ dm²</th>
<th>AO2IR ml/m²*24 h</th>
<th>OTR ml/m²<em>24 h</em>1 atm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PeOH</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>OK at high flow rate only</td>
<td>Holes in the film</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>1817</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeOH + 0.2% Aerosil OTT5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>5152</td>
<td>61.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeOH + 0.3% Lutensol</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutensol ON50</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeOH + 0.3% Lutensol</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON70</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON70</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeOH + 10% Cloisite + 0.3% Lutensol</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeOH + 10% Cloisite + 0.3% Lutensol</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFC + 0.3% Lutensol ON70</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIT = TAPPI T 559 RIT test (repellency of paper and board to grease, oil, and waxes) AO2IR is short for Ambient Oxygen Ingress Rate which is a method for measuring oxygen gas transmission with a Perm-Mate instrument supplied by FSI Hamann or Syntech Illinois. OTR is short for Oxygen Transmissivity Rate, measured at 23°C and 50% RH by the instrument Mocon Ox Tran 2/21.

**[0069]** The tests were performed with a velocity of the web substrate between 420 and 850 m/min with good results. With a curtain flow rate of at least 6 l/min/m² and stable curtain conditions, it can be shown that it is theoretically possible to have a velocity of 250-1500 m/min, or even more, with a coat weight of 0.4-4.0 g/m² applied in two layers, totalling 0.8-8.0 g/m², and achieve satisfactory barrier results.

**[0070]** It should be generally understood that the present invention is not limited to the surfactant products with the above trade names, but there may be similar/ corresponding products sold under other trade names by other suppliers or manufacturers which will work accordingly. It should also be mentioned that a possibility is foreseen to mix two or more surfactants, and it can also be foreseen that other components may be added to the coating composition, without departing from the scope of the present invention.

**[0071]** The polyvinyl alcohols used for the tests were supplied from Kuraray Nordic Oy in the form of product range Mowiol 6/98, 15/99 and 28/99, and it was prepared by dissolving in hot water according to the supplier’s instructions. The starch used was a hydroxypropylated oxidized starch product Solcoat P150 supplied by Solam AB. The starch was prepared by dissolving in hot water according to the suppliers instructions. The microfibrillar cellulose (MFC) was supplied by Inventa AB and was supplied as a fibre suspension ready to use. The Montmorillonite clay was supplied by Southern Clay Products, USA in the form of the product Cloisite Na+. Tests were also made with kaolin clay and talc, with similar good results as with Montmorillonite. The kaolin clay used was supplied by Imerys in the form of Product Barrisurf LX. The talc used was supplied by FinnTale Oy in the form of the
It should be clear that also other similar types of polyvinyl alcohols, and other brands of the mentioned substances may be used without departing from the scope of the present invention. It is concluded that the present invention makes it possible to obtain a barrier coated paperboard that is suitable for liquid packages, in which the polyvinyl alcohol/poly saccharide layer provides an oxygen barrier and other additional layers, e.g., polyethylene, provides a liquid barrier and sealing properties.

The concerned liquid coating composition can generally be prepared by adding the used polymer or polymers (polyvinyl alcohol and/or poly saccharides) and also Montmorillonite (or talc or kaolin clay) when applicable, in powder form to cold water. If MFC or hemicellulose is used it is generally in pre-suspended form. Thereby a liquid is obtained in which the added substances are dissolved or suspended or dispersed in water. The liquid is then heated. After preparation, the liquid shall be allowed to cool down before the surfactant is added and then the resulting composition is ready to be used in the curtain coating process. Alternatively, each of the substances may prepared by itself, e.g. be dissolved (or suspended or dispersed in cold water) before mixing the substances with each other, heating and then adding the surfactant in order to obtain the final composition.

FIGS. 1a-1d is schematically illustrated examples of a coated substrate according to the present invention. In FIG. 1a is shown a coated substrate where the substrate 1 is a paperboard comprising at least one fibre based layer, and the paperboard is coated with a gas barrier coating layer 2 comprising a coating composition according to the present invention. In FIG. 1b, the coated substrate is further provided with a pigment coating layer 3 on the opposite side of the paperboard layer 1, i.e. on that side of the paperboard layer 1 that is not coated with the barrier coating 2. In FIG. 1c, the coated substrate of FIG. 1a is also provided with a pigment coating layer 3, but in this example the pigment coating layer 3 is provided between the paperboard layer 1 and the barrier coating layer 2. Consequently, the barrier coating 2 has been applied on top of the already applied pigment coating layer 3. Finally, in FIG. 1d, the coated paperboard of FIG. 1c has been provided with an additional pigment coating layer 3, resulting in a paperboard layer 1 having a pigment coating layer 3 on both sides and a barrier coating layer 2 applied on one of the pigment coating layers 3.

FIGS. 2a-2d shows schematically examples of a packaging material according to the present invention. FIGS. 2a-2d illustrates a coated substrate corresponding to FIGS. 1a-1d respectively, which has been provided with a polyethylene layer 4 on both sides.

The present invention is not limited to the disclosed examples, but may be modified in many ways that would be apparent to the skilled person, within the scope of the appended claims.

1. A curtain coatable gas barrier coating composition comprising a polymer and a surfactant, wherein the polymer is selected from a group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof, wherein said polysaccharides are soluble or dispersable or suspendable in water and the surfactant is a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol.

2. A coating composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharides comprise starch, starch derivatives, MFC (micro fibrillar cellulose) and hemicellulose.

3. A coating composition according to claim 2, characterized in that the polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol alone or in a mixture with starch and/or a starch derivative and/or MFC and/or hemicellulose.

4. A coating composition according to claim 2, characterized in that the polymer comprises starch alone, or a starch derivative alone, or a mixture thereof, or either one in mixture with MFC and/or hemicellulose.

5. A coating composition according to claim 2, characterized in that the polymer comprises MFC alone or hemicellulose alone, or a mixture thereof.

6. The coating composition according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that the surfactant is a saturated iso-C13 alcohol.

7. The coating composition according to claim 6, characterized in that the surfactant has the formula RO(CH₂CH₂O)ₓH, wherein R=iso-C₉H₂ and x is 8 or higher.

8. The coating composition according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that the surfactant is an alkyl polyethylene glycol ether based on C10-Guerbet alcohol, with a degree of ethoxylation of 7 or higher.

9. The coating composition according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that the surfactant is a saturated short-chain fatty alcohol.

10. The coating composition according to claim 9, characterized in that the surfactant has the formula RO(CH₂CH₂O)ₓH, wherein R=a saturated short-chain alcohol and x is 5 or higher.

11. The coating composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a concentration of 0.05-2.0 weight % of non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol surfactant, preferably 0.1-1.0%, and more preferably 0.2-0.5 weight %, of the total weight of the bone dry coating composition.

12. The coating composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a solid content of the composition of 4-20%, preferably 6-12% and more preferably 8-10%.

13. The coating composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises platy particles.

14. The coating composition according to claim 13, characterized in that it comprises Montmorillonite clay in nano particle form.

15. The coating composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a weight percentage of approximately 80-99.5% of dry matter in the composition constituted by a polymer chosen as the main component, and that the amount of additives to the main component, such as other polymers or platy particles and surfactant, have a weight percentage of approximately 0.05-20% of dry matter in the composition.

16. A method for providing a substrate with a gas barrier layer applied in at least one coating step, comprising application of a coating composition as defined in any one of claims 1-15, by curing the substrate with the coating composition in at least one coating step.

17. The method according to claim 16, comprising curing the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol and in a second step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol.

18. The method according to claim 16, comprising curing the substrate in a first step with a coating composition...
comprising a polysaccharide and in a second step with a coating composition comprising a polysaccharide.

19. The method according to claim 16, comprising coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing a polysaccharide and in a second step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol.

20. The method according to claim 16, comprising coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition containing polyvinyl alcohol and in a second step with a coating composition comprising a polysaccharide.

21. The method according to claim 16, comprising coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, MFC, clay in nano particle form and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol, and coating the substrate in a second step with a coating composition comprising starch or a starch derivative and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol or vice versa.

22. The method according to claim 16, comprising coating the substrate in a first step with a coating composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, hemicellulose, clay in nano particle form and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol, and coating the substrate in a second step with a coating composition comprising starch or a starch derivative and a water soluble non-ionic ethoxylated alcohol or vice versa.

23. The method according to any one of claims 16-22, wherein the coat weight of the at least one coating layer is 0.4 g/m² or more and less than 7.0 g/m².

24. The method according to any one of claims 16-23, wherein the coat weight of the gas barrier layer is 0.8 g/m² or more and less than 7.0 g/m².

25. The method according to any one of claims 16-24, wherein the substrate is a fibre substrate or a paper or a paperboard.

26. A coated substrate having at least one gas barrier layer (2) obtained by coating a substrate (1) with a coating composition as defined in any one of claims 1-15.

27. The coated substrate according to any one of claims 26, wherein the gas barrier layer (2) has a coat weight of 0.8 g/m² or more and less than 7.0 g/m².

28. The coated substrate according to any one of claims 26-27, wherein the substrate (1) is a paperboard comprising at least one fibre based layer coated with the coating composition.

29. A packaging material comprising a coated paperboard according to claim 28, further comprising a layer (4) of low density polyethylene on each side of the coated paperboard, and having an OTR value of less than 40 ml/m²·24 h·1 atm, and preferably less than 10 ml/m²·24 h·1 atm.

30. A liquid package made from a packaging material according to claim 29.