

NEWS FROM CMT MATERIALS



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SYNTACTIC PLUG MATERIAL IMPROVES THERMOFORMING OF PLA BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER

(Attleboro, MA August 26, 2003) -- *HYTAC®-B1X* plug assist material from CMT Materials, Inc. (Attleboro, MA, USA), has been used by Illig Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. (Heilbronn, Germany) in the development of the thermoforming process and tooling for Cargill Dow's (Minnetonka, MN, USA) NatureWorks™PLA.

HYTAC®-B1X is a thermoplastic syntactic foam with low thermal conductivity (0.18 W/m °K), high thermal resistance (172°C) and good toughness (3 times the IZOD impact strength of epoxy syntactic). In addition, *HYTAC®-B1X* is easily machined without dust and can be machined to fine detail without chipping.



NatureWorks™PLA is a biodegradable polymer that is produced from sustainable raw materials such as corn and other plants. Illig was able to produce excellent thermoformed cups and other deep draw products from NatureWorks™PLA with plug assists made from *HYTAC®-B1X*.

The comprehensive processing trials and testing were carried out on three different machines: Illig RDM 54K, Illig RDM 70K and Illig RDM 75K. *HYTAC®-B1X* plug assists were used for a variety of products from NatureWorks™PLA with material thicknesses from 0.8 to 1.2 mm. The articles produced were of excellent quality and without chill marks.

HYTAC® is a registered trademark of CMT Materials. *HYTAC®-B1X* is patent pending.

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