Regulation–Driven Product Development in The Silicone Industry Siltech Corporation **Dave Wilson**





Siltech Corporation



Regulations are common drivers for innovation Examples in the silicone world follow



Silicon









The Road from Silicon to Silicone



Properties of Silicones





Regulatory Drivers in the Silicone Field

Solvents and Volatiles

 Fluorine
 Emulsifiers
 The Green Trend

Remaining Challenges





1. Solvents and Volatiles



Reduce Volatiles and Eliminate Solvents

Reduce Volatile Siloxanes and Eliminate Silicone Solvents





ST (mN/m)

🖪 Gloss (°)

🖬 Flow (mm)



Volatile Cyclic Siloxanes

- Silicones are non-HAPs
- Extensive toxicological testing related to breast implants
- Some early results led to concern over volatile silicones D₄/D₅
- Personal Care
- Canada and Norway









Eliminate Silicone Solvent



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Silicone Additives in Olive Oil at 1%



2. Fluorine

F-gases							
Gas	Use	Lifetime in atmosphere (half-life)	Global warming potential				
CFC-11	Early refrigerant (banned)	45 years	4,680x CO2				
CFC-12	Car air conditioning (banned)	100 years	10,720x				
CFC-113	Refrigerant, propellant (banned)	85 years	6,030x				
HCFC-22	Refrigerant, propellant	1780 years	12x				
HFC-23	Microchip etching, fire suppressant, by-product of HCFC-22 production	270 years	14,310x				
HFC-134a	Fridges, car air conditioning	14 years	1,410x				
HFO-1234yf	Replacement for HFC-134a	11 days	4x				
Tetrafluoromethane (CF4)	Biproduct of aluminium smelting	50,000 years	5,820x				
Hexafluoroethane (C2F6)	Biproduct of aluminium smelting	10,000 years	12,010x				
Nitrogen trifluoride (NF3)	Etching silicon	740 years	17,200x				
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF6)	Anti-sparking in electricity substations, magnesium production	3,200 years	22,800x				



Fluoropolymers







- Reduce length of fluorine chain
- Substitute fluorocarbons with fluorosilicones



Comparison of Selected Properties of Silicone and Fluoropolymers

Silicone

- ✓ Low surface energy
- ✓ Very good thermal flexibility
- \checkmark Good chemical resistance
- ✓ Marginal oil resistance-swelling
- ✓ Very good water resistance
- ✓ Marginal abrasion resistance
- ✓ High cost
- ✓ Effective at low use levels

Fluoropolymer

- ✓ Very low surface energy
- ✓ Marginal thermal flexibility
- ✓ Very good chemical resistance
- ✓ Very good oil resistance
- ✓ Good water resistance
- ✓ Low abrasion resistance
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Fluorosilicones







Substitution of Fluorocarbons



TECH

3. Emulsifiers (APEO- and EO-free surfactants)

- Mostly Nonyl
- Lipophilic and Hydrophilic
- Good emulsifying and dispersing properties
- Not toxic in themselves but degradation products are cited
- Greenpeace DETOX
- Can we have APEO- and EO-free too?



Silquat J2-xB series



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Silquat J2-xB series

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TECH

4. The Green Trend

- "Green" has come to mean non-petroleum, preferably naturally, derived.
- Silicone itself is derived from silica the main component of the earth's crust.
- There is a market need for more natural products.
- A variety of products based on castor oils, peanut, sunflower and essential oils can be made.



Castor Oil Silicones





Castor Oil Silicones

1.74% additive in SB/PU	Gloss	Static COF	Kinetic COF	Marker Resist.	Mar Resist.	Coating Appearance
Silmer ACR Di 50	92.2	0.405	0.384	7.500	7.5	Mild waves
Silmer OH Di 50	97.2	0.680	0.745	7.000	7.6	Mild waves
Silube CO Di 45	96.3	1.019	0.945	9.000	8.2	Smooth

Natural oils can be siliconised





Remaining Challenges in Coatings











Conclusion

- Regulations can foster innovation and result in better and safer chemicals
- We welcome partnerships



