

Use of Velcorin® becomes more widespread

Further approvals for the beverage stabilizer

Leverkusen – The Velcorin® technology produced by the chemicals group LANXESS for the stabilization of non-alcoholic beverages and wine can now also be used in an increasing number of countries and regions. Approvals for the technology had previously been obtained in Europe, the U.S., Mexico, New Zealand and Australia. In the past few months, the Material Protection Products (MPP) business unit has obtained further registration in the U.S. for all relevant categories and new approvals in China, Indonesia and the Mercosur countries. The technology has also been reregistered successfully in Russia.

The use of Velcorin® technology as a new enological procedure for stabilizing wine during filling has now also been approved for Europe – according to Regulation (EC) No 643/2006. This application reduces sulfur content in young wines, replaces membrane filtration as a means of stabilizing unfiltered wines, eliminates spoilage yeast such as brettanomyces, and prevents secondary fermentation of the wine. The use of Velcorin® helps to keep the wine stable during the period from filling to consumption. In contrast to other application methods, such as sulfuric acids or sorbic acids, the LANXESS product does not affect the taste of the beverage or wine and offers sensory advantages.

“More and more producers who want to consistently ensure the good taste and high quality of their beverages are choosing Velcorin®,” says Ingo Broda, head of the Beverages Technologies business line at MPP. “Our registration and approval strategy has now opened up the regions Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America for us. The demand and market development in these areas points towards good opportunities for growth,” says Broda.

The company is systematically pressing ahead with expansion of the business. To meet the growing international demand, LANXESS

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commissioned a second plant for the production of Velcorin® (dimethyl dicarbonate) in April 2006. “By introducing a second plant, we are responding to the demand from our customers to safeguard our ability to deliver.”

Velcorin® is added to beverages such as fruit-juice spritzers, soda, flavored water, iced tea and wine immediately before filling. The stabilizer prevents germs, bacteria, yeast or fungi spoiling the drinks, which consist of natural ingredients. Velcorin® immediately performs its disinfectant function and then degrades into tiny amounts of methanol and carbon dioxide – which are natural components of fruit juices and fruit-juice-based beverages. The beverage no longer contains the stabilizer by the time it reaches the consumer. Key authorities such as the Scientific Committee of the EU, the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Joint Expert Committee for Food Additives (JECFA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) evaluated and documented the use of Velcorin® (dimethyl dicarbonate) for beverage stabilization as positive.

The Material Protection Products business unit, one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of biocidal active ingredients and formulations for wood protection agents, industrial applications, disinfection and preservatives, is part of the Performance Chemicals segment. This sector achieved sales of EUR 1.977 billion in fiscal 2005.

Information for editors:

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Forward-Looking Statements

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