

Polyethylene
Visico™ FR4450/LE4439
 Silane Crosslinkable Halogen Free Flame Retardant Insulation Compound

Description

Visico FR4450/LE4439 is a natural, halogen free, moisture-induced crosslinking polyethylene compound system designed for use as low voltage wire insulation and jacketing.

The combination of Visico FR4450 base resin and LE4439 catalyst, provides a highly scorch retardant compound system with excellent thermal stability and good flame retardant properties. Visico FR4450/LE4439 contains a patented scorch retardant additive that increases the processing window for a silane crosslinkable compound system and minimizes the tendency for premature crosslinking in the extruder, head or die.

A finished compound system that is composed of 95 parts of Visico FR4450 and 5 parts of LE4439 is recognized by Underwriters Laboratories as "Visico FR4450/LE4439". Visico FR4450/LE4439 is designed to reduce normal PE flame spread characteristics and achieve an HB-1 flame rating on 14 AWG wires and larger. LE4439 also provides, in addition to catalyst, a stabilization package containing suitable antioxidants, and a metal deactivator.

Cable insulation with a proper mixture of Visico FR4450 (95 parts) and LE4439 (5 parts) exhibits excellent thermo-oxidative stability in contact with aluminum or copper.

Visico FR4450/LE4439 can be readily pigmented to a variety of colors using standard wire & cable color concentrates designed for thermoplastic or crosslinked polyethylene.

Applications

Visico FR4450/LE4439 is recommended for use as insulation and jacket for low voltage control cables and power cables up to 6 kV.

Specifications

Visico FR4450/LE4439 in combination meets the applicable requirements as below when processed using sound extrusion and testing procedure:

UL 44
 UL 854
 CSA 22.2

Physical Properties

Property	Typical Value	Test Method
	Data should not be used for specification work	
Density (Visico FR4450)	1100 kg/m ³	ASTM D 792
Density (LE4439)	940 kg/m ³	ASTM D 792
Melt Flow Rate (190 °C/2,16 kg)	0,7 g/10min	ASTM D 1238
Tensile Strain at Break	> 300 %	ASTM D 412
Tensile Strength	15 MPa	ASTM D 412
Tensile Strength	2.350 psi	ASTM D 412
Hot Creep Test (150 °C, 0,20 MPa)	Elongation under load Permanent deformation	ICEA T-28-562
	< 50 %	
	< 5 %	

Visico is a trademark of the Borealis group.

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Electrical Properties

Property	Typical Value	Test Method
Data should not be used for specification work		
Dielectric constant (50 Hz)	< 3	ASTM D 150
Volume Resistivity	> 10 PΩcm	ASTM D 257
Dielectric Strength	> 22 kV/mm	ASTM D 149

Combustion Properties

Property	Typical Value	Test Method
Data should not be used for specification work		
Oxygen Index	32 %	ASTM D 2863
Corrosivity of Combustion Fumes	1,5 μS/mm pH > 4,3	IEC 60754-2
Horizontal Flame Test (14 AWG-30 mil)	Pass	UL 44

Processing Techniques

The actual conditions will depend on the type of equipment used.

Visico FR4450/LE4439 are typically mixed directly in the extruder hopper using a volumetric or gravimetric masterbatch feeder. Most equipment designed for PVC or PE extrusion is equally suitable for Visico FR4450/LE4439.

A conductor preheater is recommended to ensure good mechanical properties and this should be at approximately 100°C.

Typically the following process conditions are used:

Barrel 1	130 °C 266 °F
Barrel 2	140 °C 284 °F
Barrel 3	150 °C 302 °F
Barrel 4	160 °C 320 °F
Barrel 5	170 °C 338 °F



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Crosslinking

These products can be crosslinked in room temperature, by immersion in hot water or exposed to low pressure steam with a typical temperature range of 60°C to 90°C. This time period may be varied due to the humidity, thickness of insulation, reel size and temperature.

Drying

Unopened packages of Visico FR4450 should not require drying. Once packages of Visico FR4450 have been opened, aluminum liner needs to be resealed as soon as possible to prevent the moisture uptake. However, if the moisture level of opened packages rises to more than 400 ppm, then drying for 4 hours at 60°C in a dehumidifying type dryer is recommended.

LE4439 should not be dried. It should always be used from a fresh package. Once the package of LE4439 has been opened, it needs to be resealed as soon as possible to prevent the moisture uptake which can cause potential pre-crosslinking during the extrusion step.

Packaging

Visico FR4450 - Base material
Package: Smallbins
LE4439 - Catalyst master batch
Package: Bags
Smallbins

Storage

Visico FR4450/LE4439 is advised to be stored as follows:

Visico FR4450 and LE4439 can be stored for 18 months after production, at 10-30°C (50-85°F) in unopened original packages, without significant deterioration in the quality of the material. Visico FR4450 and LE4439 should be stored in dry conditions and protected from direct sunlight. LE4439 is sensitive to moisture and is therefore delivered with low moisture content, ready to be used. Pre-drying is not recommended, as it will destroy the drying agent that has been added to prevent the material to take up moisture. The bags must be properly resealed between uses, as even short periods of storage in humid conditions may cause scorch during extrusion.

Safety

Please see our "Safety data sheet" / "Product safety information sheet" for details on various aspects of safety, recovery and disposal of the product. For more information, contact your Borealis representative.



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Disclaimer

The product(s) mentioned herein are not intended to be used for medical, pharmaceutical or healthcare applications and we do not support their use for such applications.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate and reliable as of the date of publication; however we do not assume any liability whatsoever for the accuracy and completeness of such information.

Borealis makes no warranties which extend beyond the description contained herein. Nothing herein shall constitute any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

It is the customer's responsibility to inspect and test our products in order to satisfy itself as to the suitability of the products for the customer's particular purpose. The customer is responsible for the appropriate, safe and legal use, processing and handling of our products.

No liability can be accepted in respect of the use of any Borealis product in conjunction with any other products and/or materials. The information contained herein relates exclusively to our products when not used in conjunction with any other material unless as specifically provided for in the test methods stated above.