

CORANET

NOTEBOOK NO. 9

ISSUED TO George SADLER

ON JAN. 7 2005

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

RETURNED June 16 2006

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Impact of HPP on  $O_2$  Permeation of PET

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PURPOSE - Little published data exists identifying the impact of HPP processing on individual polymer films. While a larger volume of data exists for multilaminate structures, these often fail to provide insights into the behavior of each constituent polymer.

The purpose of this experiment is to determine whether HPP influences the O<sub>2</sub> permeability of PET.

### METHODS

- A) Squares of PET film (1/2 mil, ~50% crystalline) were cut from roll stock. SAMPLES WERE  $\approx 4 \text{ in}^2$  to accommodate mounting into the mocon unit.
- B) Four squares were folded into paper lab napkins and sealed dry into Kaypak laminate pouches, 1 square per pouch. Four additional samples were folded (no napkin) placed in Kaypak pouches to which sufficient water had been added to surround and allow mobility to the folded polymer samples. Each pouch contained 1 polymer square.

C) Polymers were processed to the following conditions

Initial Temp. prior to comp. \_\_\_\_\_

Final Temp. @ compression. \_\_\_\_\_

Final Pressure \_\_\_\_\_

Hold Time at max (final) pressure \_\_\_\_\_

Time held before HPP but after packaging \_\_\_\_\_

Time post-process before packets were opened \_\_\_\_\_

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*George V. Allen*

1/07/05

D. Two samples of the dry, napkin-wrapped PET samples were removed from the KayPak overwrap, trimmed to size and mounted into the Mocon unit. Similarly two samples of the water-exposed PET polymer were removed from their KayPak overwrap, trimmed for mounting into the Mocon, and sealed into the unit.

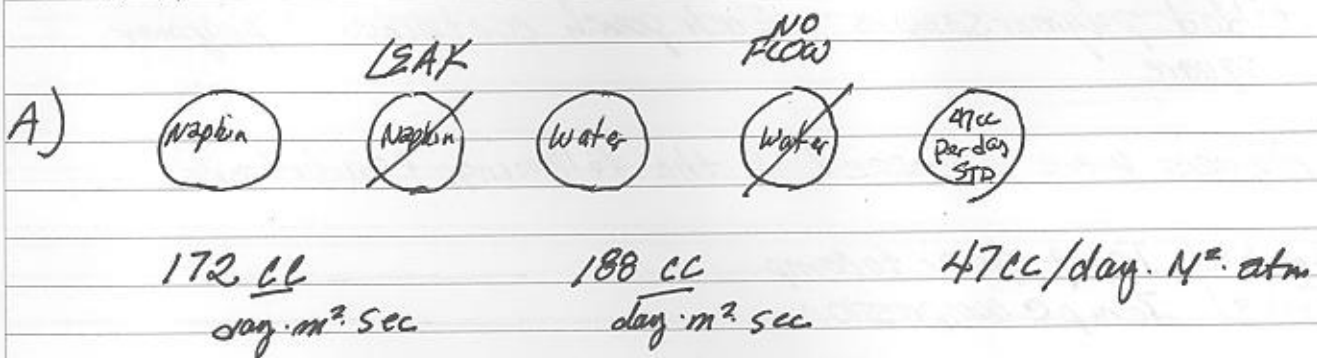
Film time in mocon before purging 15 hrs  
 Film time in Mocon for carrier purge (Bypass sensor) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Film time in Mocon for carrier purge / insert sensor \_\_\_\_\_

E. TEST GASES WERE 3% Hydrogen in N<sub>2</sub> carrier and Pure O<sub>2</sub>

Observations & Results

1. Napkin fibers imprinted on PET films. Fiber-embossed films were matte in appearance and no longer transparent.

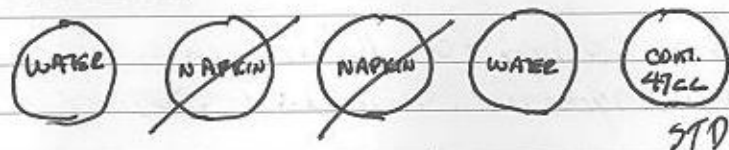
2. Films were mounted into the Mocon unit in the following order



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B) Run 2 - New polymers - 4 days later - same process batch as "A"

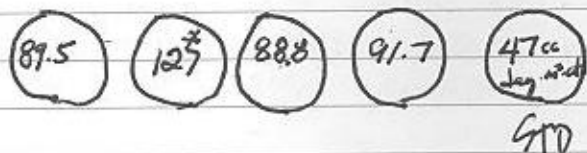


125 cc      Pinhole      Pinhole      94.6 cc  
 day·m<sup>2</sup>·atm      day·m<sup>2</sup>·atm

Sensor was removed when samples 2 & 3 (HPP in napkins) reading exceeded 2500 cc/day·m<sup>2</sup>·atm. A "scarlet moo" dye test indicated that pinholes had formed at fold lines.

Neither the water or napkin samples lacked creasing; the two water samples were not pierced by the process.

C) RUN 3 - CONTROL (NO HPP) PET



\* The high O<sub>2</sub> reading at station #2 may be due to leakage. The baseline reading to cell #2 was ~ 370μV compared to 30μV for other stations. While the 127cc/day·m<sup>2</sup>·atm reading posted above is corrected for baseline; the coincidence of high background and high adjusted values on this one cell is suspicious.

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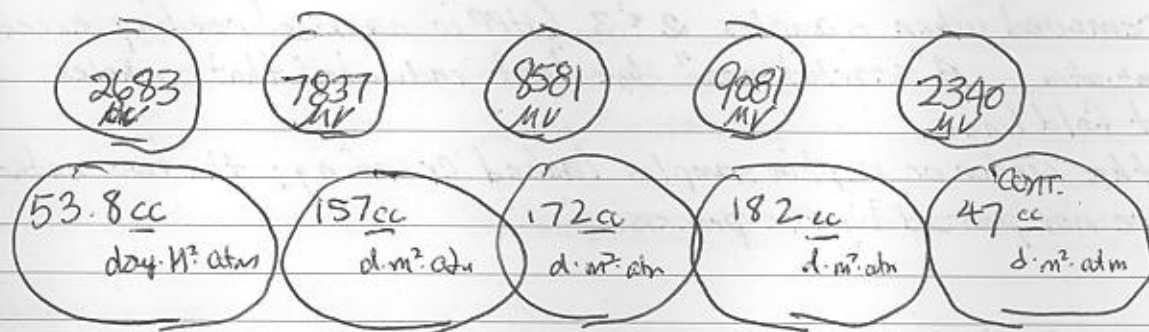
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Run # 4

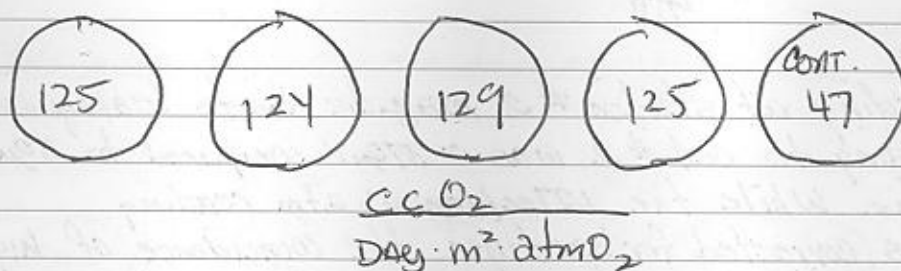
Virgin 1/2 mil PET samples were bathed for 16 hrs in water to simulate samples prepackaged for a HPP run scheduled for the following morning.

At 16 hours samples were removed, mounted on the MOCON, purged with  $N_2/H_2$  carrier gas as per SOP.

Then run for oxygen at ~30 min. There results were:



PET SAMPLE TREATED AS DESCRIBED UNDER # 4 ABOVE WERE HELD 4 DAYS IN THE MOCON w/o flow before testing the final readings were.

Conclusions -

PET is known to decrease in  $O_2$  permeation when moisture is high. The results are inconclusive. It appears this trend is followed with station #1 (53.8 cc/day  $\cdot$   $m^2$  atm.) However subsequent readings suggest an increase in migration which slowly falls with time.

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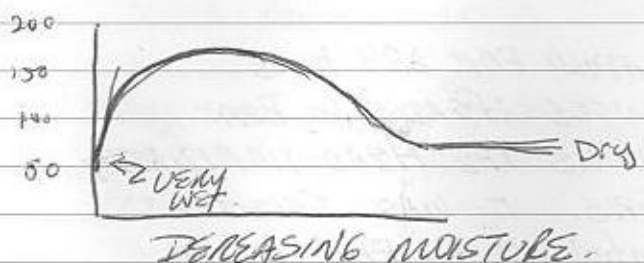
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IF A GRAPH WERE TO BE MADE IT WOULD HAVE AN IMPROBABLE DYNAMIC BELOW



### NEXT STEPS

- ① ~~REPEAT~~ REPEAT VIRGIN MATERIAL. THIS WILL SHOW WHETHER THE MACHINE IS DRIFTING.
- ② REPEAT High moisture. HOWEVER ONLY USE 1 head and TEST FRESHLY REMOVED SAMPLES ONLY

RUN # 5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH STEP 1 ABOVE. VIRGIN PET NON-PROCESSED SAMPLES WERE EXAMINED FOR  $O_2$  MIGRATION. THE RESULTS WERE

1065 $\mu V$	1108 $\mu V$	1088 $\mu V$	1093 $\mu V$	390 $\mu V$	SENSOR INSERTED
126	133	131	131	47	

$\frac{cc O_2}{day \cdot m^2 \cdot atm}$

RUN # 3 & RUN # 5 WERE BOTH CONDUCTED ON VIRGIN MATERIAL USING THE SAME PROTOCOLS.  $O_2$  PERMEATION'S SHOULD THEREFORE BE SIMILAR. HOWEVER RUN 5 DATA ARE  $\sim 50 cc/day \cdot m^2 \cdot atm$  Greater than RUN # 3 CAUSES?

- 1) NEWLY RECHARGED SENSOR
- 2)  $> H_2O$  in Bubbler
- 3) FLOW  $>$  High in # 5 for carrier

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RESULTS OF UNTREATED PET. IN  $H_2O$ 

SEVERAL REPLICATIONS OF PET BATHED FOR 24 HOURS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED. ONLY A SINGLE HEAD HAS BEEN USED TO MINIMIZE ERROR. THIS IS THE HEAD IMMEDIATELY TO THE RIGHT OF THE CONTROL SAMPLE. IT WAS SELECTED SINCE IT HAD THE GREATEST CONTROL OF  $N_2$  FLOW.

THE OTHER HEADS WERE TAKEN OFF ACTIVE STATUS. THE RESULTS GAVE:

SAMPLE 1	$\frac{767 \text{ mV}}{311 \text{ mV}}$	116 CC/day. $M^2$ atm	~ 24 hrs in $H_2O$
SAMPLE 2	$\frac{20,000 \text{ mV}}{500 \text{ mV}}$	1880 "	" 48 hrs in $H_2O$
SAMPLE 3	$\frac{800 \text{ mV}}{436 \text{ mV}}$	86	" 24 hrs "
SAMPLE 4	$\frac{812 \text{ mV}}{453 \text{ mV}}$	84	" 24 hrs "
SAMPLE 5	$\frac{779}{426}$	87	~ 48 hrs "
	$\frac{9500}{500}$		96 hr
SAMPLE material	$32,000/588$		
	$800/514 = 73$		100 hr + Grease

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ERRATIC READINGS ARE COMMON. SOME MOCON UNIT REFINEMENTS WERE MADE. THESE CONSISTED OF.

- 1) The screw fastener on one of the film stations was stripped. The knob was replaced with a standard hardware screw which required a screw driver to close in lieu of the screw knob. The top half of the screw was filed down as shown below



The clamp design required the upper screw threads to be removed in order for tight clamping to occur

- 2) New high precision needle valves were installed in the 5 film stations. Their operation improved uniformity of flow to the film stations. However, the valves did not appear identical to replaced units. Perhaps as evidence of difference the flow rates were limited to the first 10% of the flow meter while purge flow to the upper polymer surface was excessive.
- 3) A needle valve was inserted as a restrictor to the gas in the upper film chamber. This allowed careful control of upper/lower ratio of flow control.
- 4) Flow tubes were cleaned with chromic acid, washed with water and finished with an acetone rinse. Cleaned tubes were dried approximately 2 hours at 100°C, then examined for fluid and remounted into the Mocon Unit

The electric connections, currently intertwined, should be soldered. How  
where did I put THAT SOLDIER?

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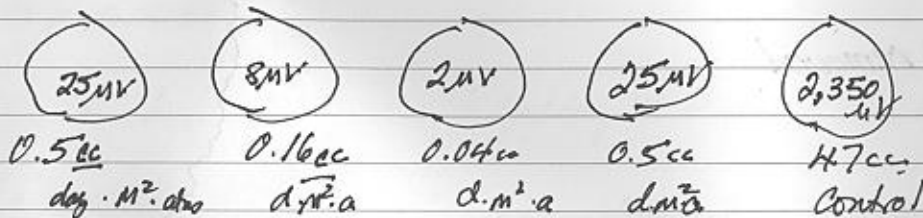
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O<sub>2</sub> Permeation through Toppan Films

Page 7 listed several innovations to the Mocon 10-50 machine.  
The impact of these changes was assessed on a commercial  
structure called TOPPAN

Results:

READINGS ARE lamentably only approximate. There was significant lag in  
Achieving equilibration. I am charging the Colony detector in hopes  
sensitivity will increase.



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TITLE Recommissioning of Mocon unit

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BACKGROUND: Mocon efforts were abandoned previously due to erratic readings. Part of the problem arose from over hydration of the colour cell. When pure water was used in the bubbler the detector became swamped with condensate. When the moisture trap was removed from the flow stream the sensor dried out, either the sensor needs to be heated or the hydrated flow gas

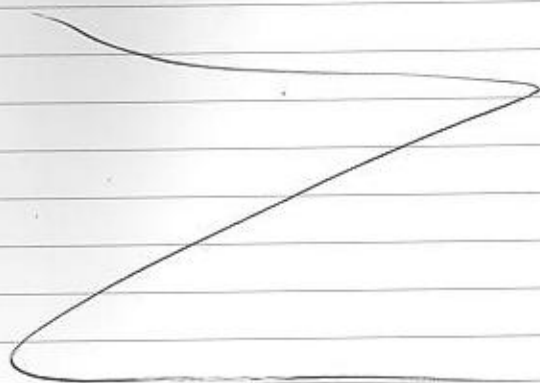
### Procedure:

(1) The  $N_2/H_2$  bubbler was cooled to  $10^\circ C$

The mocon unit was set to 10 minutes and placed on automatic mode. Each time the sensor advanced from station 1 (containing 47cc std PET 1/2 mil film) a spike in reading is produced. This spike has become sharper and thinner with each subsequent scan. It appears <sup>to</sup> once the rotor advances to a given ~~max~~ station oxygen reading is minimal.

### Conclusion

When advancing from station 1 to station 5 the insert sensor valve must be turned out for 1 minute so  $O_2$  spike can bypass the sensor:



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### OXYGEN PERMEABILITY and SEAL STRENGTH

#### Oxtran:

The Oxtran 10/50 (Mocon Instrument, Modern Controls Inc, Minneapolis, Minnesota) measures the rate at which oxygen gas passes through a barrier material clamped into its test chambers.

The following test materials to be evaluated:

Alcan (60 Biaxial Nylon / Adhesive / 5.0 ml EVOH Coextruded Sealant), Alcan MRE (Metallized container), Smurfit-Stone

Pyramid clear transparent (Nylon/polyolefin), Pyramid Flexible Packaging

Pyramid metallized package( Nylon/polyolefin), Pyramid Flexible Packaging.

12.5x12.5 cm (5x5 in) diameter round shape specimens were cut from the pouches.

The test process consist of following:

Testing material is clamped in testing chamber. The test specimen requires a period of time to equilibrate to the testing conditions and reach equilibrium. The conditioning period varies and is a function of many factors such as barrier composition, thickness and test temperature. When equilibrium is reached nitrogen and 2% H<sub>2</sub> (carrier gas) is routed through the lower half of the cell. Oxygen is fed through upper test cell. Oxygen permeates through the specimen and is picked up by the carrier gas. The amount of oxygen in carrier gas is measured by the coulox sensor to determine the transmission rate.

#### Instron:

For the seal strength test, 24.5 mm wide and 95 mm length specimens were cut from the pouches. An Instron series 4302 tensile testing machine ( Instron Corporation, Canton, Mass) equipped with data acquisition system was used to measure stress-strain behaviour. The seal strength from each specimen was obtained from the maximum peak of the stress-strain curve.