



Shell Chemicals

CARILON POLYMERS CASE HISTORY

Flymo



Flymo is using CARILON™ Polymers for the blade of a new lightweight lawn mower, The Micro Compact 30, a product which has achieved outstanding sales success. CARILON Polymers' wear resistance, low moisture absorption, chemical resistance and ease of molding led Flymo to switch from metal to a plastic blade. For information about CARILON Polymers, call 1-888-CARILON (888-227-4566).



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PRESS INFORMATION

CARILON Polymers Balance Unique Properties and Easy Molding

Flymo Case History

Shell Chemicals¹ CARILON² Polymers made such a big impression on Flymo, a major garden tool manufacturer, that the company now uses the material in two of its products.

"The unique range of performance properties offered by CARILON Polymers has enabled us to launch a revolutionary new rotary lawn mower with a plastic blade," says Paul Howells, director of Research & Development for Flymo. "The wear resistance, low moisture absorption, chemical resistance and ease of molding of CARILON Polymers also has led to its adoption as the material for our latest trimmer blade."

Flymo experimented for some time with the production of a non-metal blade for its lawn mowers. Plastics offer the potential advantages of being lighter in weight than metal, as well as being less expensive and rust-proof. In addition, plastic blades enable a lighter motor to be used, thus reducing the overall weight of the lawn mower. Blades made from traditional plastics tend to wear easily, however, and – although relatively inexpensive to purchase – Flymo found that customers were having to replace the blades frequently.

By contrast, CARILON Polymers offer good friction and wear characteristics, high resistance to water and chemicals, and they also process easily with the added benefit of good mold definition. Encouraged by this, Flymo molded a number of prototype blades from CARILON Polymers. In comparative tests with blades made from Flymo's existing polymer (a modified acetal), the blades from CARILON Polymers lasted an average of ten times longer. These results subsequently were reproduced in field trials.

As a result, Flymo developed a CARILON Polymers blade for its new MC30 rotary lawn mower. The potential of CARILON Polymers for use in other lawn mower models currently is under investigation.

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¹ The expression 'Shell Chemicals' refers to the companies of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group which are engaged in the chemicals business. Each of the companies which make up the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of companies is an independent entity and has its own separate identity.

² CARILON is a Shell Trademark

Impressed by this initial success, Flymo also has used CARILON Polymers as the material for a completely new type of blade in their successful edge-trimming tool, the Minitrim Trimmer, giving a new durable blade with distinct performance improvement.

Flymo is the brand name of Electrolux Outdoor Products U.K. Ltd., a division of the International Electrolux Group. Flymo products, marketed widely in the U.K. and Europe, include lawn mowers, trimmers and cutters.

CARILON Polymers are engineering thermoplastics with a unique combination of physical properties compared to traditional materials such as polyamides and polyacetals. These properties include strength, stiffness, performance over a broad temperature range, toughness, superior wear and friction characteristics, low hydrocarbon permeability and resistance to a variety of aggressive chemicals.

CARILON Polymers are available in extrusion grades and a variety of injection molding grades, including glass reinforced, flame retardant, mineral filled and lubricated compounds. The polymers can be easily processed on conventional molding and extrusion equipment, and their fast set-up can lead to significantly reduced cycle times in injection molding applications.

For more information on CARILON Polymers, visit Shell's Web site at www.shellchemicals.com. In the United States, customers can write to Shell Chemical Company, P.O. Box 2463, Houston, Texas 77252-2463 or call toll free at 1-888-CARILON (1-888-227-4566). In Europe, customers can write to Shell Chemicals Ltd., Shell Centre, SEI 7NA or call +44 171 934 3300.

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