



Driven by expertise

SUKANO® NIR detectable Black Masterbatch included on French positive list by CITEO and COTREP

For more information,
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Sukano, a global masterbatch specialist for PET, PLA and specialty resins, has been certified according to the COTREP recyclability test protocol and will be featured in the CITEO positive list. This gives brand owners a documented 'end of life' alternative as it ensures the sorting and recycling of black PET products while supporting their recycling goals.

Schindellegi, Switzerland, February 25, 2020 — In a circular economy, reuse, repair and recycling becomes the norm, and waste a thing of the past. Collection and sorting are two critical drivers that prevent PET trays, tubes and pots from being sent for recycling. While collection improvements should be addressed at the municipal level, industry can support the common goal of a circular economy by improving sorting and recycling.

To recycle plastic packaging, plastic waste is pre-sorted at recycling facilities. In most recycling facilities, this is done by automated sorting technologies using near-infrared (NIR) optical sorters. One key limitation to near-infrared optical sorting is its inability to identify and separate plastics that contain carbon black, the most commonly used black pigment. This is because carbon black absorbs a significant amount of ultraviolet and infrared spectrum light, preventing the reflection of infrared light back to the sensor – and consequently blocking the recognition by an NIR scan. As a result, black PET end applications are not massively recycled today.

Make your product fly high

The industry has been exploring ways to improve the recyclability of black plastic articles. One major step forward is creating NIR-detectable black, which would ensure the ability to sort – and therefore recycle – any black packaging or end-application. Sukano has been at the forefront of this effort with our newly formulated SUKANO® NIR-Black detectable and certified Masterbatch, which has now been tested by the authorized sorting equipment manufacturing companies according to the COTREP protocol. COTREP is an operational technical committee created by Citeo, Elipso, and Valorplast. It assists manufacturers in the development of recyclable plastic packaging solutions in France.

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“Our equipment obtained a very good efficiency in sorting on both trays tested, clear PET and black detectable PET using MB from Sukano,” confirms Eric Westerhoff, Sales Director Plastics Recycling from Pellenc ST. “This demonstrates equivalent detectability, so we can confirm that trays containing SUKANO® Black Detectable Masterbatch are NIR-detectable, hence can be indeed sorted.”

Once packaging has been positively tested according to the COTREP protocol, the product is listed in the CITEO positive list, which will soon be launched. CITEO works to reduce the environmental impact of household packaging and paper by transforming them into new resources. Among the advantages of products being tested by COTREP and listed by CITEO is an exemption from the malus fee in France.

“We are delighted that our SUKANO® Black Masterbatch, tested according to the COTREP protocol, will be added to the CITEO positive list,” says Alessandra Funcia, Head of Sales and Marketing for Sukano. “This gives our customers a guarantee of quality, backed by a well-known and standardized procedure adopted in France as the pioneer country to embrace, certify and exempt the malus fee for plastic products placed in the market which pass the test.”

Going one step beyond market demand

Within industry circles, it is well-known that it is not only carbon black colorants that are unable to be detected under NIR light at sorting centers, but other colorants as well. As a pioneer and specialty leader in the polyester packaging masterbatches market, Sukano is going one step beyond, using its analytical labs and colorist expertise to broaden the NIR detectability concept to include and ensure any colored product can be designed for NIR detectability. In this way, Sukano delivers brand owners and converters a comprehensive portfolio of detectable NIR colors to ensure any colored packaging or other end-applications are able to be successfully sorted and recycled – allowing freedom in aesthetics and creativity while supporting recycling goals!

About Sukano

Sukano is a world leader in the development and production of additive and colour masterbatches and compounds for polyester and specialty resins. The company is driven by expertise – Sukano focuses its technical knowledge on developing innovative products and services for oil and bio-based polymers that can be used for applications such as thin and thick films, bottles and containers, fibers, filaments, and sheets.

Founded in 1988, Sukano developed the state-of-the-art, market reference slip/antiblock additive masterbatch for PET film and sheet applications. Headquartered in Switzerland, it is a family-owned business with a global distribution network and three production facilities strategically located in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Providing unparalleled service, knowhow, and quality to its customers worldwide, Sukano is the global partner of choice for plastic converters and brand owners to develop their innovative products and highly specialized solutions.

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One of the greatest achievements of our collaboration is the demonstration that a light barrier white opaque PET bottle can indeed be up to 100% bottle-to-bottle recycled, going back to the same application or being upcycled and used for new added-value outlets.

“Every local market is a key player to ensure that the circular economy does indeed join up. We are happy to announce we have taken another step forward by confirming the recyclability of light barrier white opaque PET bottles – and most importantly, offering an alternative end of life that goes back into its original application.” Says Alessandra Funcia, Head of Sales & Marketing at Sukano.

We are doing our bit because **#wecare #wetakeactions #wearepartofthesolution**. We ask anyone willing to join this journey to get in touch with us. By partnering on supply chain integration and working to create societal benefit from technical solutions, we can move forward together.

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