

TECHNICAL TUESDAYS

TOPIC: Wetting Agent and their Classification, Requirements.

REF: TT/ Oct 2015/ WK 1

What is a Wetting Agent?

Wetting agents are used to reduce the surface tension of water and to wet the fabric.

Classification of Wetting Agents:

Anionic wetting agents:

The biggest group of surfactants is represented by anionic surfactants. They contain one or several surface active ions.

Cationic wetting agents:

Cationic surfactants are unfit as detergents. They are mainly used as softeners or lubricants.

Non-ionic wetting agents:

Non-ionic surfactants generate no ions in liquid solutions.

Amphoteric wetting agents:

Amphoteric surfactants have a positive or a negative charge according to the pH-value of the liquid solution.

Requirements of wetting agents for textile batch-wise production applications:

- Low foaming (for jet machines)
- Good dispersing properties
- Good emulsifying properties
- Pumpable formulation (for automatic dosing type machines)

Requirement of wetting agents for textile continuous production applications:

- Quick wetting
- Good stability to caustic
- Low foaming
- Good dispersing action
- Good emulsifying properties
- Pumpable formulation

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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