

Equipment Maker Offers Certified Vehicle Components with Antiviral Properties

New Material Combination Provides Documented Sanitization Process

When Ruspa Officine Spa (“Ruspa”), a producer of equipment and components for vehicle manufacturers that primarily operates in the public transport sector, was challenged to provide products that contained virus-protection properties, they turned to Nexeo Plastics for their material needs. The company needed a seat-back table that incorporated enhanced hygiene protection throughout the day and through multiple uses. If successful, Ruspa intended to extend the solution to other products, such as seats, footrests, armrests and handles.

Ruspa’s request carried several requirements, however. The solution needed to be certified as effectively sanitized and registered through International Material Data System (IMDS), which is a global standard used by many global automotive OEMs to meet the obligations imposed by national and international standards and applicable laws and regulations; and it could not influence the injection molding production process nor affect the chosen design aesthetics of the end product. Finally, the solution also needed to remain effective for the product’s full lifespan in protecting the material against viruses, bacteria, fungus and microbes.

Partnering with supplier Parx Materials (“Parx”), our Nexeo Plastics technical team of experts identified Parx Materials’ Saniconcentrate™ as a potential material option for Ruspa. Parx’s Saniconcentrate™ can provide protection properties for a wide range of base materials. Parx sanitizing solutions can reach up to 99.9% effectiveness against bacteria and viruses and is the first line of products to offer proven efficacy against viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 (COVID 19), Corona 229E, H1N1 and H3N2. The Ruspa team ultimately selected Parx additive PEU-UNI007, which could be directly mixed with the base polymer pellets in the injection molding process to provide the needed sanitization.

Tests were then undertaken at independent laboratories to confirm and certify the end products’ sanitization effectiveness. Throughout this stringent process, documentation was a key factor, so that Ruspa could market its vehicle components to be resistant to viruses, bacteria, fungus and microbes.

Test results proved the high antiviral efficacy of the solution, as well as its application in a wide range of base materials, which allowed Ruspa to meet its initial goal. Through Nexeo Plastics’ determination and continual support to our customer, Ruspa will be one of the first producers to provide this type of protection in the industry, not only for vehicles in Italy, but for those in Europe and the Americas as well.

Discover how Nexeo Plastics can help you overcome your material, process, and application challenges.

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PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Recorded Benefits

- Identified additive that did not alter the injection molding process or aesthetics
- Provided effective protection for the life of the product
- Became one of the first products to provide antiviral capability to the automotive industry

Challenge

Find a way to bring antiviral properties to Ruspa’s vehicle components.

Solution

With support from supplier Parx Materials, Nexeo Plastics helped deliver an enhanced hygiene protection additive for vehicle components.

Result

Helped Ruspa design one of the first antiviral vehicle components offering protection against viruses, bacteria, fungus and microbes.

“Thanks to the precious collaboration with Nexeo Plastics and their professionalism, we have integrated our new lines of vehicle components with antiviral properties, that meet the most recent demands of the market.”

—Carol Ruspa (Vice President)



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