

Improved Formulation for Industrial Plastics Molder

Collaboration and Speedy Turnaround Save the Day



A large, industrial molder ran up against a processing problem when the approved high-performance elastomer specified for an SUV bumper application was under-performing while in the tool. Known for its flexibility and processing ease, the original material wasn't flowing properly, even with technical support and troubleshooting. The application required a material with higher flow potential, but as suppliers to auto OEMs well know, it was too late to deviate from the approved-materials list or to get a new material approved. The molder needed help fast to avoid costly losses.

Working closely with both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 molders and the OEM, Nexeo Plastics learned that a new material would not require additional approval if it remained consistent with the approved data sheet specifications and if it passed elongation and durometer (hardness) testing.

Nexeo Plastics then leveraged its strong relationship with the supplier-partner, whose R&D department went to work on a new grade that effectively was the same as the originally specified material but with an additive package for easier flow. The new material was completed and a sample shipped to the molder for trials within 2.5 weeks, generally unheard of in the industry. The new formula passed rigorous flow, hardness and elongation testing and did not require new specification or approval time.

Partnering with Nexeo Plastics, the molder was able to overcome the tooling problem and improve its formulation and molding process to deliver the on-spec and on-time plastic component for the SUV. The new, higher-flow material is now available for commercial use in auto and other applications, so the molder is well positioned for growth and expansion across industries

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

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PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Recorded Benefits

- New formula passed rigorous testing without deviating from original material approval
- Speedy turnaround time allowed molder to fulfill OEM order without delays or cost overruns
- New material already approved and specified for other auto applications

Challenge

A large auto-parts molder needed fast improvements to a formulation without deviating from the OEM-approved material specification list.

Solution

Nexeo Plastics and its supplier-partner created a new, custom-tailored, higher-flow elastomer in record turnaround time.

Result

With the improved and tested material, this full-service injection molder was able to supply the bumper component on time and on spec for this and other car makers.



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