



SIBUR UNVEILS NEW RAFFIA GRADES

The Company has brought to market special new solutions for the high-speed manufacturing of tape used in fabric and flexible packaging.

The new products aim to boost productivity and continuity in processing.

The PP H063 FF grade is for light tape (55–135 tex), an optimal solution for bags, light fabric and twine. Meanwhile, PP H043 FF is for heavy tapes (135–255 tex), and is excellent for big bags, waterproof under-roof insulation and twine.

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Processors that have used PP H043FF/3 and PP H063FF/3 point out the new solutions' benefits over their regular counterparts: an improved melt flow index (higher productivity, lower power costs, lower engine wear), a special package of additives (lower breakage and fewer defects) and good batch-to-batch consistency with a narrow range of controllable parameters (better continuity of processing over long periods).

The special grades PP H043FF/3 and PP H063FF/3 are already ordered by lots of our clients on a regular basis. Clients tell us that they are seeing real improvements during processing, noting in particular improved productivity (up 15% for heavy tape and 23% for light tape), greater continuity (some shifts are seeing no breakages), 5% lower power costs and 10% lower engine load. The new solutions also give the tape and fabric a highly-requested boost to strength.

Starlinger GmbH, a manufacturer of high-speed equipment, collaborated with SIBUR's representatives to test the new polypropylene materials H043FF/3 and PP H063FF/3 at processing lines and on circular looms. Based on the results, the company supports the adoption of these new solutions.

"Our company, as well as our customers that use SIBUR's new polypropylene materials to manufacture raffia with our equipment, can testify to their outstanding processability," said Volker Berger, Starlinger's Regional Sales Manager for Eastern Europe. "These new polypropylene materials have performed admirably during extrusion. They are stable at high speeds (about 550 m/min) and lead to a

better quality of raffia tape during the weaving phase. We see fewer breakages and as such, lower equipment downtime and considerably more efficient production. We recommend PP H043FF/3 and PP H063FF/3 to all our customers, particularly for AD*STAR block-bottom bags and other light woven bags made from light fabric.”

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Windmöller & Hölscher GmbH, another high-speed equipment manufacturer, has also tested the new products.

“SIBUR’s new polymer product, PP H063FF/3 for raffia, has performed magnificently during a test production cycle on our TIRATEX lines, ensuring a highly reliable operation and outstanding tape quality at high production speeds (550 m/min),” confirmed Peter Schmalholz, Head of R&D at the company. “Windmöller & Hölscher Machinery has decided to add SIBUR’s PP H063FF/3 to our recommended list of materials for producing AD proTex® LS block-bottom bags and other PP fabric products.”

“The new grades are in routine production, and we already have a number of regular clients who highly value their properties – not just from Russia, but from other countries, too,” added Pavel Lyakhovich, Member of the Management Board – Managing Director, Head of Basic Polymers Division at SIBUR. “We are pleased to be able to offer our partners a solution that ensures their end products are of a high quality and gives a boost to their efficiency.”