WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for producing treated filler comprising:

(a) treating a slurry comprising untreated filler wherein said untreated filler has not been previously dried, with a treating composition comprising a treating agent, thereby forming a treated filler slurry, and wherein said untreated filler is chosen from aluminum silicate, silica gel, colloidal silica, precipitated silica, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) drying said treated filler slurry to produce treated filler,

wherein said treating agent comprises at least one of an anhydride, a cyclic imide, and a derivative thereof.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the filler comprises precipitated silica.

3. A process for producing treated precipitated silica comprising:

(a) combining an alkali metal silicate and an acid to form a slurry comprising untreated silica, wherein said untreated silica has not been previously dried;

(b) treating said slurry with a treating composition comprising a treating agent, thereby forming a treated slurry; and

(c) drying said treated slurry to produce a treated precipitated silica,

wherein said treating agent comprises at least one of an anhydride, a cyclic imide, and a derivative thereof.

4. A process for producing treated precipitated silica comprising:

(a) combining an alkali metal silicate and an acid to form an untreated slurry comprising untreated silica, wherein said untreated silica has not been previously dried;

(b) drying the untreated slurry to produce dried precipitated silica;

(c) forming an aqueous slurry of the dried precipitated silica with a treating composition comprising a treating agent, and, optionally, a coupling agent and/or, optionally, a non-coupling agent to form a treated precipitated silica slurry; and

(d) drying the treated precipitated silica slurry to produce a dried treated precipitated silica,

wherein said treating agent comprises at least one of an anhydride, a cyclic imide, and a derivative thereof.

5. The process of either of claims 3 or 4, wherein said alkali metal silicate comprises aluminum silicate, lithium silicate, sodium silicate, and/or potassium silicate.

6. The process of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the treating agent comprises a ring opened product of the cyclic imide and/or a cyclic anhydride.

7. The process of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the treating agent comprises a salt of the anhydride and/or the cyclic imide.

8. The process of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the treating agent comprises at least one of benzoic anhydride, acetic anhydride, maleic anhydride, succinic anhydride, maleimide, succinimide, and/or derivatives thereof.

9. The process of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the anhydride, the cyclic imide, and/or derivative thereof each independently further comprises at least one group having a carbon-carbon double bond.

10. The process of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the treating composition further comprises an organosilane coupling agent represented by formula (II):

$(R_1)_a(R_2)_bSiX_{4-a-b}$ (II),

wherein each R_1 is independently a hydrocarbyl group comprising 1 to 36 carbon atoms and a functional group, wherein the functional group of the hydrocarbyl group is vinyl, allyl, hexenyl, epoxy, glycidoxy, (meth)acryloxy, sulfide, isocyanato, polysulfide, mercapto, or halogen; each R_2 is independently a hydrocarbyl group having from 1 to 36 carbon atoms or hydrogen, X is independently halogen or alkoxy having 1 to 36 carbon atoms; a is 0, 1, 2, or 3; b is 0, 1, or 2; (a+b) is 1, 2, or 3; provided that when b is 1, (a+b) is 2 or 3.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the treating composition further comprises an organosilane different from the organosilane represented by formula (II).

12. The process of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the treating composition further comprises a coupling agent comprising an organosilane selected from the group consisting of (4-chloromethyl-phenyl) trimethoxysilane, (4-chloromethyl-phenyl)

triethoxysilane, [2-(4-chloromethyl-phenyl)-ethyl] trimethoxysilane, [2-(4-chloromethyl-phenyl)-ethyl] triethoxysilane, (3-chloro-propenyl)-trimethoxysilane, (3-chloro-propenyl)-triethoxysilane, (3-chloro-propyl)-triethoxysilane, (3-chloro-propyl)-trimethoxysilane, trimethoxy-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)silane and triethoxy-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)silane, and combinations thereof.

13. The process of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the treatment composition further comprises a non-coupling agent that is different from the treating agent and wherein the non-coupling agent that is different from the treating agent is one or more of a biopolymer, fatty acid, organic acid, polymer emulsion, polymer coating composition, and combinations thereof.

14. The process of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the treatment composition further comprises a non-coupling agent selected from an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, and combinations thereof, present in an amount of from greater than 1% to 25% by weight based on the weight of untreated filler.

15. The process of any one of claims 1, 2 or 6 to 14, wherein
the treated filler comprises treated precipitated silica; and
the treating composition further comprises:

(i) at least one coupling agent, and

(ii) a non-coupling agent chosen from anionic, nonionic and/or amphoteric surfactants, which is present in an amount of from greater than 1% to 25% by weight based on the weight of untreated filler.