

FLAME RETARDANT PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE TAPE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an odorless flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape preferably with a cloth substrate, which can be used for electrical and electronic parts and electrical
10 installation parts, does not discolor the adherend, and does not emit gases having an adverse effect on the environment, such as a halogen gas or a sulfurous acid gas, on incinerating the used and unnecessary tape.

15 2. Description of the Related Art

A pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth
substrate, which has heretofore been used for electric and electronic parts, is widely used for binding and fixing an adherend having a complicated shape or for
20 fixing a site of generating noises by making good use of flexibility and vibration absorptivity characteristic of the cloth substrate, needless to say about electrical insulating property and electric corrosion resistance. The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape for these uses is generally necessary to have flame retardancy in the level
25 established by UL510FR. In the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, the volume of the cloth as a burning source is large and the flame retardancy is inferior due to a large amount of air contained in fibers constituting the cloth. Therefore,
30 the flame retardancy is imparted by blending a large amount of a halogen-containing flame retarder having a large flame retarding effect in combination with an antimony-base flame retardant aid in the pressure-sensitive adhesive or providing a flame retardant layer
35 separately from the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

As the pressure-sensitive adhesive used here, a vulcanized rubber-base pressure-sensitive adhesive is

widely used, because this adhesive has advantages in the initial adherence, good adhesion performance to various adherends, good electrical insulating property and the like and is imparted further with thermal property.

5 In recent years, the halogen-base flame retarder of generating a halogen gas upon the incineration, the antimony-base flame retardant aid containing lead and arsenic, and the like come under the objectives of regulation for the purpose of environmental
10 protection. Furthermore, it is proceeding to include sulfur and thiuram used for the vulcanization of rubber which is the main component of the pressure-sensitive adhesive, in the materials to be regulated because not only these emit a sulfurous acid gas or a nitrogen oxide
15 at the incineration but also these are a carcinogen. Therefore, the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, which uses these materials, is also pressed to cope with these regulations.

20 The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, which contains these materials, corrodes a metallic adherend or discolors an adherend composed of an organic fiber, such as paper or cloth, depending on the case or disadvantageously
25 generates an offensive odor peculiar to the halogen-base flame retarder.

 As alternative means for the halogen-base flame retarder having these problems, there are known the methods of blending a urea compound (see, Japanese
30 Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2001-81419), an organic phosphorus compound (Kokai No. 2000-169811), red phosphorus (Kokai No. 8-193187), aluminum hydroxide (Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-314960) or magnesium hydroxide (Kokai No. 2001-2839) in the
35 pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or the substrate layer of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape. However, the fact is that no effective means is found for the

pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate.

5 In order to produce a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate to have a flame retardant level according to UL510FR such that the continuous burning time is less than 60 seconds, a large amount of the above-described metal hydroxide must be added to the pressure-sensitive adhesive. This means is, however, disadvantageous in that the pressure-sensitive adhesive property can be hardly maintained and the
10 contact adhesion to a cloth substrate is poor. The non-halogen organic flame retarder such as urea or melamine compound (e.g., melamine sulfate) has a problem of low moisture resistance or poor heat stability in addition to increase of the amount added or this retarder is water-soluble and therefore, may cause a problem of electric
15 corrosion due to its ion elution accelerating activity. Thus, this is not a suitable material. The organic phosphorus compound has a problem such as generation of a phosphorus-base compound upon the incineration of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or adverse effect on the
20 environment at the waste treatment.

The pressure-sensitive adhesive used for the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate is generally a rubber-base pressure-sensitive adhesive but this adhesive is inferior in the
25 resistance against heat or solvent as compared with pressure-sensitive adhesives such as acrylic and silicone. In order to overcome this problem, a vulcanization reaction is widely performed using a vulcanizing agent such as sulfur, its compound, peroxide, oxime, phenolic resin or maleimide, a vulcanization
30 accelerator such as thiuram or zinc oxide, and the like in combination. However, there is still a problem that this pressure-sensitive adhesive causes metal corrosion or discoloration, the usable time of blended materials is short, the vulcanization takes a long time or oxygen
35 inhibition occurs at the vulcanization.

Furthermore, the sulfurous acid gas generated at the incineration of vulcanized pressure-sensitive adhesive gives a problem of adverse effect on the environment or the thiuram used as the vulcanization accelerator is an environmental pollutant and must be treated with the greatest care or may produce carcinogenic nitrosamine by the decomposition and is regulated by the PRTR law (in Japan).

In order to solve these problems, a rubber vulcanizing system using aminoalkylalkoxysilane has been proposed. As the technical publication regarding this system, there are known a paper reporting that a coupling agent having an amino group is effective for halogenated rubber [see, S. Yamashita, M. Shigaraki, M. Orita and R.G. Caoutch, Plast., 606, 126 (1986)], a paper reporting that the same coupling agent when heated is more effective for epoxidised rubber [see, M. Akiba and A.S. Hashim, Prog. Polym. Sci., 22, 475 (1997)], a paper reporting that a rubber not having a functional group or a double bond can be vulcanized with vinyl silane in the combination use system with a peroxide [see, M. Akiba and A.S. Hashim, Prog. Polym. Sci., 22, 475 (1997)], and the like.

On the other hand, with respect to natural rubber or the diene-base general purpose rubber such as SBR, means of binding a filler treated with a coupling agent containing sulfur to the rubber molecular chain in the process of normal sulfur vulcanization is described in the Introduction [Hiroshi Okamoto, Nippon Gum Kyokai Shi (Journal of Japan Rubber Society), 62, 819 (1989)] or the like, however, a technique of vulcanizing natural rubber with aminoalkylalkoxysilane itself is not reported.

Also, as a problem peculiar to the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, contact adhesion between the substrate and the pressure-sensitive adhesive is poor or the pressure-

sensitive adhesive may undergo strike through at the coating. Depending on the case, electric corrosion or the like may occur due to the ionic sizing agent used at the time of weaving the cloth substrate.

5 The object of the present invention is to provide a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, which is odorless, does not corrode or discolor the adherend and, upon the incineration, does not release a halogen gas or a sulfurous acid gas having an adverse
10 effect on the environment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

As a result of extensive investigations to solve these problems, the present inventors have found that when a vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant
15 pressure-sensitive adhesive, obtained by vulcanizing a natural rubber-base elastomer with a terminal amino group-containing aminoalkylalkoxysilane, and blending the natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with the aminoalkylalkoxysilane and an inorganic flame retarder
20 preferably composed of the metal hydroxide and inorganic flame retardant aid, is coated on a substrate, an odorless and non-sulfur and non-halogen flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape even with an inflammable cloth substrate can be provided. The present invention
25 has been accomplished based on this finding. The present invention includes the following inventions.

(1) A flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, comprising a cloth substrate and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on at least one main
30 surface of said substrate, said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane as a vulcanizing agent, a tackifier resin and an inorganic flame retarder,
35 said natural rubber elastomer being vulcanized with said aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said tape satisfying the flame retardant level established by UL510FR.

(2) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1), wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape further comprises a flame retardant composition layer on a substrate side of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, said flame retardant composition layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane as a vulcanizing agent, and an inorganic flame retarder, said natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized with said aminoalkylalkoxysilane, the content of said flame retarder in said flame retardant composition layer being greater than the content of said flame retarder in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

(3) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) or (2), wherein said cloth substrate is impregnated with said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or said flame retardant composition layer, by which said substrate is buried in said impregnated flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or said flame retardant composition layer.

(4) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (3), wherein said substrate has a second surface on a side opposite to said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and said second surface of said substrate is coated with another flame retardant composition layer.

(5) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (4), wherein said flame retarder comprises a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid.

(6) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (5), wherein said flame retardant composition layer further comprises a tackifier resin and a weight ratio of said tackifier resin to said natural rubber-base elastomer in said flame

retardant composition layer is greater than that of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

5 (7) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (6), wherein said substrate is an inflammable cloth.

(8) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (7), wherein in each of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition layer, said
10 aminoalkylalkoxysilane is contained in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer.

(9) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (8), wherein in
15 each of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition, said inorganic flame retarder is from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer.

20 (10) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (9), wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises a tackifier resin in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said natural
25 rubber-base elastomer in said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, and said flame retardant composition layer comprises a tackifier resin in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said natural rubber-base elastomer in said flame retardant composition
30 layer, the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant composition layer being larger than the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

35 (11) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (2) to (10), wherein said flame retardant composition layer is formed by two or

more flame retardant composition layers, and the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant composition layer in contact with said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is
5 larger than the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

(12) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (11), wherein said
10 flame retarder comprises aluminum hydroxide and/or magnesium hydroxide.

(13) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (12), wherein said flame retarder comprises at least one member selected
15 from the group consisting of tin oxide, zinc metastannate, zinc hydroxystannate and zinc borate.

(14) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (13), wherein said aminoalkylalkoxysilane is selected from the group
20 consisting of N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldiethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane, γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane
25 and γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane.

(15) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (14), wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition further comprise at
30 least one component selected from the group consisting of an inorganic filler, an ultraviolet absorbent, an antioxidant and an oil.

(16) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (15), wherein the
35 amount of said flame retardant composition layer is from

3 to 250 g/m².

(17) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (16), wherein the amount of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is from 20 to 600 g/m².

(18) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (17), wherein said inflammable cloth is a single fabric or a union fabric woven from a single yarn or a blended yarn comprising a fiber selected from the group consisting of staple fiber, cotton, polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene and acrylic fiber, and having a size of 38 to 300 denier and the density of the fabric is from 25 to 450 yarns per inch in both the warp and the weft.

(19) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (18), wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition layer contain essentially no sulfur and halogen.

(20) A flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, comprising a cloth substrate having on at least one main surface thereof a flame retardant composition layer and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in this order; said cloth substrate being impregnated and coated with said flame retardant composition layer; said flame retardant composition layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a tackifier resin and a flame retarder composed of a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, said natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said aminoalkylalkoxysilane being blended in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer; said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component,

aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a tackifier resin and a flame retarder composed of a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, said natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said
5 minoalkylalkoxysilane being blended in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer; and said tape satisfying the flame retardant level established by UL510FR.

(23) The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
10 tape as described in the above (22), wherein in each of said flame retardant composition layer and/or said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, the ratio of said inorganic flame retardant aid blended with said metal hydroxide is from 10 to 50 parts by weight per 100
15 parts by weight of the metal hydroxide and the total amount of said metal hydroxide and said inorganic flame retardant aid is from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer in said layer or composition, said flame
20 retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape containing essentially no sulfur, antimony, lead, arsenic, phosphorus and halogen.

(24) Use of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as described in the above (1) to (23) for
25 television parts or a deflection yoke coil.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, comprising a flame retardant composition layer
30 and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, comprising two flame retardant composition layers and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
35 layer.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth

substrate, comprising a flame retardant composition layer and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on one side of the substrate and an additional flame retardant composition layer on the other side of the substrate.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

To avoid use of a flame retarder containing halogen, antimony, lead or arsenic or the like which may generate odor or give a gas having an adverse effect to the environment, metal hydroxide is a candidate as an alternate flame retarder which does not have such adverse effects.

The metal hydroxide preferably used as a flame retarder in the odorless and non-halogen flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, with an inflammable cloth substrate, undergoes a dehydration reaction by increase in the temperature upon firing and exhibits self-extinguishing property, but, because of the above-described reasons, its addition in a large amount to the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer for the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape has a problem of impairing the pressure-sensitive adhesive property. However, the present inventors have found that a natural rubber-base elastomer can be vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane and when a natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane is used in a pressure-sensitive adhesive, excellent pressure-sensitive adhesive property is attained even if a large amount of inorganic retarder, for example, the metal hydroxide together with an inorganic flame retardant aid, is added to the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

Heretofore, it has not been known that a natural rubber-base elastomer, having no functional group, can be vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, or that a pressure-sensitive adhesive or a resin composition using the natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane exhibits an excellent property of

holding a flame retarder even composed of a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid and also excellent contact adhesion to an adherend or a cloth substrate. In accordance with the present invention, even
5 if an inorganic flame retarder is blended in a large amount to a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or a resin composition, desired adhesion properties such as contact adhesion to an adherend or a cloth substrate and adhesive strength (peel adhesion) of the pressure-sensitive
10 adhesive can be attained.

Aminoalkylalkoxysilane can vulcanize a natural rubber-base elastomer, which is preferable in the present invention since it does not need sulfur or a thiol group (-SH) for vulcanization.

15 The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive in the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention, may be obtained by blending components such as a tackifier resin, an oil, a filler, an antioxidant and a flame retarder composed of a metal hydroxide, a flame
20 retardant aid and the like to a natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive in the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention can be vulcanized with a low energy, is free from oxygen
25 inhibition, is odorless and neither corrodes a metal as the adherend nor discolors paper, cloth or plastic.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a flame retardant composition layer is provided on a substrate side of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive
30 adhesive layer, i.e., between the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and the cloth substrate and optionally into or beyond the cloth substrate. This flame retardant composition layer comprises a natural rubber-base elastomer, aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a
35 tackifier resin and an inorganic flame retarder, the natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized by the aminoalkylalkoxysilane. The content of the inorganic

flame retarder in the flame retardant composition layer may preferably be greater than that of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. By this construction, the amount of the flame retarder to be used
5 in the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, necessary for obtaining a flame retardant level of the tape satisfying the UL-510FR burning test standard, can be reduced, while the pressure-sensitive adhesive properties of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer can be maintained to be
10 high by incorporation of a relatively less amount of inorganic flame retarder in the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. Both excellent pressure-sensitive adhesive properties and high flame retardant level can be easily satisfied by the combination of the
15 flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer of this embodiment of the present invention. The flame retardant composition layer may comprise essentially the same composition as that of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer although the content of the
20 flame retardant in the flame retardant composition layer may be advantageously made greater than that of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape
25 with a cloth substrate, which is obtained by forming a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer optionally with a flame retardant composition layer on at least one surface of the substrate, has a flexibility and tackiness peculiar to the rubber-base pressure-sensitive
30 adhesive and rubber-base resin, exhibits excellent resistance against electric corrosion, is odorless and, upon incineration of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, does not release a halogen gas or a sulfurous acid gas having an adverse effect on the environment. By using
35 as the substrate a cloth, particularly an inflammable cloth such as a cotton cloth, the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape may have excellent flexibility inherent to

the cloth.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cloth substrate is subjected to a flame retardation treatment of impregnating a natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive or, when used, a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition, having blended therein a flame retarder, a tackifier and aminoalkylalkoxysilane. By this impregnation flame retardation treatment of the cloth substrate, the amount of the flame retarder to be used in the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, necessary for obtaining a flame retardant level of the tape satisfying the UL-510FR burning test standard, can be also reduced. By the impregnating treatment, the sizing agent adhering to the cloth can be fixed due to the coating treatment and excellent electric corrosion resistance can be obtained even without a scouring treatment. Furthermore, since a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive or a flame retardant composition is impregnated into (as a result, coating the entire or partial surface of) the cloth substrate, the flame retardant effect against burning is exerted also from the substrate side (exposed side) of the flame retardant tape.

In accordance with the present invention, it is generally possible that an additional flame retardant layer, preferably a flame retardant natural rubber-base composition having blended therein a flame retarder, a tackifier resin and aminoalkylalkoxysilane, is provided on a side of the substrate opposite to the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, to improve the flame retardation property of the tape, particularly with an inflammable substrate, on an exposed surface side thereof. This flame retardation treatment may not be impregnation of a flame retardant adhesive or flame retardant composition into a cloth substrate, and may be coating of a flame retardant layer on a cloth substrate on the exposed surface side. Further, the composition of

the flame retardant layer may be the same as or different from the composition of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or the flame retardant composition layer.

5 The odorless and non-halogen flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention is described below by referring to the drawings.

10 Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, comprising a flame retardant composition layer and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer are provided. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth substrate, comprising two flame retardant
15 composition layers and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer are provided.

 In Figs. 1 and 2, the reference numeral 1 is, for example, an inflammable cloth, 2 is a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer comprising an inorganic flame retarder such as a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid as well as aminoalkylalkoxysilane, 3 is a natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, an
20 inorganic flame retarder such as a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid. The natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer 2 is preferably impregnated, but not necessarily impregnated, into the cloth substrate 1 to cover preferably the entire surface
25 of the cloth substrate 1 including the surface of the cloth substrate 1 opposite to the side of the natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 3. In Fig. 2, the reference numeral 4 is an additional vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer, used between the natural rubber-base
30 flame retardant composition layer 2 and the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive
35 natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive

adhesive layer 3.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, it is intended that the content of the flame retarder in the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer 2, or the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer 4 when used, is higher than the content of the flame retarder in the natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 3.

In Fig. 3, the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprises a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer 2 and natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 3 on a side of a cloth substrate 1, and an additional flame retardant layer 6, particularly a natural rubber-base flame retardant layer, on an opposite side of the cloth substrate. The additional flame retardant layer 6 preferably comprises a natural rubber-base elastomer vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a tackifier resin, and an inorganic flame retarder such as a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, but is not limited thereto, and can be any one as far as it provides a flame retardant property to the exposed surface of the substrate.

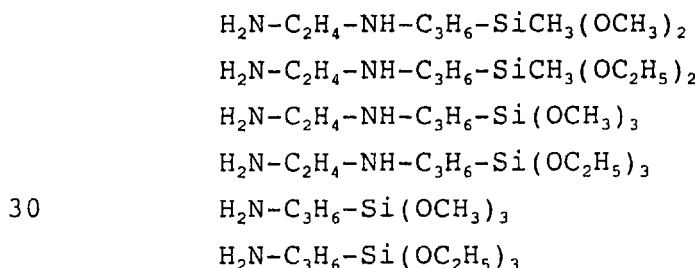
In the rubber-base elastomer used for the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer and for the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, a natural rubber component preferably occupies at least 50% by weight or more, more preferably 60% or more, even to 100% by weight. As the elastomer other than the natural rubber, synthetic rubbers such as butyl rubber, isoprene rubber, butadiene rubber and acrylic rubber may be used individually or as a mixture of two or more thereof. It is preferred that a rubber component containing halogen is completely excluded. If the natural rubber component is less than 50%, the crosslinking density by vulcanization with the

aminoalkylalkoxysilane is insufficient and this causes failure in having a sufficiently high holding power when heated. The natural rubber is advantageous in that upon the incineration, it does not release a halogen gas or the like having an adverse effect on the environment.

In the present invention, aminoalkylalkoxysilane is used as the vulcanizing agent of a natural rubber-base elastomer, so that unlike conventional sulfur-base vulcanizing agents, a sulfurous acid gas is not generated upon incineration. It is one of advantages of the present invention that a harmful vulcanizing agent such as sulfur needs not be substantially used.

Aminoalkylalkoxysilane not only acts as the vulcanizing agent of a natural rubber-base elastomer but also has a function of a coupling agent for an inorganic flame retardant and of a coupling agent to a cloth substrate or an adherend.

Preferred aminoalkylalkoxysilanes are N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldiethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane, γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane and γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane, having the following structural formulae:



The amount of the aminoalkylalkoxysilane added is preferably from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer. If the amount added is less than 0.1 part by weight,

vulcanization incompletely proceeds, as a result, the film strength of the vulcanized natural rubber-base composition layer or flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on or impregnating into the substrate is not sufficiently high, the contact adhesion to the substrate is poor, and the holding power when heated is insufficient due to the incomplete vulcanization.

The amount of the aminoalkylalkoxysilane used in the present invention is generally greater than the amount of a vulcanizing agent used in the corresponding prior art composition.

If the amount of the aminoalkylalkoxysilane added exceeds 10 parts by weight, in the case of the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer, there arises a problem that the film after vulcanization becomes excessively hard to lose the feeling of cloth, and in the case of the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, there arises a problem that the adhesive strength decreases in a normal state or with the passage of time due to over-vulcanization.

The flame retarder preferably comprises a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, but is not limited thereto, and, for example, only one of the metal hydroxide and inorganic flame retardant aid may be used, depending on the other factors such as the type of the substrate and the composition of the flame retardant composition and the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

The amount of the flame retarder is preferably from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight, more preferably 300 to 800 part by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer of the tape.

The blending ratio of the metal hydroxide and inorganic flame retardant aid when added is preferably such that the flame retardant aid is from 10 to 50 parts

by weight per 100 parts by weight of the metal hydroxide. If the flame retardant aid is less than 10 parts by weight, the flame retarding effect by the metal hydroxide decreases, whereas if it exceeds 50 weight parts, the effect by the addition of the flame retardant aid is not exerted.

The amount of the flame retarder comprising a mixture of a metal hydroxide and a flame retardant aid, added to the natural rubber-base elastomer is suitably from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer. If the amount of the flame retarder added is not more than 150 parts by weight, the flame retardant level based on the UL-510FR burning test is difficult to obtain, whereas if it exceeds 800 parts by weight, the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer and the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer both are abruptly increased in the viscosity and not only these blends can hardly be coated but also even if coated, there arise a problem such that the contact adhesion to cloth may decrease or the pressure-sensitive adhesive readily undergo interfacial failure.

The vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer may contain a tackifier resin. The amount of the tackifier resin is suitably from 10 to 200, preferably 40 to 150 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer. If the amount of the tackifier resin added is less than 10 parts by weight, the pressure-sensitive adhesion and the tack are unbalanced and the tackiness is lost, whereas if it exceeds 200 parts by weight, the viscosity as a pressure-sensitive adhesive is lacking and a satisfactory adhesive property cannot be exerted.

The natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer may contain a tackifier resin. The amount of the tackifier resin is preferably from 10 to 200 parts by

weight, more preferably from 40 to 150 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer. If the amount of the tackifier resin added is less than 10 parts by weight, the tack property of the layer coated and impregnated into the cloth is excessively small and the unwinding of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape may fail, whereas if it exceeds 200 parts by weight, the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer becomes fragile and cannot maintain a sufficiently high film strength.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the ratio of the tackifier resin to the natural rubber-base elastomer in the flame retardant composition layer is higher than the ratio of the tackifier resin to the natural rubber-base elastomer in the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. If these ratios are reversed, the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer coated on the outer side may decrease in the pressure-sensitive adhesive property upon aging by migration of the tackifier resin from the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer to the flame retardant composition layer of the inner side thereof, while it depends on the composition of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. In the above structure of the tape, even if a large amount of an inorganic flame retarder is blended in the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer coming into contact with an adherend, the pressure-sensitive adhesive property can be prevented from deteriorating.

The flame retardant composition layer may be composed of two or more layers. For example, a flame retardant composition layer in contact with the cloth substrate may be adjusted to have an adequate composition to attain both flame retardation and adhesion to the cloth substrate. Another flame retardant composition layer in contact with the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer may be adjusted to have an adequate composition to attain a maximum flame retardation with less

consideration of adhesion property to the cloth substrate.

As the metal hydroxide for use in the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention, aluminum hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide are preferred and these may be used individually or in combination.

The flame retardant aid for use in the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention preferably does not generate a halogen gas upon incineration and is odorless and although not particularly limited, at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin oxide, zinc metastannate, zinc hydroxystannate and zinc borate is preferably used.

In the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer and the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, preferably, an inorganic filler, an ultraviolet absorbent-containing antioxidant and an oil are added so as to adjust the film strength and the pressure-sensitive adhesive property.

The amount of the natural rubber-base flame retardant composition layer when coated on or impregnated into and adhering to the cloth substrate, particularly an inflammable cloth, is suitably from 3 to 250 g/m². If the amount of the layer is less than 3 g/m², an advantage of satisfying the flame retardant level under the UL510FR burning test standard is not easily obtained, whereas if it exceeds 250 g/m², the substrate disadvantageously loses the flexibility.

The amount of the vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is preferably from 20 to 600 g/m², more preferably 20 to 250 g/m². If the coated amount is less than 20 g/m², a pressure-sensitive adhesive property of adhering to a complicated shape is difficult to be obtained, whereas if it exceeds 600 g/m², appearance defects as a pressure-

sensitive adhesive tape, such as oozing, and cost increase are incurred and this is not practical.

5 The cloth substrate used in the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention is not particularly limited and may not be an inflammable cloth such as a cotton cloth, but also a cloth made of a flame retardant material such as polyimido resin or glass. However, an inflammable cloth is advantageous since it has an excellent flexibility and is cheap.

10 The inflammable cloth preferably used for the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention may be a single or union fabric woven from a single yarn such as staple fiber, cotton, polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene and acrylic fiber or a
15 blended yarn thereof, having a size of 38 to 300 denier for both the warp and the weft. If the size is less than 38 denier, the cloth is too thick as the substrate of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape and is disadvantageously too large in the flexibility and the absolute amount of
20 resin, whereas if it exceeds 300 denier, the strength of the cloth is insufficient.

 The density of the cloth is suitably from 25 to 450 yarns per inch in both the warp and the weft. If the density is less than 25 yarns per inch, the substrate
25 strength is insufficient, whereas if it exceeds 450 yarns per inch, the flame retardant composition adheres in an excessively large amount in the flame retardation treatment and the substrate becomes too high in the nerve and loses its peculiar feeling.

30 A flame retardant pressure-sensitive tape with a substrate, wherein a vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive is coated on the substrate, can be produced, for example, as follows. A masticated natural rubber and other synthetic rubber are
35 dissolved in a solvent such as toluene to have an appropriate plasticity. Thereto, an inorganic flame retarder such as a mixed flame retarder composed of a

metal hydroxide and a flame retardant aid, a tackifier resin, an inorganic filler and an antioxidant are added and dispersed. Thereafter, aminoalkylalkoxysilane is added and stirred to prepare a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition. This composition is coated and impregnated in a predetermined amount into the above-described inflammable cloth by a reverse coater or the like to prepare a flame retardation treated cloth substrate. On this substrate, a natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the same manner as the above-described natural rubber-base flame retardant composition is coated by a roll coater and dried, thereby completing the vulcanization reaction. Thereafter, only by taking it up, the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention can be obtained.

The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention is particularly useful for fixing a large electric current heat-generating part such as television part, in which a large electric current passes and may increase in temperature and, therefore, flame retarding property is important.

The present invention provides a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a cloth substrate and a vulcanized natural rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer obtained by vulcanizing a natural rubber-base elastomer with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, and blending the inorganic flame retarder such as the above-described metal hydroxide-base flame retarder and a tackifier resin. The cloth substrate is preferably impregnated with a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition having blended therein a metal hydroxide-base flame retarder and aminoalkylalkoxysilane. The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention preferably uses a metal hydroxide-base flame retarder and aminoalkylalkoxysilane, which are safe to a human body and have no adverse effect

on the environment, and therefore, can be vulcanized with a low energy, is free from oxygen inhibition, neither corrodes a metal as the adherend nor discolors paper, cloth or plastic, and is odorless. Furthermore, the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape of the present invention is advantageous in that upon incineration, it does not release a halogen gas, a sulfurous acid gas or a nitrogen oxide having an adverse effect on the environment.

EXAMPLES

The present invention is described in greater detail below by referring to Examples, however, the present invention is not limited to these Examples. In Examples, the "parts" is parts by weight and "%" is % by weight.

(1) Preparation of Natural rubber-base Flame Retardant Composition Solution:

As the rubber-base composition coated and impregnated into an inflammable cloth, a 34% solution of a natural rubber-base flame retardant composition was prepared by dissolving 100 parts by weight of a rubber elastomer composed of 65 parts of natural rubber adjusted to a plasticity of 76 and 35 parts of SBR, 350 parts of magnesium hydroxide (FINEMAG SN-T, produced by Air Water), 50 parts of zinc stannate (FLAMTARD H, produced by Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd.), 5 parts of aminoalkylalkoxysilane, 120 parts of a tackifier resin (ESCOREZ 1304, produced by Exxon Chemicals) and 1 part of an antioxidant (NS-6, produced by Ouchi Shinko Chemical Industrial), in 1,200 parts of toluene.

(2) Preparation of Rubber-Base Flame Retardant Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Solution:

As the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive, a 50% solution of a rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive was prepared by dissolving 100 parts of a rubber elastomer composed of 70 parts of natural rubber adjusted to a plasticity of 35 and 30 parts of SBR, 150 parts of magnesium hydroxide, 50 parts of zinc stannate, 1 part of aminoalkylalkoxysilane,

70 parts of a tackifier resin (ESCOREZ 1304, produced by Exxon Chemicals), 10 parts of titanium oxide and 1 part of an antioxidant (NS-6), in 382 parts of toluene.

EXAMPLE 1

5 Preparation of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Tape with
Vulcanized Natural rubber-base Flame Retardant Cloth
Substrate:

On and into a tape substrate composed of a scoured inflammable acetate cloth having a warp of 75 denier in a
10 density of 180 yarns/inch and a weft of 150 denier in a
density of 53 yarns/inch, the rubber-base flame retardant solution prepared in the step (1) above was coated and impregnated by a reverse kiss coater to have a coated amount of 15.5 g/m² after drying, and then dried at 80°C
15 for 1 minute and thereafter, the tape was taken up.

A flame retarder composition was prepared by using the pressure-sensitive adhesive prepared in the step (2) above, wherein in the blending thereof, magnesium hydroxide was increased from 150 parts to 400 parts, zinc
20 stannate was increased from 50 parts to 175 parts,
aminoalkylalkoxysilane was increased from 1 part to 7 parts, and the tackifier resin (ESCOREZ 1304) was increased from 70 parts to 120 parts. A 50% toluene solution of the above flame retarder composition solution
25 was coated on the flame-retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate prepared above to have a coated amount of 150 g/m² after drying, and then dried.

Subsequently, a 50% flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2)
30 above was coated to have a coated amount of 50 g/m² after drying, and then dried to obtain a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a vulcanized rubber-base flame retardant cloth substrate.

This roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and then
35 subjected to measurements of thickness, tensile strength, elongation, peel adhesion, peel adhesion after heating, unwinding force, tack, holding power, coefficient of

electrolytic corrosion, and dielectric breakdown voltage, and also to a burning test and an odor test. The evaluation results were satisfied in all items of pressure-sensitive adhesive properties, electrical properties, flame retardancy and odor.

The results are shown in Table 1. As seen from these results, the peel adhesion and the tack are particularly good.

EXAMPLE 2

Preparation of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Tape with Vulcanized Natural rubber-base Flame Retardant Cloth Substrate:

On and into a tape substrate composed of the same inflammable acetate cloth as used in Example 1 which was, however, not scoured, the solution prepared in the step (1) above was coated and impregnated to have a coated amount of 18.5 g/m² after drying and then dried to prepare a flame retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate.

Subsequently, a flame retarder composition was prepared by using the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive prepared in the step (2) above, in which in the blending thereof, magnesium hydroxide was changed to 400 parts, zinc stannate was changed to 200 parts, aminosilane was changed to 7 parts and the tackifier resin (ESCOREZ 1304) was changed to 120 parts. A 50% toluene solution of the above flame retarder composition was coated on the flame retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate prepared above to have a coated amount of 150 g/m² after drying.

Thereon, the 50% rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2) above was coated to have a coated amount of 50 g/m² after drying and then dried to obtain a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a vulcanized rubber-base flame retardant cloth substrate, an additional flame retardant composition layer and a flame retardant

pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

This tape roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and evaluated on the same items as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 1. As seen from these results, even when a non-scoured acetate cloth was used, good results were obtained in the coefficient of electrolytic corrosion and the like.

EXAMPLE 3

On and into the same non-scoured inflammable acetate cloth tape substrate as used in Example 2, the solution prepared in the step (1) above was coated and impregnated to have a coated amount of 15.5 g/m² after drying and then dried to prepare a flame retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate.

Subsequently, a flame retarder composition was prepared by using the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive as prepared in the (2) above, in which in the blending thereof, however, magnesium hydroxide was changed to 400 parts, zinc stannate was changed to 200 parts, aminoalkylalkoxysilane was changed to 7 parts and the tackifier resin (ESCOREZ 1304) was changed to 120 parts. A 50% toluene solution of the above flame retarder composition was coated on the flame retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate to have a coated amount of 150 g/m² after drying.

Thereon, the 50% rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2) above was coated to have a coated amount of 50 g/m² after drying and then dried to obtain a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a vulcanized rubber-base flame retardant cloth substrate, an additional flame retardant composition layer and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

This tape roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and evaluated on the same items as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 1. As seen from these results, even when a non-scoured acetate cloth was used, good results

were obtained in the coefficient of electrolytic corrosion.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

On a tape substrate composed of the same acetate cloth as used in Example 1, the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2) above was directly coated by a roll coater to have a coated amount of 200 g/m² after drying and then dried at 80°C for 2 minutes to obtain a 30 m-roll product. This roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and evaluated on the same items as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 1. As seen from these results, the evaluation in the UL510FR burning test was rejection and this is presumed ascribable to the fact that the inflammable cloth was exposed.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2

On and into the tape substrate composed of an inflammable acetate cloth of Example 1, a rubber-base flame retardant solution obtained by excluding 5 parts of aminoalkylalkoxysilane from the blending of the rubber-base composition prepared in the step (1) was coated and impregnated to have a coated amount of 15.5 g/m² after drying and then dried, and the tape substrate was taken up.

On this flame retardation-treated acetate cloth tape substrate, a rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution obtained by excluding 1 part of aminoalkylalkoxysilane from the blending of the rubber-base flame retardant pressure sensitive adhesive prepared in the step (2) was coated by a roll coater to have a coated amount of 200 g/m² after drying and then dried at 80°C for 2 minutes to obtain a 30 m-roll product.

This roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and evaluated on the same items as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 1. As seen from these results, the holding power was poor and this reveals the vulcanization effect

by aminoalkylalkoxysilane.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3

On a tape substrate composed of the same acetate
cloth as in Example 1, a flame retardant layer comprising
5 chloroprene rubber/antimony trioxide was coated by a
gravure coater to have a coated amount of 92 g/m² after
drying and then dried.

Thereon, a pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising
natural rubber vulcanized with phenol resin, a tackifier
10 resin and calcium carbonate was coated by a roll coater
to have a coated amount of 58 g/m² after drying and dried
and the tape was taken up.

This tape was evaluated on the same items as in
Example 1. The results are shown in Table 1. As seen
15 from these results, despite excellent flame retardancy,
the odor was severely offensive and this reveals it
disadvantageous to use a halogen-base flame retarder.

TABLE 1

Items	Examples			Comparative Examples		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Tape stiffness (g/cm) ¹⁾	22.9	23.5	22.4	21.8	22.5	22.5
Amount impregnated into cloth substrate (g/m ²)	15.5	18.5	15.5	0	15.5	0
Amount of pressure-sensitive adhesive coated (g/m ²)	200	200	200	200	200	147
Thickness (mm)	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.24	0.26
Tensile strength (Kg/12 mm) ²⁾	7.9	8.3	8.1	7.4	7.9	7.9
Elongation (%) ³⁾	25.1	23.8	24.3	26.3	24.5	24.2
Peel adhesion (N/12 mm) ⁴⁾	6.0	6.1	5.2	5.8	7.4	3.1
Peel adhesion after heating (N/12 mm) ⁵⁾	13.8	16.1	12.1	13.2	10.2	8.8
Unwinding force (N/12 mm) ⁶⁾	2.4	2.4	2.8	3.4	3.6	6.8
Tack ⁷⁾	8	8	11	7	7	15
Holding power (slippage: mm) ⁸⁾	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.7	dropped in 3 min	1.3
Coefficient of electrolytic corrosion ⁹⁾	1.0	0.92	0.98	0.43	0.90	0.85
Dielectric breakdown voltage (KV) ¹⁰⁾	3.0	3.2	3.5	2.4	2.1	2.0
UL510FR burning test (longest time)	34 sec	43 sec	27 sec	1 min and 5 sec	52 sec	10 sec
Judgement ¹¹⁾	passed	passed	passed	Rejected	passed	passed
Odor ¹²⁾	160	170	170	165	179	750
Oxygen Index ¹³⁾	22.8	23.2	24.2	21.8	24.0	28.2

Test Method

1) Stiffness:

5 Measured using stiffness tester (36 mm (width)·15° (angle)·10 g)

2) Tensile strength: JIS C-2107-1999

3) Elongation: JIS C-2107-1999

- 4) Peel adhesion: JIS C-2107-1999
5) Peel adhesion after heating:
JIS C-2107-1999 (120°C×2H)
6) Unwinding force: JIS Z-0237-2000
5 7) Tack: JIS Z-0237-2000 (angle: 10°)
8) Holding power:
JIS C-2107-1999(120°C × 30 min·12 mm × 25
mm·100 g)
9) Coefficient of electrolytic corrosion:
10 JIS C-2107-1999
10) Dielectric breakdown voltage: JIS C-2107-1999
11) UL510FR burning test:
In a firing test repeated 5 times, an
extinguishing time of 60 seconds or less per
15 once was passed.
12) Odor:
Measured using an odor sensor (for general,
manufactured by Shin Cosmos Denki)
13) Oxygen index: JIS K-7201-1972
20 As described in the foregoing pates, the flame
retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with a cloth
substrate using a natural rubber vulcanized with
aminoalkylalkoxysilane and a metal hydroxide-base flame
retarder according to the constitution of the present
25 invention is advantageous, needless to say about
electrical insulating property and flexibility, in that
it does not yellow a metal adherend or an adherend such
as cloth and paper and at the incineration, does not emit
a halogen gas or a sulfurous acid gas.
30 EXAMPLE 4
Preparation of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Tape with
Vulcanized Natural rubber-base Flame Retardant Cloth
Substrate:
On and into a tape substrate composed of a scoured
35 inflammable acetate cloth having a warp of 75 denier in a
density of 180 yarns/inch and a weft of 150 denier in a

density of 53 yarns/inch, the rubber-base flame retardant solution prepared in the step (1) above was coated and impregnated by a reverse kiss coater to have a coated amount of 15.5 g/m² after drying, and then dried at 80°C for 1 minute and thereafter, the tape substrate was taken up.

On this tape substrate composed of the flame retardation-treated acetate cloth, the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2) above was coated by a roll coater to have coated amount of 200 g/m² after drying and then dried at 80°C for 2 minutes to obtain a 30 m-roll product. This roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and then subjected to measurements of thickness, tensile strength, elongation, peel adhesion, peel adhesion after heating, unwinding force, tack, holding power, coefficient of electrolytic corrosion, and dielectric breakdown voltage, and also to a burning test and an odor test. The evaluation results were satisfied in all items of pressure-sensitive adhesive properties, electrical properties, flame retardancy and odor.

EXAMPLE 5

Preparation of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Tape with Vulcanized Natural rubber-base Flame Retardant Cloth Substrate:

On and into a tape substrate composed of the same inflammable acetate cloth as used in Example 4 which was, however, not scoured, the solution prepared in the step (1) above was coated and impregnated to have a coated amount of 18.5 g/m² after drying and then dried to prepare a tape substrate composed of flame retardation-treated acetate cloth. Subsequently, the rubber-base flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive solution prepared in the step (2) above was coated by a roll coater to have a coated amount of 200 g/m² after drying and then dried at 80°C for 2 minutes to obtain a 30 m-roll product. This roll was cut to a width of 12 mm and

evaluated on the same items as in Example 1. Also when a non-scoured acetate cloth was used, good results were obtained in the coefficient of electrolytic corrosion and the like.

CLAIMS

1. A flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, comprising a cloth substrate and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on at least one main surface of said substrate, said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane as a vulcanizing agent, a tackifier resin and an inorganic flame retarder, said natural rubber elastomer being vulcanized with said aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said tape satisfying the flame retardant level established by UL510FR.

2. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape further comprises a flame retardant composition layer on a substrate side of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, said flame retardant composition layer comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane as a vulcanizing agent, and an inorganic flame retarder, said natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized with said aminoalkylalkoxysilane, the content of said flame retarder in said flame retardant composition layer being greater than the content of said flame retarder in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

3. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said cloth substrate is impregnated with said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or said flame retardant composition layer, by which said substrate is buried in said impregnated flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer or said flame retardant composition layer.

4. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said substrate has a second surface on a side opposite to said

flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and said second surface of said substrate is coated with another flame retardant composition layer.

5 5. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said flame retarder comprises a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid.

10 6. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said flame retardant composition layer further comprises a tackifier resin and a weight ratio of said tackifier resin to said natural rubber-base elastomer in said flame retardant composition layer is greater than that of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

15 7. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said substrate is an inflammable cloth.

20 8. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein in each of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition layer, said aminoalkylalkoxysilane is contained in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer.

25 9. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein in each of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and/or said flame retardant composition, said inorganic flame retarder is from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer.

30 10. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
35 comprises a tackifier resin in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said natural rubber-base elastomer in said pressure-sensitive adhesive

layer, and said flame retardant composition layer comprises a tackifier resin in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said natural rubber-base elastomer in said flame retardant composition layer, the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant composition layer being larger than the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

11. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 10, wherein said flame retardant composition layer is formed by two or more flame retardant composition layers, and the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant composition layer in contact with said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is larger than the blending ratio of the tackifier resin to the elastomer contained in said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

12. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said flame retarder comprises aluminum hydroxide and/or magnesium hydroxide.

13. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein said flame retarder comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin oxide, zinc metastannate, zinc hydroxystannate and zinc borate.

14. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said aminoalkylalkoxysilane is selected from the group consisting of N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropylmethyldiethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N- β (aminoethyl) γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane, γ -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane

and γ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane.

15 15. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein
said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
and/or said flame retardant composition further comprise
at least one component selected from the group consisting
of an inorganic filler, an ultraviolet absorbent, an
antioxidant and an oil.

10 16. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the
amount of said flame retardant composition layer is from
3 to 250 g/m².

15 17. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the
amount of said flame retardant pressure-sensitive
adhesive layer is from 20 to 600 g/m².

20 18. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein
said inflammable cloth is a single fabric or a union
fabric woven from a single yarn or a blended yarn
comprising a fiber selected from the group consisting of
staple fiber, cotton, polyester, polyethylene,
polypropylene and acrylic fiber, and having a size of 38
to 300 denier and the density of the fabric is from 25 to
25 450 yarns per inch in both the warp and the weft.

30 19. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein
said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
and/or said flame retardant composition layer contain
essentially no sulfur and halogen.

35 20. A flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive
tape, comprising a cloth substrate having on at least one
main surface thereof a flame retardant composition layer
and a flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
in this order; said cloth substrate being impregnated and
coated with said flame retardant composition layer; said
flame retardant composition layer comprising a natural

rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a tackifier resin and a flame retarder composed of a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, said
5 natural rubber-base elastomer being vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said aminoalkylalkoxysilane being blended in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer; said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
10 comprising a natural rubber-base elastomer composed of at least 50% by weight of natural rubber component, aminoalkylalkoxysilane, a tackifier resin and a flame retarder composed of a metal hydroxide and an inorganic flame retardant aid, said natural rubber-base elastomer
15 being vulcanized with aminoalkylalkoxysilane, said aminoalkylalkoxysilane being blended in a ratio of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base elastomer; and said tape satisfying the flame retardant level established by UL510FR.

20 21. The flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape as claimed in claim 20, wherein in each of said flame retardant composition layer and/or said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, the ratio of said inorganic flame retardant aid blended with said
25 metal hydroxide is from 10 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the metal hydroxide and the total amount of said metal hydroxide and said inorganic flame retardant aid is from more than 150 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the natural rubber-base
30 elastomer in said layer or composition, said flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape containing essentially no sulfur, antimony, lead, arsenic, phosphorus and halogen.

35 22. Use of the flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive tape claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 for television parts or a deflection yoke coil.