Claims:

1. An encapsulated perfume composition comprising at least one negatively-charged aminoplast core-shell microcapsule dispersed in an aqueous dispersing medium, wherein the shell of said core-shell microcapsule has embedded in it a cationic polyampholyte.

2. An encapsulated perfume composition according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polyampholyte comprises 2 to 99 mol %, more particularly 30 to 95 mol %, and more particularly still 60 to 90 mol %, of a cationic or cation-forming functional group; and 1 to 98 mol %, more particularly 5 to 70 mol %, and still more particularly 10 to 40 mol %, of an anion-forming functional group; and 0 to 50 mol %, and more particularly 0.1 to 5 mol %, of a non-ionic functional group.

3. An encapsulated perfume composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the cationic polyampholyte is a copolymer of from 2 to 99 mol %, more particularly 30 to 95 mol %, and more particularly still 60 to 90 mol %, of dimethyldiallyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC); and 1 to 98 mol %, more particularly 5 to 70 mol %, and still more particularly 10 to 40 mol %, of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid; and 0 to 50 mol %, more particularly 0.1 to 5 mol %, of acrylamide.

4. An encapsulated perfume composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the cationic polyampholyte is a copolymer of 2 to 99 mol %, more particularly 30 to 95 mol %, and more particularly still 60 to 90 mol %, of methacrylamidopropyl-trimethylammonium chloride (MAPTAC); and 1 to 98 mol %, more particularly 5 to 70 mol %, and still more particularly 10 to 40 mol %, of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid; and 0 to 50 mol %, more particularly 0.1 to 5 mol %, of acrylamide.

5. A non-suspending liquid detergent composition comprising an anionic surfactant and an encapsulated perfume composition as defined in any of the claims 1 through 4.

6. A detergent composition according to claim 5, containing less than 20 wt%, more particularly less than 10 wt%, and more particularly still less than 5 wt%, of water, enclosed within a water soluble or water-dispersible pouch.

7. A detergent composition according to any of the claims 5 or 6, having a pH of 10 or lower.

8. The use of a cationic polyampholyte to aid the dispersion of an encapsulated perfume composition comprising at least one negatively-charged aminoplast core-shell microcapsule according to claims 1 through 4, into a detergent composition defined in any of claims 5 through 7.

9. A method of forming an encapsulated perfume composition comprising at least one negatively-charged aminoplast core-shell microcapsule dispersed in a dispersing medium as defined in any of claims 1 through 4, said method comprising the steps of:

   I) encapsulating at least one perfume-containing droplet in a shell comprising a cross-linked aminoplast resin to form a slurry comprising a dispersion of at least one negatively-charged aminoplast core-shell microcapsule; and

   II) adding to the slurry, simultaneously or sequentially, a cationic polyampholyte, an amino-aldehyde pre-condensate, and a cross-linker, under conditions whereby the pre-condensate and cross-linker react to form a matrix cross-linked aminoplast resin around the core-shell microcapsule, in which matrix the cationic polyampholyte is embedded.

10. A method according to claim 9, comprising the steps of:

   I) mixing together, at a temperature of 35 °C and a pH of 4.5, a polymeric stabilizer, perfume-containing oil, amino-aldehyde pre-condensate (e.g. melamine-formaldehyde pre-condensate), and a cross-linker (e.g. diamine cross-linker), in water and under moderate shear;

   II) emulsifying the mixture to obtain a desired average droplet size range and droplet size distribution;

III) raising the temperature above 80 °C over a period of 3 h to form a cross-linked aminoplast resin shell around the droplets, thereby forming a slurry of core–shell microcapsules;

IV) at a pH of 4.5, adding sequentially or simultaneously the cationic polyampholyte, amino-aldehyde pre-condensate (e.g. melamine-formaldehyde pre-condensate) and a cross-linker (e.g. diamine cross-linker), and keeping the temperature above 80 °C over a period of 2 h, forming a matrix of cross-linked aminoplast resin around the core-shell microcapsules, in which matrix the cationic polyampholyte is embedded; and

V) cooling the resultant slurry.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein in step IV) the cationic polyampholyte is first added to the slurry, before the subsequent addition of amino-aldehyde pre-condensate and cross-linker.