

(51) International Patent Classification:
C08K 5/10 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2011/067584(22) International Filing Date:
28 December 2011 (28.12.2011)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/460,329 30 December 2010 (30.12.2010) US
61/460,330 30 December 2010 (30.12.2010) US
61/464,731 8 March 2011 (08.03.2011) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EMER-
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Falls, Ohio 44221 (US).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU,
TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,
DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,
LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,
SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: NEW DIBENZOATE PLASTICIZER/COALESCENT BLENDS FOR LOW VOC COATINGS

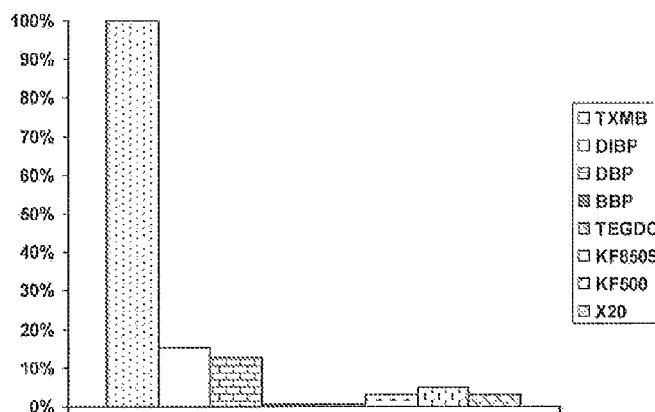


Figure 1. Coalescent Volatility (%)

(57) **Abstract:** A novel, low volatility, non-phthalate plasticizer/coalescent blend for use in paints and other polymeric coatings comprises a triblend of diethylene glycol dibenzoate, dipropylene glycol dibenzoate, and 1,2-propylene glycol dibenzoate. The triblend when used in a paint or other coatings achieves a low VOC paint or coating having stable viscosity after three freeze/thaw cycles and equivalent or superior wet edge/open time ratings, gloss ratings, scrub resistance and block resistance when compared to traditional coalescents, including without limitation high VOC coalescents, low VOC non-dibenzoate coalescents and other dibenzoate blends. The triblend may be used as a substitute or alternative coalescent in latex and acrylic emulsion coatings, among others, to achieve a lower VOC content without sacrificing performance properties.