

BIOBASED MATERIAL FOR CONSUMER GOODS PACKAGING**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

[001] This application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date of U.S. provisional application 63/058,563, filed July 30, 2020.

FIELD

[002] This disclosure relates to biodegradable polymeric compositions. More particularly, this disclosure relates to a polymeric composition for the packaging of consumer goods which are biodegradable and/or compostable and more specifically home compostable.

BACKGROUND

[003] Disposable materials are used in consumer goods consumption, storage, and packaging are commonly petroleum-based polymers such as polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), or polyethylene terephthalate (PET). While these polymers may provide good strength, barrier, and/or printability characteristics, such polymers do not readily degrade or decompose after disposal – either in landfills or by home composting techniques. Thus, films, bags, and other materials made from such polymers may subsist in landfills for centuries after disposal.

[004] It would be desirable to provide polymeric compositions suitable for consumer goods packaging which are biodegradable. In particular, it would be desirable to provide polymeric compositions for product packaging which are predominantly home compostable. Most preferably, the polymeric compositions would be completely home compostable.

[005] These polymers can be used in several applications currently used to produce product packaging, including but not limited to, injection molding, compression molding, thermoforming, cast and blown film formation, extrusion coating, extrusion blow molding, injection stretch blow molding, and extrusion profiling.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[006] In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a biodegradable polymeric composition. In one embodiment, this polymeric composition includes at least (1) from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates); (2) from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of at least one biodegradable polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(butylene succinate), poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate), poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactic acid), cellulose esters (such as cellulose acetate) thermoplastic starch, and mixtures thereof; and (3) from about 0.1 weight percent to about 5 weight percent of a nucleating agent,.

[007] In certain embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably includes from about 35 weight percent to about 90 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates). More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 40 weight percent to about 70 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates)

[008] In some embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably includes from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent poly(butylene succinate). More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent poly(butylene succinate).

[009] According to some embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably includes from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate). More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate).

[010] In some instances, the polymeric composition preferably includes from about 10 weight percent to about 70 weight percent poly(lactic acid). More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 20 weight percent to about 60 weight percent poly(lactic acid).

[011] In certain embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably includes from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent cellulose esters, such as cellulose acetate. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent cellulose esters.

[012] In some embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) in the composition are preferably made up of a mixture of a first copolymer and a second copolymer. The first copolymer includes from about 90 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 10 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms. The second copolymer includes at least 70 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and monomer residues of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms in amount which is at least 6 mole percent less than the amount of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate in the first polymer.

[013] According to certain embodiments, the nucleating agent is preferably selected from the group consisting of erythritols, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritols, artificial sweeteners, stearates, polysaccharides, sorbitols, mannitols, inositols, polyester waxes, nanoclays, behenamide, erucamide, stearamide, oleamide, polyhydroxybutyrate, thymine, cyanuric acid, cytosine, adenine, uracil, guanine, boron nitride and mixtures thereof.

[014] In some embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably also includes up to about 15 weight percent of a plasticizer. This plasticizer may be selected from the group consisting of sebacates, citrates, fatty esters of adipic, succinic, and glucaric acids, lactates, alkyl diesters, citrates, alkyl methyl esters, dibenzoates, propylene carbonate, caprolactone diols having a number average molecular weight from 200-10,000 g/mol, poly(ethylene glycols) having a number average molecular weight of 400-10,000 g/mol, esters of vegetable oils, long chain alkyl acids, adipates, glycerol, isosorbide derivatives or mixtures thereof, polymeric plasticizers, poly(hydroxyalkanoates) copolymers comprising at least 18 mole percent monomer residues of hydroxyalkanoates other than hydroxybutyrate, and mixtures thereof. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the plasticizer.

[015] In certain instances, the polymeric composition preferably also includes up to about 50 weight percent of a filler. This filler may be selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, talc, nano clays, nanocellulose, hemp fibers, kaolin, carbon black, wollastonite, glass fibers, carbon fibers, graphite fibers, mica, silica, dolomite, barium sulfate, magnetite, halloysite, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, montmorillonite, feldspar,

asbestos, boron, steel, carbon nanotubes, cellulose fibers, flax, cotton, starch, polysaccharides, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, modified starches, chitins and chitosans, alginates, gluten, zein, casein, collagen, gelatin, polysaccharides, guar gum, xanthan gum, succinoglycan, natural rubbers; rosinic acid, lignins, natural fibers, jute, kenaf, hemp, ground nut shells, wood flour, and mixtures thereof., and mixtures thereof. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the filler.

[016] According to some embodiments, the polymeric composition preferably also includes up to about 20 weight percent of an impact modifier. This impact modifier may be selected from the group consisting of group consisting of acrylic-based resins and emulsions, isosorbide derivatives, natural rubbers, aliphatic polyesters, or mixtures thereof. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the impact modifier.

[017] According to some embodiments, further additives may also be included in the polymeric composition. In some instances, the composition also includes up to 50 weight percent of one or more additives selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl laurate), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), poly(glycolic acid), furandicarboxylic acid-based polyesters, cellulose, nanocellulose, glucans, and mixtures thereof..

[018] In general, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) of the polymeric composition may be either homopolymers or copolymers, including terpolymers. Thus, in certain embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) are preferably a copolymer made up of from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms. In other embodiment, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) are preferably a terpolymer made up from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxyhexanoate, and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a third 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

[019] In certain embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer are preferably reacted with each other in a transesterification.

[020] In other embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer are preferably reacted with each other in a reactive extrusion process.

[021] Further, in certain embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) of the polymeric composition preferably have a weight average molecular weight from about 50,000 Daltons to about 7.5 million Daltons, and more preferably have a weight average molecular weight from about 300,000 Daltons to about 3.0 million Daltons.

[022] In a further aspect, the present disclosure also provides a product package for a consumer goods product, wherein the product package includes at least one biodegradable package portion which comprises the aforementioned polymeric composition.

[023] In certain embodiments, this at least biodegradable package portion is preferably formed a method selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding, thermoforming, cast and blown film formation, extrusion coating, extrusion blow molding, injection stretch blow molding, and extrusion profiling.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[025] In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a polymeric composition which is suitable for, among other things, packaging for consumer goods.

[026] Preferably, the polymeric composition is biodegradable and/or compostable. More particularly the polymeric composition is both biodegradable and compostable.

[027] As used herein, the term “biodegradable” refers to a plastic or polymeric material that will undergo biodegradation by living organisms (microbes) in anaerobic and aerobic environments (as determined by ASTM D5511), in soil environments (as determined by ASTM 5988), in freshwater environments (as determined by ASTM D5271 (EN 29408)), or in marine environments (as determined by ASTM D6691). The biodegradability of biodegradable plastics can also be determined using ASTM D6868 and European EN 13432.

[028] The polymeric composition of the present disclosure is preferably also “compostable”, as determined by ASTM D6400 for industrial or home compostability.

[029] In particular, the biodegradable polymeric composition includes poly(hydroxyalkanoates) as a first biodegradable polymer. The composition is generally made up of from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates). More preferably, the composition is made up of from about 35 weight percent to about 90 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates). Still more preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 40 weight percent to about 70 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates)

[030] In some instances, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) in the composition are preferably made up of a mixture of a first copolymer and a second copolymer. The first copolymer includes from about 90 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 10 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms. The second copolymer includes at least 70 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and monomer residues of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms in amount which at least 6 mole percent less than the amount of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate in the first polymer.

It has surprisingly been found that, when the difference in the mole percentages of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate in the first copolymer and the second copolymer is at least 6 mole percent, then the first and second copolymers are no longer miscible with one another, but instead separate into different phases within the composition. This may be used advantageously to alter the properties of the final composition.

[031] In such instances, the inclusion of a relatively small amount of the second PHA copolymer improves the impact properties or toughness of the composition, providing articles with improved performance.

[032] The polymeric composition also includes a second biodegradable polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(butylene succinate), poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate), poly(lactic acid), cellulose esters (such as cellulose acetate), thermoplastic starch, and mixtures thereof. The amount of this second biodegradable polymer is typically from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the total composition.

[033] In some embodiments, the second biodegradable polymer may include poly(butylene succinate) in an amount from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the polymeric composition. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent poly(butylene succinate).

[034] According to some embodiments, the second biodegradable polymer may include poly(butylene succinate)-co-butylene adipate in an amount from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the polymeric composition. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent poly(butylene succinate)-co-butylene adipate.

[035] In some instances, the second biodegradable polymer may include poly(lactic acid) in an amount from about 10 weight percent to about 70 weight percent of the polymeric composition. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 20 weight percent to about 60 weight percent poly(lactic acid).

[036] In certain embodiments, the second biodegradable polymer may include cellulose acetate or another cellulose ester in an amount from about 5 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the polymeric composition. More preferably, the polymeric composition

includes from about 10 weight percent to about 30 weight percent cellulose acetate or another cellulose ester.

[037] In each of the various compositions discussed above, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer may be a homopolymer, made up only a single type of monomer residues. Generally, however, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is a copolymer, made up of at least two different type of monomer residues. In some instances, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer may be a terpolymer, made up of at least three different type of monomer residues.

[038] For instance, in some embodiments, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is preferably a copolymer made up of from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

[039] In other embodiments, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is preferably a terpolymer made up from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxyhexanoate, and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a third 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

[040] In general, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer has a weight average molecular weight from about 50,000 Daltons to about 7.5 million Daltons, and more preferably has a weight average molecular weight from about 300,000 Daltons to about 3.0 million Daltons.

[041] In certain embodiments, the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer are preferably reacted with each other in a transesterification. In such instances, a small amount of a catalyst (such as tin ethylhexanoate) may optionally be incorporated into the composition so as to facilitate the transesterification reaction. Transesterification of the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer leads to for example, branched structures that provide for better processability with less energy consumption. Transesterification can also provide for improved physical properties, as the transesterified polymers can act as interfacial agents and improve the

compatibility of other polymer molecules in the composition that may not have completely reacted.

[042] Most commonly, the aforementioned transesterification reaction is carried out by reacting the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer with each other in a reactive extrusion process.

[043] A nucleating agent is also typically present in the polymeric composition in an amount from about 0.1 weight percent to about 5 weight percent. In certain embodiments, the core layer nucleating agent is preferably selected from the group consisting of erythritols, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritols, artificial sweeteners, stearates, polysaccharides, sorbitols, mannitols, inositols, polyester waxes, nanoclays, behenamide, erucamide, stearamide, oleamide, polyhydroxybutyrate, thymine, cyanuric acid, cytosine, adenine, uracil, guanine, boron nitride and mixtures thereof.

[044] The polymeric composition may also include an optional plasticizer material as well. Suitable materials for the plasticizer are typically selected from the group consisting of sebacates, citrates, fatty esters of adipic, succinic, and glucaric acids, lactates, alkyl diesters, citrates, alkyl methyl esters, dibenzoates, propylene carbonate, caprolactone diols having a number average molecular weight from 200-10,000 g/mol, poly(ethylene glycols) having a number average molecular weight of 400-10,000 g/mol, esters of vegetable oils, long chain alkyl acids, adipates, glycerol, isosorbide derivatives or mixtures thereof, polymeric plasticizers, poly(hydroxyalkanoates) copolymers comprising at least 18 mole percent monomer residues of hydroxyalkanoates other than hydroxybutyrate, and mixtures thereof.

[045] The amount of plasticizer in polymeric composition may be up to about 15 weight percent. More preferably, the polymeric composition is made up of from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the plasticizer.

[046] Optionally, the polymeric composition may also include a filler material. Suitable materials for the filler are typically selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, talc, nano clays, nanocellulose, hemp fibers, kaolin, carbon black, wollastonite, glass fibers, carbon fibers, graphite fibers, mica, silica, dolomite, barium sulfate, magnetite,

halloysite, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, montmorillonite, feldspar, asbestos, boron, steel, carbon nanotubes, cellulose fibers, flax, cotton, starch, polysaccharides, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, modified starches, chitins and chitosans, alginates, gluten, zein, casein, collagen, gelatin, polysaccharides, guar gum, xanthan gum, succinoglycan, natural rubbers; rosinic acid, lignins, natural fibers, jute, kenaf, hemp, ground nut shells, wood flour, and mixtures thereof, and mixtures thereof.

[047] The amount of filler in the polymeric composition may be up to about 50 weight percent. More preferably, the core layer polymeric composition is made up of from about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the filler.

[048] Further, the polymeric composition may also include up to 20 weight percent of an impact modifier. More preferably, the polymeric composition includes from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the impact modifier. Suitable impact modifiers for the polymeric compositions are preferably selected from the group consisting of acrylic-based resins and emulsions, isosorbide derivatives, natural rubbers, aliphatic polyesters, or mixtures thereof.

[049] Moreover, in some instances, the polymeric composition may include up to 50 weight percent of one or more additives selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl laurate), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), poly(glycolic acid), furandicarboxylic acid-based polyesters, cellulose, nanocellulose, glucans, and mixtures thereof..

[050] In each of the various polymeric compositions discussed above, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer may be a homopolymer, made up only a single type of monomer residues. Generally, however, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is a copolymer, made up of at least two different type of monomer residues. In some instances, the polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer may be a terpolymer, made up of at least three different type of monomer residues.

[051] For instance, in some embodiments, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is preferably a copolymer made up of from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer

residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

[052] In other embodiments, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer is preferably a terpolymer made up from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxyhexanoate, and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a third 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

[053] In general, the at least one polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer has a weight average molecular weight from about 50,000 Daltons to about 7.5 million Daltons, and more preferably has a weight average molecular weight from about 300,000 Daltons to about 3.0 million Daltons.

[054] In a further aspect, the present disclosure also provides a product package for a consumer goods product, which makes use of the aforementioned polymeric composition. Specifically, the product package includes at least one biodegradable package portion which comprises the aforementioned polymeric composition. the product package may be used for the packaging of clothing, household goods, foods, and health and beauty products.

[055] In certain embodiments, this biodegradable package portion may be formed by a method selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding, thermoforming, cast and blown film formation, extrusion coating, extrusion blow molding, injection stretch blow molding, and extrusion profiling.

[056] The foregoing description of preferred embodiments for this invention have been presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Obvious modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiments are chosen and described in an effort to provide the best illustrations of the principles of the invention and its practical application, and to thereby enable one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. All such modifications and variations are within the scope of

the invention as determined by the appended claims when interpreted in accordance with the breadth to which they are fairly, legally, and equitably entitled.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

Claim 1. A biodegradable polymeric composition comprising: (1) from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates); (2) from about 5 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of at least one biodegradable polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(butylene succinate), poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate), poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactic acid), cellulose esters, thermoplastic starch, and mixtures thereof; and (3) from about 0.1 weight percent to about 5 weight percent of a nucleating agent.

Claim 2. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 35 weight percent to about 90 weight percent poly(hydroxyalkanoates).

Claim 3. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 30 weight percent to about 90 weight percent poly(butylene succinate).

Claim 4. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 30 weight percent to about 90 weight percent poly(butylene succinate-co-adipate).

Claim 5. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 10 weight percent to about 70 weight percent poly(lactic acid).

Claim 6. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 30 weight percent to about 90 weight percent cellulose esters.

Claim 7. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the nucleating agent is selected from the group consisting of erythritols, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritols, artificial sweeteners, stearates, polysaccharides, sorbitols, mannitols, inositols, polyester waxes, nanoclays, behenamide, erucamide, stearamide, oleamide, poly(hydroxybutyrate), thymine, cyanuric acid, cytosine, adenine, uracil, guanine, boron nitride and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises up to about 15 weight percent of a plasticizer selected from the group consisting of sebacates, citrates, fatty esters of adipic, succinic, and glucaric acids, lactates, alkyl diesters, citrates, alkyl methyl esters, dibenzoates, propylene carbonate, caprolactone diols having a number average molecular weight from 200-10,000 g/mol, poly(ethylene glycols) having a number average molecular weight of 400-10,000 g/mol, esters of vegetable oils, long chain alkyl acids, adipates, glycerol, isosorbide derivatives or mixtures thereof, polymeric plasticizers,

poly(hydroxyalkanoates) copolymers comprising at least 18 mole percent monomer residues of hydroxyalkanoates other than hydroxybutyrate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. The polymeric composition of Claim 8, wherein the composition comprises from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the plasticizer.

Claim 10. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises up to about 50 weight percent of a filler selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, talc, nano clays, nanocellulose, hemp fibers, kaolin, carbon black, wollastonite, glass fibers, carbon fibers, graphite fibers, mica, silica, dolomite, barium sulfate, magnetite, halloysite, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, montmorillonite, feldspar, asbestos, boron, steel, carbon nanotubes, cellulose fibers, flax, cotton, starch, polysaccharides, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, modified starches, chitins and chitosans, alginates, gluten, zein, casein, collagen, gelatin, polysaccharides, guar gum, xanthan gum, succinoglycan, natural rubbers; rosinic acid, lignins, natural fibers, jute, kenaf, hemp, ground nut shells, wood flour, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. The polymeric composition of Claim 10, wherein the composition comprises from about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the filler.

Claim 12. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises up to about 20 weight percent of an impact modifier selected from the group consisting of group consisting of acrylic-based resins and emulsions, isosorbide derivatives, natural rubbers, aliphatic polyesters, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 13. The polymeric composition of Claim 12, wherein the composition comprises from about 5 weight percent to about 15 weight percent of the impact modifier.

Claim 14. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises up to 50 weight percent of one or more additives selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl laurate), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), poly(glycolic acid), furandicarboxylic acid-based polyesters, cellulose, nanocellulose, glucans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) comprise a copolymer made up of from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 16. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) comprise a terpolymer made up from about 75 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxyhexanoate, and from about 0.1 to about 25 mole percent monomer residues of a third 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 17. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) comprise a mixture of a first copolymer and a second copolymer,

wherein the first copolymer comprises from about 90 to about 99.9 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and from about 0.1 to about 10 mole percent monomer residues of a second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms and

wherein the second copolymer comprises at least 70 mole percent monomer residues of 3-hydroxybutyrate and monomer residues of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms in amount which is at least 6 mole percent less than the amount of the second 3-hydroxyalkanoate in the first polymer.

Claim 18. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) have a weight average molecular weight from about 50,000 Daltons to about 7.5 million Daltons, and more preferably has a weight average molecular weight from about 300,000 Daltons to about 3.0 million Daltons.

Claim 19. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer are transesterified with one another.

Claim 20. The polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and the at least one biodegradable polymer are reactively extrusion with one another.

Claim 21. A product package for a consumer goods product, wherein the product package comprises at least one biodegradable package portion which comprises the polymeric composition of Claim 1.

Claim 22. The product package of Claim 21, wherein the at least biodegradable package portion is formed by a method selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding, thermoforming, cast and blown film formation, extrusion coating, extrusion blow molding, injection stretch blow molding, and extrusion profiling.