Claims:

1. An ophthalmic product, comprising: a sealed and sterilized package which include a packaging solution and a soft hydrogel contact lens immersed in the packaging solution, wherein the packaging solution includes a hydroxyl-containing viscosity-enhancing polymer in an amount sufficient to provide the packaging solution a viscosity of from about 1.5 centipoise to about 20 centipoise, a polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 2000 or less, an α-oxo-multi-acid or salt thereof in an amount sufficient to have a reduced susceptibility to oxidation degradation of the polyethylene glycol in the packaging solution, and one or more buffering agents in an amount sufficient to provide the solution a pH of from about 6.0 to 8.0, and wherein the packaging solution has an osmolality of from about 200 to about 450 mOsm/kg.

2. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, and malic acid.

3. The ophthalmic product of claim 2, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is citric acid.

4. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel contact lens comprises a polymer matrix, a first leachable polymeric lubricant, and a second leachable polymeric lubricant, wherein the second leachable polymeric lubricant is different from the first leachable polymeric lubricant in molecular weight or in the polymer composition.

5. The ophthalmic product of claim 4, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N-N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

6. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylalcohol, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, a poly(ethylene oxide) having a molecular weight greater than 2000 daltons, and a mixture thereof.

7. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 600 daltons or less.

8. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the packaging solution has a viscosity of from about 2.0 centipoise to about 8 centipoise at 25°C.

9. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the packaging solution contains at least one buffering agent selected from the group consisting of boric acid, phosphoric acid, TRIS (2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol), Bis-Tris (Bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-imino-tris-(hydroxymethyl)-methane), a bis-aminopolyol, triethanolamine, ACES (N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid), BES (N,N-Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid), HEPES (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid), MES (2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid), MOPS (3-[N-morpholino]-propanesulfonic acid), PIPES (piperazine-N,N'-bis(2-ethanesulfonic acid), TES (N-[Tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid), and salts thereof.

10. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the packaging solution contains an ophthalmically acceptable surfactant selected from the group consisting of a poloxamer, a poloamine, a polyethylene glycol ester of a fatty acid, a polyoxyethylene or polyoxypropylene ether of C_{12} -C_{18} alkanes, polyoxyethyene stearate, polyoxyethylene propylene glycol stearate, and a mixture thereof.

11. A process for making a soft contact lens, comprising the steps of:

a) curing a hydrogel lens-forming formulation in a mold to form a hydrogel contact lens, wherein the lens formulation comprises a first leachable polymeric lubricant and a second leachable polymeric lubricant, wherein the first and second leachable polymeric lubricants are incorporated noncovalently and distributed in the matrix of the contact lens, wherein the second leachable polymeric lubricant is different from the first leachable polymeric lubricant in molecular weight or in the polymer composition;

b) packaging the hydrogel contact lens in a container containing a packaging solution, wherein the packaging solution comprises a viscosity-enhancing polymer in an amount sufficient to provide the packaging solution a viscosity of from about 1.5 centipoise to about 20 centipoise at 25°C, and a polymeric surfactant having a molecular weight less than about 2,000 daltons; and

c) sterilizing the hydrogel contact lens in the package to obtain the soft contact lens.

12. The process of claim 11, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is a non-ionic hydrophilic polymer, wherein the polymeric surfactant is polyethylene glycol, wherein the packaging solution comprises an α-oxo-multi-acid or salt thereof in an amount sufficient to have a reduced susceptibility to oxidation degradation of the polyethylene glycol in the packaging solution.

13. The process of claim 12, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, and malic acid.

14. The process of claim 13, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is citric acid.

15. The process of claim 12, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylalcohol, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, a poly(ethylene oxide) having a molecular weight greater than 2000 daltons, and a mixture thereof.

16. The process of claim 12, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 600 daltons.

17. The process of claim 12, wherein the hydrogel lens-forming formulation comprises at least one actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer which are soluble in water, a water-organic solvent mixture or an organic solvent, or meltable at a temperature below about 85°C.

18. The process of claim 12, wherein the actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer is selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble crosslinkable poly(vinyl alcohol) prepolymer; a water-soluble vinyl group-terminated polyurethane prepolymer; derivatives of a polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of a polyethyleneimine, derivatives of a polyvinylamine; a water-soluble crosslinkable polyurea prepolymer; crosslinkable polyacrylamide; crosslinkable statistical copolymers of vinyl lactam, MMA and a comonomer; crosslinkable copolymers of vinyl lactam, vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol; polyether-polyester copolymers with crosslinkable side chains; branched polyalkylene glycol-urethane prepolymers; polyalkylene glycol-tetra(meth)acrylate prepolymers; and crosslinkable polyallylamine gluconolactone prepolymers, and mixtures thereof.

19. The process of claim 12, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable and non-charged hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N-N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

The invention claimed is:

1. An ophthalmic product, comprising: a sealed and sterilized package which includes a relative-viscous packaging solution having a viscosity of from about 2.0 centipoise to about 8 centipoise at 25° C. and a soft hydrogel contact lens immersed in the relative-viscous packaging solution, wherein the hydrogel contact lens comprises a polymer matrix, a first leachable polymeric lubricant, and a second leachable polymeric lubricant, wherein the second leachable polymeric lubricant has an average molecular weight being at least about 3 fold of the average molecular weight of the first leachable polymeric lubricant, wherein the relative-viscous packaging solution includes (1) from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of a hydroxyl-containing viscosity-enhancing polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, and a mixture thereof, (2) a polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 2000 or less, (3) an α-oxo-multi-acid or salt thereof in an amount sufficient to have a reduced susceptibility to oxidation degradation of the polyethylene glycol in the relative-viscous packaging solution, and (4) one or more buffering agents in an amount sufficient to provide the solution a pH of from about 6.0 to 8.0, and wherein the packaging solution has an osmolality of from about 200 to about 450 mOsm/kg, wherein the soft hydrogel contact lens is characterized by its capability of easing lens-wearer's initial discomfort and providing a wearer with a comfort for a prolonged time period of more than six hours.

2. The ophthalmic product of claim **1**, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, and malic acid.

3. The ophthalmic product of claim **2**, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is citric acid.

4. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

5. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

6. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 600 daltons or less.

7. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the packaging solution contains at least one buffering agent selected from the group consisting of boric acid, phosphoric acid, 2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol, Bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-imino-tris-(hydroxymethyl)-methane, a bis-aminopolyol, triethanolamine, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid, N,N-Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid, 2-(N-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid, 3-[N-morpholino]-propanesulfonic acid, piperazine-N,N'-bis(2-ethanesulfonic acid, N-[Tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid, and salts thereof.

8. The ophthalmic product of claim 1, wherein the packaging solution contains an ophthalmically acceptable surfactant selected from the group consisting of a poloxamer, a poloamine, a polyethylene glycol ester of a fatty acid, a polyoxyethylene or polyoxypropylene ether of C_{12} -C_{18} alkanes, polyoxyethyene stearate, polyoxyethylene propylene glycol stearate, and a mixture thereof.

9. The ophthalmic product of claim 2, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

10. The ophthalmic product of claim 2, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, and a mixture thereof.

11. The ophthalmic product of claim 10, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 600 daltons or less.

12. The ophthalmic product of claim 11, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

13. The ophthalmic product of claim 11, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

14. The ophthalmic product of claim 9, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 600 daltons or less.

15. The ophthalmic product of claim 14, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.