Claims

1. A process for preparing a HMA mass having a coating, wherein said coating has a tack-free property up to 50°C, said process comprising a step of applying a coating material present in liquid or molten form at least partially to the surface of the HMA mass present in solid form, wherein the coating material being applied is solidified and fixed within 60 seconds or less on the surface of the HMA mass to form the coating.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of applying the coating material, the surface temperature of the HMA mass is in the range of from -20°C to 40°C.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the coating material has a DSC melting point or a softening point (ASTM E 28) of more than 50 °C.

4. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the HMA mass is present in pelletized form.

5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the HMA mass comprises one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of polyesters, poly(meth)acrylates, polyolefins, polyurethanes, ethylene-based (co)polymers, polyvinyl acetate and copolymers thereof, copolymers of vinylmonomers and polyalkylene oxides, styrene block copolymers, and blends or mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of tackifying resins, plasticizers, waxes, antioxidants, stabilizers, adhesion promoters, fillers, pigments, dyes, oils, and fragrances.

6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the coating comprises one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of waxes or derivatives thereof, ethylene-based (co)polymers, polyolefins,

polyvinyl acetate and copolymers thereof, poly(meth)acrylates, polyesters, polyvinyl alcohols, polyurethanes, copolymers of vinyl monomers and polyalkylene oxides, and elastomeric block copolymers, and blends or mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of plasticizers, stabilizers and antioxidants.

7. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the coating has no negative impact on the properties of the HMA, upon melting the HMA mass having the coating.

8. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the coating material is applied by spray coating, curtain coating, immersion coating, or combinations thereof.

9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the immersion coating is conducted within a time period of 0.1 to 30 seconds.

10. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein prior to the step of applying the coating material, the process comprises one or more of the following steps:
- pelletizing the HMA mass,
- molding the HMA mass present as such or in pelletized form, with or without applying pressure,
- drying the HMA mass present as such or in pelletized and/or molded form by evaporating and/or heating,
- fixing the shape of the HMA mass present as such in pelletized and/or molded and/or dried form by applying pressure.

11. A HMA mass having a coating, wherein said coating has a tack-free property up to 50°C, obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

Claims

1. A process for preparing a hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive (HMPSA) having a coating, wherein said coating has a tack-free property up to 50°C, said process comprising a step of applying a coating material present in liquid or molten form at least partially to the surface of a block of HMPSA granules present in solid form, wherein the coating material being applied is solidified and fixed within 60 seconds or less on the surface of the block of HMPSA granules to form the coating, and wherein the coating comprises one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of waxes or derivatives thereof, ethylene-based (co)polymers, polyolefins, polyvinyl acetate and copolymers thereof, poly(meth)acrylates, polyesters, polyvinyl alcohols, polyurethanes, copolymers of vinyl monomers and polyalkylene oxides, and elastomeric block copolymers, and blends or mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of plasticizers, stabilizers and antioxidants.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of applying the coating material, the surface temperature of the block of HMPSA granules is in the range of from -20°C to 40°C.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the coating material has a DSC melting point or a softening point (ASTM E 28) of more than 50 °C.

4. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the HMPSA comprises one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of polyesters, poly(meth)acrylates, polyolefins, polyurethanes, ethylene-based(co)polymers, polyvinyl acetate and copolymers thereof, copolymers of vinylmonomers and polyalkylene oxides, styrene block copolymers, and blends or mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of tackifying resins, plasticizers, waxes, antioxidants, stabilizers, adhesion promoters, fillers, pigments, dyes, oils, and fragrances.

5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the coating has no negative impact on the properties of the HMPSA, upon melting the HMPSA having the coating.

6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the coating material is applied by spray coating, curtain coating, immersion coating, or combinations thereof.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the immersion coating is conducted within a time period of 0.1 to 30 seconds.

8. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein prior to the step of applying the coating material, the process comprises one or more of the following steps:
   - pelletizing a HMPSA mass,
   - molding the HMPSA mass present in pelletized form, with or without applying pressure,
   - drying the HMPSA mass present in pelletized and/or molded form by evaporating and/or heating,
   - fixing the shape of the HMPSA mass present in pelletized and/or molded and/or dried form by applying pressure.

9. A HMPSA having a coating, wherein said coating has a tack-free property up to 50°C, obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 8.