CLAIMS

1. An adhesive formulation comprising:
50 to 99% adhesive component;
0 to 3% crosslinker;
from 0.1 to 30% of at least one
agent selected from the group consisting of fillers, pigments, plasticizers, flame retardants, UV stabilizers, and combinations thereof;
from 0.1 to 40% tackifier;
0 to 3% antioxidant; and
0.1 to 4% expandable polymeric microspheres uniformly dispersed throughout the formulation;
wherein the microspheres have a size prior to expansion within a range of from 5 μm to 75 μm;
wherein the microspheres are expandable within a range of from 10 μm to 200 μm by heating the adhesive formulation; and
wherein the overall thickness of the adhesive formulation is from 50 μm to 300 μm.

2. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 wherein the microspheres include thermoplastic polymeric shells encapsulating gas filled hollow interior cores.

3. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 wherein the microspheres expand upon exposure to a temperature within a range of from 70° C to 220° C.

4. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 wherein the microspheres exhibit a nonrupture temperature within a range of from 120° C to 210° C.

5. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 wherein the microspheres are in an unexpanded state.

6. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 wherein the microspheres are in an expanded state.

7. The adhesive formulation of claim 1 comprising:
65 to 75% of the adhesive component;

25 to 35% of the tackifier;
0.1 to 1% of the crosslinker;
0.25 to 1% of the antioxidant; and
1.5 to 4% of the microspheres.

8. A layered adhesive assembly comprising:
a film; and
a layer of the adhesive formulation of any of Claims 1-7 disposed on the film.

9. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 8 wherein the layer of adhesive is a first layer,
the assembly further comprising a second layer of adhesive.

10. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 9 wherein the second layer of adhesive is
disposed on a face of the film opposite the face of the film upon which is dispersed the first layer of adhesive.

11. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 9 wherein the second layer of adhesive
includes 50 to 99% adhesive component, 0 to 3% crosslinker, 0 to 3% antioxidant, and 0.1 to 10% expandable microspheres dispersed throughout the formulation.

12. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 11 wherein the second layer of adhesive further
includes 0.1 to 40% tackifier.

13. A method of absorbing mechanical shocks to a component affixed to a substrate, the
method comprising:
providing a layer of adhesive including 50 to 99% adhesive component, 0 to 3% crosslinker, from 0.1 to 30% of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fillers, pigments, plasticizers, flame retardants, UV stabilizers, and combinations thereof, from 0.1 to 40% tackifier; 0 to 3% antioxidant,and 0.1 to 10% expandable microspheres dispersed throughout the formulation;
disposing the layer of the adhesive between the component and the substrate.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising: expanding the microspheres dispersed throughout the formulation.

15. The method of claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the layer of the adhesive contacts the component.

16. The method of any one of claims 13-15, wherein the layer of the adhesive contacts the substrate.

17. A layered adhesive assembly comprising:
a first and second skin layer of adhesive,
a core layer of adhesive, the adhesive including 50 to 99% adhesive component, 0 to 5% crosslinker, 0 to 3% antioxidant, and 0.1 to 10% expandable microspheres uniformly dispersed throughout the formulation;
wherein the microspheres have a size prior to expansion within a range of from 5 μm to 75 μm;
wherein the microspheres are expandable within a range of from 10 μm to 200 μm by heating the adhesive formulation; and
wherein the overall thickness of the adhesive formulation is from 50 μm to 300 μm.

18. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the core layer of adhesive further includes from 0.1 to 30% of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fillers, pigments, plasticizers, flame retardants, UV stabilizers, and combinations thereof.

19. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the core layer of adhesive further includes 0.1 to 40% tackifier.

20. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the microspheres include thermoplastic polymeric shells encapsulating gas filled hollow interior cores.

21. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the microspheres expand upon exposure to a temperature within a range of from 70° C to 220° C.

22. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the microspheres exhibit a nonrupture temperature within a range of from 120° C to 210° C.

23. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the microspheres are in an unexpanded state.

24. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the microspheres are in an expanded state.

25. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the adhesive formulation includes 65 to 75% of the adhesive component, 25 to 40% of the tackifier, 0.1 to 5% of the crosslinker, 0.25 to 3% of the antioxidant, and 1.5 to 5% of the microspheres.

26. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 25, wherein the first and second skin layers of adhesive are disposed on the first and second face of the core adhesive layer.

27. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the core adhesive layer comprises a rubber adhesive component.

28. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein each of the skin layers comprise a rubber adhesive component.

29. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the core adhesive layer is from 10-175 µm.

30. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein each skin layer is from 10-125 µm.

31. The layered adhesive assembly of claim 17, wherein the first and second skin layers are the same composition.