



Specification Sheet		
<b>Company:</b>	Sontex	
<b>Product:</b>	Polythene Film for Packaging	
<b>Dimensions:</b>	As per Order Detail	
Parameter	Nominal	Tolerance
Width:	As above	+ /-3mm
Thickness:	As above	+ /-3 $\mu$
Slip:	As Specified on Order	As per Order
Shrink:	N/A	
Treatment:		
Impact:	N/A	
Tensile:	N/A	
Colour / Opacity:	Natural	
Haze:	N/A	
Gloss:	N/A	
Feathering:	Flush	+/-3mm
Dishing:	Flush	+/-3mm
Conical:	0mm	+/-0.30%
Reel Diameter:	250mm	Nominal
Reel Weight:	kg	Nominal
Cores:	76.8mm (i.d.)	6.00mm Red Stripe
Palletisation:	1200mm x 1000mm Full perimeter base pallet with polythene base cover, securely banded and fully Stretchwrapped with a polythene top cover to protect from ingress of dust and moisture.	

<b>Issued By:</b>	P.A.McDermott	<b>Date:</b>	18/09/14
<b>Authorised By:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	18/09/14

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA SHEET

### 1. **PURPOSE**

This information is designed specifically to provide customers with knowledge about the Health & Safety issues that may become relevant during usage of the products supplied by FLEXFILM LTD.

### 2. **SCOPE**

The contents are a guide for the safe movement, handling, storage, further conversion and usage of polyethylene based films but do not seek to provide specific precautionary measures for individual applications.

### 3. **INTRINSIC RAW MATERIAL COMPOSITION**

Polyethylene is a hydrocarbon with an element structure containing hydrogen and carbon. Polyethylene is produced by the polymerisation of ethylene and is chemically inert, unreactive, easily melt processed, relatively flexible, highly insoluble with excellent electrical insulation properties.

### 4. **FILM CHARACTERISTICS**

Polyethylene films are very suitable for numerous packaging and industrial applications because they exhibit the following advantageous properties.

#### STRENGTH: -

A high degree of resistance to puncture and tearing with the ability to be stretched.

#### CLARITY: -

Has sufficient high optical properties to make viewing of packaged contents easy.

#### SLIP: -

A characteristic that can be varied for specific application needs.

#### SEALABILITY: -

Can be very easily heat-sealed to a strong weld.

#### FOOD CONTACT: -

Many Films have full legislative food contact approval.

### 5. **RECOMMENDED WORKING PRACTICES**

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STORAGE: -

Reels of film should be stored away from continual direct sunlight. Ideally the ambient temperature should be between 5 - 25°C.

HOUSE KEEPING: -

Factory working environment and rest areas should be kept clear of material, as the sometimes-slippery nature of film could be a potential problem.

6 **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

PHYSICAL CONTACT: -

Polyethylene film is not regarded as being a skin irritant and normally no specific precautions are necessary.

INHALATION: -

At ambient temperatures no dangerous or obnoxious fumes are released. See section on heat sealing, fire ignition and burning characteristics for further information.

INGESTION: -

This should be avoided at all times, the material is inert and can be considered harmless in its normal makeup, but there may be other components present that could be harmful if ingested.

HEAT SEALING: -

This is a regularly used operation and can be safely conducted, but adequate ventilation must always be provided. Polyethylene film melts at temperatures of between 108 and 128°C which is well below the 300°C at which decomposition occurs. Any gases that are evolved will be relatively harmless but should be removed from the working environment to prevent a potential source of irritation.

CHILD SAFETY: -

Risk of suffocation to young children must be avoided by keeping film or bags out of their reach.

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## FIRE IGNITION AND BURNING CHARACTERISTICS: -

If polyethylene film is heated above 300°C pyrolyses occurs oxidatively producing carbon monoxide and water with small amounts of various hydrocarbons, acids and aldehydes. These evolved gases could ignite and accelerate the combustion of any material in the vicinity. Carbonisation may also occur which can result in some of the carbon being released as soot.

In flaming conditions carbon dioxide is the main combustion element produced but where insufficient oxygen is present the smoke will contain appreciable amounts of carbon monoxide, acrolein and other aldehydes, this behaviour is not dissimilar to that of wood. Burning is often accompanied by the release of flaming molten film, which could ignite other flammable materials.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER USAGE: -

If a fire should occur involving polyethylene and it is in early stages a powder filled extinguisher is recommended, as it will extinguish flames very effectively but would lack the cooling capability necessary to deal efficiently with a deeply seated fire.

Conversely water extinguishers are best for their rapid cooling effect in damping down the deeply seated fire situation but they tend to spread the flames during early stages making containment difficult.

In particular circumstances it is inadvisable to use certain types of extinguisher for example water when fire is in close proximity to electrical installations.

It is strongly recommended that advice on fire fighting equipment and correct procedures be sought from local fire authorities.

The above information is offered as a general guide in a real fire situation, conditions that influence choices are numerous and often unpredictable.

## **7 FIRST AID RECOMMENDED TREATMENT**

### BURNS:

Any molten material adhering to the skin must be immediately cooled by using cold water. It must never be peeled away from the skin but medical help obtained.

### CONTACT WITH THE EYES

In the event any material enters the eyes, the eye should be flooded with copious amounts of water to flush out the foreign matter with immediate follow up by medical attention.

### INHALATION OF FUMES:

Any person suffering from inhalation must be moved immediately into fresh air. The patient should be kept warm and in a state of rest. If breathing difficulty is experienced or stops, apply artificial respiration with medical help summoned immediately.

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## FIRST AIDERS AND MEDICAL CONTACTS:

In house first aiders and regular medical contacts should be fully briefed about problems related to polythene and the nature of the material with a copy of the particulars which offers information on appropriate methods.

## 8 **DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIAL**

Commercially generated polyethylene film waste is classified as controlled waste and is subject to the 'Duty of Care' provisions stipulated in part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Additionally further requirements are as stipulated within the Packaging Waste Regulations Directive 94/62/EC.

Waste can be recycled, disposed of at licensed landfill sites, or incinerated in accordance with the provisions of the 1990 act. Further advice on disposal should be obtained from the local waste disposal authority.

## 9 **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

### SKIN PROBLEMS: -

Industrial Dermatitis - Precautionary Measures, Safety, Health and Welfare Series 18 (HMSO)

### FIRE PREVENTION: -

Prevention and control of fire in the Plastics Processing Industry – British Plastics Federation.

### SUBSTANCE USAGE: -

The control of substances hazardous to Health Regulations 1988 (COSHH) – HMSO.