NEW GELCOAT TECHNOLOGY





Through more than thirty years of activity in Argentina's composite industry, PLAQUIMET has always sought excellence in the quality of its line of unsaturated polyester resin, and has pusued the goal to achieve advances in technology and in the protection and finishing of products made of composite materials.

In line with the growing needs for advances in the field of the Composites market in Argentina, PLAQUIMET reports that it carried out a technology transfer agreement with a North American company specialized in Gelcoat manufacturing, obtaining from the application of this technology a superior type of Gelcoat registered as BRITEC.

This contract was awarded after a long search among European and American companies. The biggest challenge had to do with the fact that we were dealing with a product line which involved manufacturing culture and market training.

The aim of this megaproject will be to develop specific and innovative solutions, focusing on the fields of greater technological requirements, such as the boat building industry, civil constructions (swimming pools), transport, wind power, among others.

This technology contract seeks to guarantee the execution of the transfer in its entirety, in other words, the product is manufactured as it is, in the United States. To this purpose, PLAQUIMET carried out a large investment in industrial equipment, quality and technical assistance, as well as the establishment of a training center that will be available to the market.

These investments guarantee not only the guality of BRITEC, but also its durability after application, allowing to show the market the cost benefit ratio of this new technology and the importance of the finished pieces produced with composites. Gelcoat films are very thin. In the vast majority of applications they do not exceed 0.6 mm, so they leave very little room for errors. It is essential to work with high-quality products and technology, because the slightest failure can totally compromise the protection of the manufactured product. BRITEC, the new paradigm in Gelcoats, was created for this purpose. The cost impact of Gelcoat films accounts for between 3 and 8% of the final piece in composite materials. A low impact on the cost will offer 100% quality in the final product. Understanding that Gelcoat films allow for a low margin of error, a low impact on the average cost of the final piece and at the same time account for 100% of the quality and protection of the piece produced with composite materials, it is not worth the risk to work with low-quality or low-tech products. Taking these factors into account, PLAQUIMET sought to consolidate its BRITEC line, thus meeting a growing need in the composites market.





Tel.: (54 - 11) 4238 - 6000 / Fax: (54 - 11) 4238 - 4123 info@plaquimet.com / ventas@plaquimet.com

Why use **BRITEC**[®]?

1- We should always bear in mind that Gelcoat film represents only between 3% to 8% of the total cost of the piece. If the piece presents a quality failure due to Gelcoat problems or structural problems, it can cause the total loss / rejection of the very piece as it does not comply with the required standards. That is, it can be rejected and therefore loses everything invested in it.

2-BRITEC is delivered READY TO USE.

It is not necessary to add cobalt, acetone, styrene monomer, etc. When we need to add products to the gelcoat in order to to produce, we can be making a serious mistake as each user will make an adjustment and thus, each piece produced will have a different quality. Therefore we will not have uniformity in the product.

3- When using **BRITEC**, work can be done at different room temperatures. You will only have to change the catalyst percentage between 1% and 3%.

4- As it is a modern high-solid technology you don't need to apply a very thick film. This can account for between 15% and 25% of Gelcoat cost savings.

5- Having low viscosity helps to apply the product gently, which guarantees uniformity in the final cover. In case of using machines, it helps to reduce machinery wear and tear.

6- BRITEC prevents pore formation, which guarantees you a good structure and a better finished product.

7- BRITEC gives you a high-gloss finish and something very important is that it will maintain it over time.

8- BRITEC has a high Thixotropic Index which will prevent dripping even if there are negative angles or large vertical walls.





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