

Large Thermoformer Improves Material Distribution with HYTAC[®] XTL

In the summer of 2013, a major thermoforming company with operations in Latin America decided to perform testing on the newest thermoplastic syntactic, HYTAC[®] XTL. The tool designer and machine operators were already familiar with B1X and were using XTL for the first time. What follows is an excerpt from their report.

“The test took place on July 2013 with 679 micron (0.026”) PP material that was 62.5cm wide (24.6”). The objective of the test was to evaluate the performance of HYTAC[®] XTL plugs compared to HYTAC[®]B1X. Using 4 plugs, the material distribution was better with XTL, which will remain important for future plugs, and improved the appearance of the thermoformed product. Results using XTL plugs are very good and material distribution is more uniform than found in the other plugs.”

For this thermoformer, the proof was in the testing. By running two different plug materials simultaneously, they were able to measure the results as soon as the parts came off the line.

The benefits of syntactic foam for plug assist are well-known. With lower starting gauges and improved cycle times, processors are able to save on material while running more efficiently. Since HYTAC[®] XTL was introduced in late 2012, toolmakers and thermoformers have been steadily adopting the tough and smooth thermoplastic syntactic from CMT Materials.

What does your plug do for you?

REASON #1: IMPROVE MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

No one likes thin spots; everyone likes consistent and evenly distributed walls. Using the right plug material, geometry and processing techniques will ensure uniform wall thickness and a quality part.

