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MCC Develops New Grade of Thermoplastic Styrenic Elastomer "TEFABLOC™" QE Series Offers Higher Moldability, Improved Haptic Properties
— Adopted for Automotive Interior Components —

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (MCC; Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Hitoshi Ochi) today announced the development of a new grade of its thermoplastic styrenic elastomer "TEFABLOC™" QE series, that delivers significant improvements in moldability and haptic properties. The new material is being adopted for automotive interior components such as interior skins, grab handles.

The TEFABLOC™ QE series has won wide acceptance for compact grips and gaskets used for electric tools, automotive shift levers, and so on.

In recent years, automotive interior components have required ever-higher levels of design and enhanced haptic properties. To meet this demand, MCC developed this new grade of TEFABLOC™ that has a high level of moldability — allowing for superior design creativity even with complicated shapes and large-size molded products, an excellent dry feel, and haptic properties that compare favorably to leather and synthetic leather, by increasing fluidity by more than twice while maintaining flexibility and durability.

Thanks to its superior performance, the new grade is being newly adopted in large-size applications such as automotive interior skins and grab handles, which were difficult to produce using previously available materials. MCC expects to see even wider adoption in the future.

MCC continuously strives to offer a full lineup of thermoplastic elastomers to further accelerate the expansion of its performance polymers business.

*MCC used to sell thermoplastic styrenic elastomer under the brand name "RABALON™," but integrated that brand into the TEFABLOC™ lineup in April 2017.

For further information, please contact:
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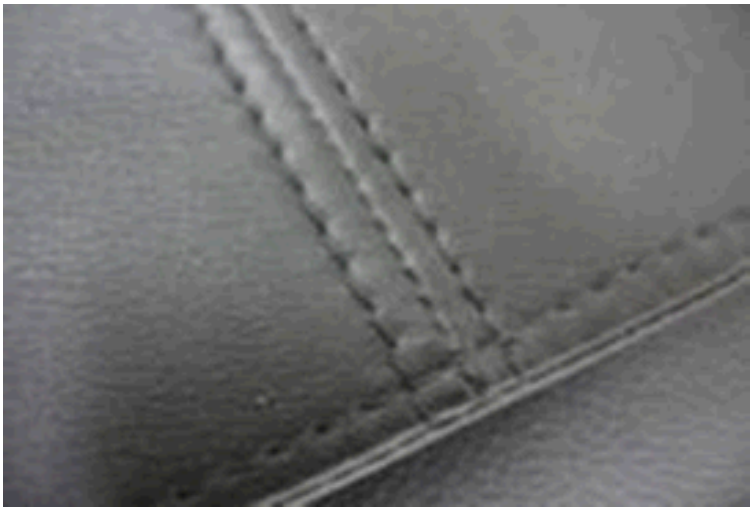
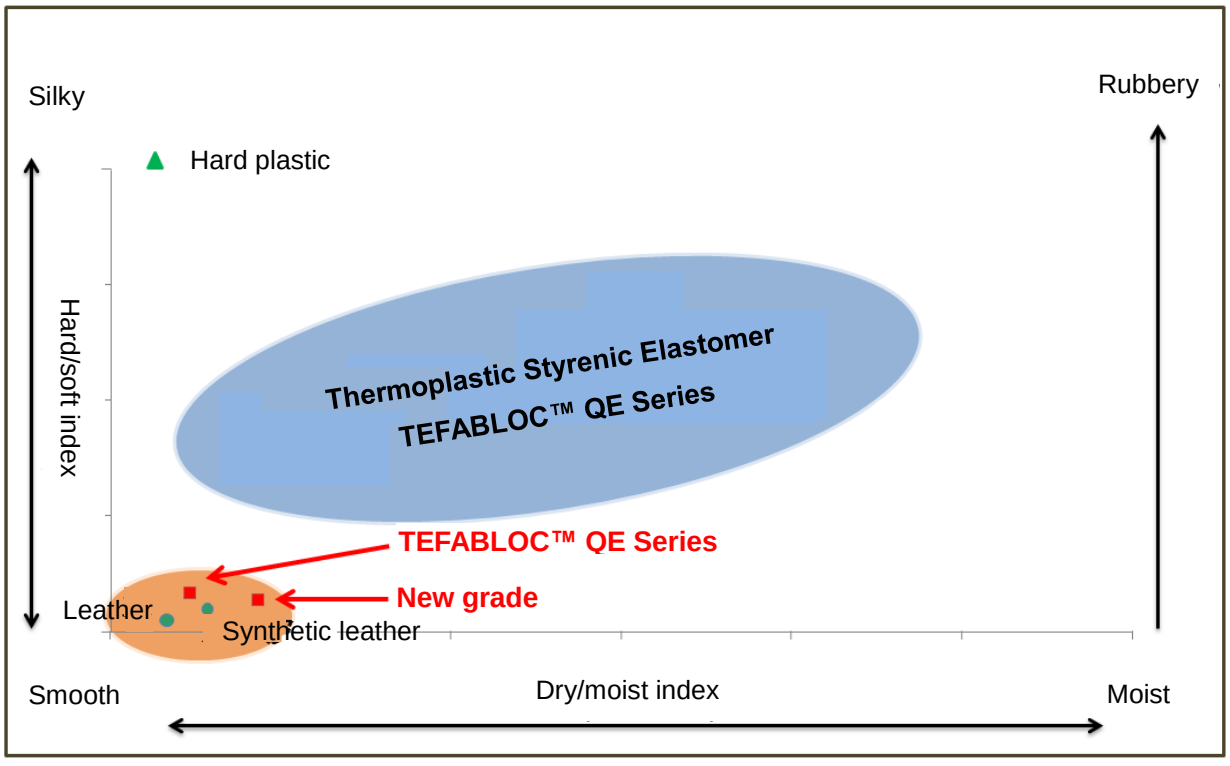
Reference

1) Example of Adoption



Enlarged photo of an automotive interior skin, using the new grade of TEFABLOC™
Improved moldability allows for reproduction of stitching patterns with a molding process, offering a more realistic appearance.

2) Comparison by Haptic Evaluation



MCC developed an elastomer that has a dry feel like leather and synthetic leather, by improving haptic properties.