UV Equipment and Design Factors Manufacturing Market

> DDU Enterprises, Inc. www.doctoruv.com

# **UV CURING**

- Process to cure coatings, inks, adhesives
- Polymerization and cross-linking is initiated by UV
- Coating is converted from a liquid to a solid in a fraction of a second
- Replaces solvent-based drying processes
- Every existing method of decorating, coating or bonding has been converted to UV Curing



**Converting - Siliconizing** Release liners, papers, film



**Converting - Narrow Web** Labels, flexible packaging, silicone release



Web Offset Printing Packaging, business forms, direct mail



**Converting - Coating** Flexible packaging, film



**Converting - Flooring** Vinyl sheets and tiles



**Pressure Sensitive Adhesives** Tapes and labels



Automotive Interior & exterior plastic, metal, and glass



**Plastic - Functional Coating, Non-Automotive** Construction materials, office furniture, and leisure craft



**Wide Web Printing** Flexible packaging, wrappers



**Sheetfed Offset Printing** Commercial & plastic sheet printing



CD/DVD "lacquering," printing, and bonding



Metal-Flat Sheet Deco Aerosol, food cans



Metal Pipe Coating Metal tubes



**Plastic Container Decoration** Cosmetic, toothpaste, food containers



Metal-2-Piece Cans Beverage containers-decoration and rim coating



Wood Coating - Profiles Molding, picture frames



Wood Coating - 3D Objects Case goods, chairs, furniture



**Fiber, Ribbon & Cable** Optical fiber, coloring, ribbon, wire marking



Wood Coating - Flat Sheet Particle board, sheets, doors



**Glass Coating** Bottles, tumblers, mirrors



**Consumer Products** Eyeglass lenses, pen bodies, tools, golf balls



Medical Devices Manufacturing and assembly



Flat Sheet Screen Printing & Decorating Posters, signs, vehicle advertising



**Electronics** Marking, encapsulation, conformal coating



Lab/Development Units Conveyors, static cure, process research lab equipment for coating evaluation

# Categories of UV Curing

#### LINEAR

Usually Flat Surfaces Typically Linear Travel Tubular Bulbs Most Common

#### FLOOD (AREA)

Flat or Complex Surfaces Lower Irradiance Levels None to Several Degrees of Motion Various Configurations of Lamps

#### SPOT

High Intensity, Small Areas Short Projection Field, or Liquid Light Guides



Two types of medium pressure mercury vapor UV lamp are commonly used in industry:

### Arc (Electrode) Lamp

Microwave (Electrodeless) Lamp

# Arc Lamp

## **ELECTRODE LAMP**



#### RADIANT OUTPUT STABILITY



# Microwave-Powered (Electrodeless) Lamp



### **ELECTRODELESS LAMP BULB**



#### RADIANT OUTPUT STABILITY



#### RADIANT OUTPUT STABILITY

#### Microwave Lamp Compared to Arc Lamp



## UV Curing Exposure Factors "Big 4"

Factors Affecting Cure

- Irradiance ("Intensity" of UV at a surface)
- Exposure Time (or speed)
- UV Spectral Output Distribution (wavelengths)
- Infrared Energy (Affects surface temperature)

#### LAMP DESIGN FACTORS AFFECTING IRRADIANCE

- Power Input (watts)
- Bulb Efficiency
- Bulb Diameter
- Reflector Shape
- Reflectivity

•Maintenance

(Surface Cleanliness)



#### A Tubular Lamp Has TWO Distinct Optical Patterns





# Why High Peak Irradiance UV?

Beer-Lambert Law the higher the intensity at the surface, the higher the intensity at any point within the coating

greater depth of penetration of UV
improved cure at the substrate / ink interface
better adhesion to the substrate
more uniform degree of cure throughout the film



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The spectral output of UV lamps can be expressed in 10-nanometer bands – this integrates the effects of line and continuous spectral emission. It makes calculation easy by reducing the UV lamp spectra to 25 data points.



### **UV Bulb Spectra & Optimal Processes**

**H-bulb** 

Clear lacquers, adhesives, silicone release coatings <u>D-bulb(90% of all Medical applications)</u>

Inks and pigmented systems, industrial bonding adhesives V-bulb

White / Black pigmented coatings, visible light curing

systems, gloss control

**Q-bulb** 

Systems using camphor-quinone photoinitiators

M-bulb

**Special bulb for coatings containing UV absorbers** 

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### **Optimize Spectral Output for Maximum**



### **Managing Heat**

Infrared radiation from the UV bulb has the greatest heating effect on the surface

Exotherm and cooling air temperature have less effect

### **IR Production and the Stefan-Boltzmann Law**



### **IR Production and the Stupid Novice Heat Law**







## **Dichroic Reflector**

Reflects UV Does Not Reflect Visible & IR (> 450nm)





In this example, significant reduction in peak temperature is accompanied by a slight reduction in speed. A METHOD FOR IMPROVING UV CURING PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF UV LAMPS:

THE PROCESS "WINDOW"

# Process "Window"

The range of a measurable production variable within which "cure" meets an acceptance requirement.

#### DEVELOPMENT WINDOW





 Using a cure ladder, determine the upper *and* lower limits of achievement of target properties 2. Find the upper and lower limits of all properties critical to success

3. Plot these limits on the energy diagram





4. Identify the limiting properties and evaluate how they are affected by changes in:
UV Wavelength, Irradiance, IR, or formulation.

Peak irradiance affects depth of cure and efficiency;Short wavelengths affect surface properties;Long wavelengths affect deeper and bulk properties

This method can be used to improve any UV curing process, but requires a set of versatile UV lab tools

# **Curing Through Plastics**



#### UV Transmission of Clear Polycarbonate



### UV ABSORPTION of COMPONENT MATERIALS

#### **Relative Absorption, %**



**3D Cure is limited by the least-illuminated surface.** 

All other surfaces receive excess energy







#### **Golf Ball**

A Simple example of two degrees of motion, using two lamps, ± 45° pitch.



# Medical Device Examples



## Medical Fluid Bags











Photo courtesy of Cal Med Corp.

### A Successful UV Process....

