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Preface

Plastics Additives Handbook

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Preface to the Sixth Edition

Since the publication of its first edition 25 years ago, the Plastic Additives Handbook has widely been regarded as the ultimate publication in the world on plastic additives. In the new millennium, the then completely revised fifth edition has proven to be an essential reference. Because of its great success, the co-editors of the sixth edition left Hans Zweifel's fifth edition concept and structure in tact.

We felt that the technical content of the individual contributions are still current, so there was no need for a complete revision. The only exception is the chapter on PVC additives, an area in which legislation in the European Union and the United States is the driver of quick and drastic changes. These are reflected in the completely revised chapter, and historical, toxicological as well as new scientific aspects are discussed. We also brought back the chapter on plasticizers which had been left out of the fifth edition and is now included in the chapter on PVC additives.

In all chapters, the tables containing information on products and suppliers were updated and reflect the changes with respect to acquisitions, mergers and divestments in the world of plastic additives' producers that have happened since 2000. We also paid tribute to the internet boom that we witnessed during the last decade and provided the URLs of the additive manufacturers and providers instead of mailing addresses and telephone numbers. For quick and always up-to-date reference, a Comprehensive list of tradenames and suppliers is provided at the end of this handbook. This list is continuously being updated and is available on the internet. It is expected that this will add to the usefulness of the Handbook.

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