

## GLYCERYL TRIBENZOATE – COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS

### Introduction

Glyceryl tribenzoate (GTB), a triester of glycerol and benzoic acid, is a versatile compound with a range of commercial applications across various industries. Known for its plasticizing and stabilizing properties, GTB is used in formulations that require controlled viscosity, improved flexibility, and enhanced stability. While its most well-known use is in the stabilization of peroxide-based energetic materials, glyceryl tribenzoate also plays an important role in several other sectors, including plastics, coatings, and cosmetics.

### 1.0 Plastics and Polymers

In the plastics industry, glyceryl tribenzoate serves as a plasticizer and stabilizer for various polymer formulations. It helps to increase the flexibility of plastics by reducing their brittleness and improving their workability. Some of the main applications in this sector include:

#### 1.1 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) Plastics

GTB is used as a plasticizer in PVC to enhance flexibility, durability, and processing characteristics. This is particularly important for making flexible PVC products, such as wire coatings, flooring, and inflatable products.

#### 1.2 Polymer Blends

In certain polymer blends, particularly those used in coatings and adhesives, glyceryl tribenzoate can improve the overall properties of the material by increasing its plasticity without significantly affecting its mechanical strength. This makes it suitable for use in a variety of flexible materials, including films, foams, and sheets.

### 2.0 Coatings and Paints

Glyceryl tribenzoate is also used as an additive in coatings and paints to improve their performance. It serves primarily as a plasticizer, stabilizer, and solvent modifier, enhancing properties like flexibility, durability, and smooth application. Key applications include:

#### 2.1 Protective Coatings

GTB is used in protective coatings to enhance their stability and ability to withstand environmental stress, such as temperature variations and mechanical abrasion. This makes it suitable for automotive, industrial, and marine coatings.

#### 2.1 Low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) Paints:

With growing regulatory pressure to reduce harmful emissions, glyceryl tribenzoate is increasingly being used in low-VOC paints and coatings to enhance performance without the need for solvent-based chemicals.

### 3.0 Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

In the cosmetics industry, glyceryl tribenzoate is used in formulations for its plasticizing and emulsifying properties. Its ability to modify the texture and consistency of products makes it a valuable ingredient in a variety of personal care items:

### 3.1 Skin Care Products

GTB is used in lotions, creams, and ointments to improve texture and provide a smooth, non-greasy feel. It helps to stabilize emulsions, allowing for more consistent application and better skin absorption.

### 3.2 Hair Care Products

In hair products like conditioners and styling gels, glyceryl tribenzoate improves the spreadability and flexibility of the product while ensuring it remains stable over time.

### 3.3 Fragrances

GTB can also be used as a carrier or solvent for fragrance oils, helping to stabilize the perfume's composition and ensuring that the fragrance remains effective and evenly distributed.

## 4.0 Pharmaceutical Applications

Glyceryl tribenzoate has niche uses in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in drug delivery systems and as an excipient in certain formulations. It is used to:

### 4.1 Enhance Drug Stability

GTB can help stabilize active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) that may be sensitive to oxidation or degradation. It is especially useful in formulations that require a stable, long shelf life.

### 4.2 Control Viscosity

As a plasticizer, glyceryl tribenzoate can be used to modify the viscosity of certain pharmaceutical creams, gels, or ointments, making them easier to apply while maintaining their desired consistency.

## 5.0 Energetic Materials (Explosives and Propellants)

As already mentioned, glyceryl tribenzoate is used extensively as a phlegmatizer in peroxide-based explosives and propellants. It stabilizes reactive materials, reducing their sensitivity to external stimuli like heat, shock, and friction. Key applications in this sector include:

### 5.1 Explosive Formulations

GTB is used in formulations of high-sensitivity explosives, such as TATP (triacetone triperoxide), to reduce the risk of accidental detonation. It stabilizes the peroxide component without affecting its energetic performance.

### 5.2 Propellants

In rocket propellants and other high-energy formulations, glyceryl tribenzoate can help to stabilize the mixture and control the burn rate, enhancing safety and performance. It is particularly useful in military and aerospace applications.

## 6.0 Plasticizers in Rubber

In the rubber industry, glyceryl tribenzoate is used as a plasticizer to modify the physical properties of rubber. It helps improve the flexibility, durability, and processing characteristics of rubber.

# Polymer Add (Thailand) Co.,Ltd.

Office - 106, Chalaremprakiat, Lor 9, Soi 22, Yak 5, Nongbon, Prawet, Bangkok, Thailand 10250

Factory - 188/3, Moo 8, Tambon Bangpu Mai, Amphoe Muang Samut Prakan, Samutprakan, Thailand 10280

Mobile - Thai : 0804531391, English: 0839415475, E-mail – contact@polymeradd.co.th



compounds, making them more suitable for high-performance applications like seals, gaskets, and automotive parts.

## 7.0 Lubricants and Greases

Glyceryl tribenzoate is sometimes used as an additive in lubricants and greases to improve their flow properties and increase their resistance to high temperatures. By enhancing the fluidity and stability of the lubricant, GTB can help extend the service life of mechanical components in industrial machinery, automotive engines, and aerospace equipment.

## 8.0 Food and Beverage

While less common, glyceryl tribenzoate can be used as a food-grade stabilizer or plasticizer in certain food packaging materials, especially those involving flexible plastics. It helps improve the durability and flexibility of materials used to package food products, ensuring better protection against contamination while maintaining food safety.

## 9.0 Adhesives and Sealants

GTB can modify the properties of adhesives, improving their bonding strength, flexibility, and thermal stability.

## 10.0 Plastic Films and Sheets

Used in flexible plastic films, glyceryl tribenzoate helps improve processability and mechanical performance, particularly in the food packaging industry.

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